

PHILOSOPHY 102: HELLENISTIC PHILOSOPHY

UCSD 2011 Spring T/Th 2-3:20pm WLH 2113

Professor Monte Johnson
H&SS 7058 Office hours: M 3-5pm
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The works of the founders of the greatest schools of Hellenistic philosophy including the Epicureans and the Stoics have been lost, but their ideas survive in the works of later writers, among them the famous Roman politicians Cicero and Seneca. We will read some of their ethical and political writings in order to get an idea of both the range of ethical theories of the period, as well as the approach to some more concrete ethical problems, such as the value of pleasure and virtue, the importance of wealth and power, the control of emotion, and the possibility of tranquility and happiness.

EVALUATION

1. Participation (100 points): Regular attendance and participation are required. You may participate by asking questions or making comments in class, or by posting questions or comments to the class discussion board on WebCT. You must read the entire assigned section by the date of the class in which it is to be discussed, e.g. Cicero's *On Moral Ends* 1 by Thursday, March 31.
2. Scribe assignment (100 points): A group writing assignment and revision exercise, with an oral participation component. (See separate handout for details.)
3. Writing assignments (500 points): Five writing assignments due, on April 7, April 21, May 5, May 19, and June 2. No late or electronic papers accepted. (See separate handouts for details.) Students may revise one assignment for a possibly higher grade, due not later than the next Monday after the graded assignment is passed back.
4. Final Examination (300 points): Open-book, cumulative essay exam, on June 7 (Monday) 3-6 pm. It will not be possible to reschedule or retake the final exam.

REQUIRED TEXTS

(available at UCSD Bookstore)

- *Cicero: On Moral Ends*. Translated by R. Woolf. Cambridge, 2001.
- *Seneca: Dialogues and Essays*. Translated by J. Davie. Oxford, 2007.

SCHEDULE

Meeting	Reading	Due
2009 March 29 2009 March 31	Epicurus, <i>Letter to Menoeceus</i> (handout) Cicero, <i>On Moral Ends</i> 1	
2009 April 5 2009 April 7	Cicero, <i>On Moral Ends</i> 2 Cicero, <i>On Moral Ends</i> 2	Assignment 1
2009 April 12 2009 April 14	Cicero, <i>On Moral Ends</i> 3 Cicero, <i>On Moral Ends</i> 3	
2009 April 19 2009 April 21	Cicero, <i>On Moral Ends</i> 4 Cicero, <i>On Moral Ends</i> 4	Assignment 2
2009 April 26 2009 April 28	Cicero, <i>On Moral Ends</i> 5 Cicero, <i>On Moral Ends</i> 5	
2009 May 3 2009 May 5	Discussion and Review Discussion and Review	Assignment 3
2009 May 10 2009 May 12	Seneca, <i>On the Happy Life</i> Seneca, <i>On the Tranquility of the Soul</i>	
2009 May 17 2009 May 19	Seneca, <i>On the Shortness of Life</i> Seneca, <i>Consolations to Marcia & Helvia</i>	Assignment 4
2009 May 24 2009 May 26	Seneca, <i>On Anger</i> , book III Seneca, <i>On Mercy</i>	
2009 May 31 2009 June 2	Seneca, <i>On Providence</i> , <i>On Earthquakes</i> Discussion and Review	Assignment 5
2009 June 7	Final Exam (3-6pm)	

WRITING ASSIGNMENT GUIDELINES

1. No late or electronic papers accepted, and no extra-credit opportunities are available. If you miss a due date, you will suffer a 100-point penalty.

2. Abide by the strict format and page limit: a single physical page (you may write on the front or the front and the back); minimum 10-point font. Do not use a cover sheet, and do not use staples, tape, or tearing of the pages to combine two sheets of paper. This may require planning in advance to learn techniques of printing on both sides of the page if you plan to write more on more than one fascicle.

3. The paper must have a title, your name, and the date on which the assignment is handed in.

4. Topics and texts: I will specify (in class) the topic on which each paper must be written. Your paper should address the specified topic in light of the following texts:

- #1: Cicero, *On Moral Ends* 1-2;
- #2 Cicero, *On Moral Ends* 3-4;
- #3 Cicero, *On Moral Ends* 1-5;
- #4 Seneca, *Consolations*;
- #5 Seneca, *On Anger* and *On Mercy*.

5. Greek and Latin expressions. The texts we are reading were originally written in Latin, by authors responding to Greek philosophers. If possible, consult the original texts (available in the library and online). *Put into cursive script* all Latin expressions, and all other expressions in foreign languages.

6. Alternate translations. I encourage you to consult other translations of the assigned readings. Feel free to research and discuss different translations (into Greek, French, Italian, Spanish, English, Chinese, Arabic, Japanese, Korean, etc.).

7. Secondary Sources. It is not necessary to use any secondary sources in your writing assignments, but give a list of “works consulted” at the end of your paper if you do. Failure to list works that you consulted may constitute academic dishonesty.

8. Method of Citation. You are expected to learn the proper method of citation for texts assigned in the class, and use them online or in class discussion, and in all written assignments, scribal minutes, and examinations. DO NOT USE the page numbers at the header of the textbooks. Scholars have devised a standard system of reference for the works of Cicero and Seneca, which apply to all editions, translations, commentaries, and essays.

Cicero is to be cited as follows: “it is by nature that we have gathered together and formed ourselves into civil societies” (*On Moral Ends* 3.67, tr. Woolf).

Seneca is to be cited as follows: “by rabble I mean grand people just as much as ordinary folk” (*On the Happy Life* 2, tr. Davie).

9. Abbreviations Used in Grading Papers

√	Good! An interesting remark or persuasive argument.
¶	Start a new paragraph here.
?	I do not understand what you are saying; your meaning or thought is unclear.
!	A striking claim. I expect strong further argumentation.
*	See marginal note.
ANACH.	Anachronism: avoid importing ideas of a later age in interpreting an earlier one.
AWK.	Awkward: an ill-sounding or confusing construction.
CITE?	No citation or improper citation: need citation in correct format.
CLOSE	Close up: merge the paragraphs together.
CON'T	Inappropriate contraction: please write out the entire word or phrase.
CONC?	It is unclear what the reader should conclude from the argument(s).
DATE?	Date is missing or wrong.
DEL.	Delete this section (word, phrase, sentence, or paragraph).
DEF.	This term or phrase is not self-explanatory: please define it.
EXAMP?	Need an example, or a better example, or several examples.
EXP.	Expand: make more explicit by giving more details or further elaboration.
FACT?	I question the truth of this claim.
FRAG.	Sentence fragment—not a complete thought.
GRAM.	Grammar problem, such as lack of agreement of subject and verb.
INVALID	The logical form of the argument is invalid.
IRR.	Irrelevant: the premise or argument is irrelevant to the thesis.
JARG.	Avoid jargon—simplify the concept as much as possible.
LATER	It would be better to discuss this issue later in the paper.
NICE	Well written; good rhetoric.
N.S.	<i>Non sequitur</i> : this claim does not follow from the premises you supplied.
OBJ?	Aren't there some important objections to this position?
PARAP.	It would be better to paraphrase than to quote here.
PUNC.	Punctuation error.
QUOTE (+/-)	Need a direct quotation from the text, or need to quote more (+) or less (-).
REF?	Need textual reference or citation.
REP.	Redundant or repetitious.
REV.	Revise. With more editing the point could be made better.
SIMP.	Simplify: the point could be made with less verbiage.
SOONER	It would be better to discuss this issue earlier in the paper.
SP.	Spelling error.
TOO COL.	Too colloquial: please use a more formal stylistic register.
TRANS.	The translation is problematic; the English term(s) may mean something else.
THESIS?	The paper lacks a clear thesis.
TITLE?	The paper lacks a title.
VAGUE	This word or sentence is vague or ambiguous.
WORD	Wrong word choice: this word does not accurately capture what you mean.

SCRIBE ASSIGNMENT

1. The scribe assignment is a group project in which students will collaborate to produce a complete set of “minutes” of our meetings published on the course’s homepage.
2. Three “scribes” will volunteer or be assigned to take notes for each class. The rest of the class is encouraged not to take notes, but rather to concentrate on the lecture, ask questions, and participate in the discussion.
3. The students assigned to take notes will meet sometime after the class as a group and compose a special set of “minutes” of the class. They should do this together, in person, and not by dividing up the lecture and separately composing different sections of the minutes. You must be prepared to meet in person several times with the other scribe(s).
4. The minutes should not be a verbatim version of the lecture. Rather, the scribes should write out, in complete English sentences (not note form, and without using mathematical symbols in lieu of words), a narrative of the lecture and discussion. They should fill in any references to texts, providing complete citations.
5. The minutes should be edited down so that they can be read aloud by the scribes, taking turns, within 8 minutes. The scribes should practice and rehearse their performance to make sure it fits in this time and sounds good.
6. Each scribe should also compose at least one original question about the lecture for further clarification or reflection.
7. An electronic copy of the minutes must be sent to monte@ucsd.edu by noon before the next class meeting. The minutes will then be read out at the beginning of the same class by the scribes. A short discussion of one or more of the scribes’ original questions may follow.
8. I will then return to the scribes a hand-edited copy of the minutes. The scribes will then meet again as a group to input the corrections into the electronic file. Finally they must submit that electronic file to me not later than one week from the original lecture, one hour before class.
9. Scribal assignments will be made by me. The assignment is worth 100 total points of your final grade. You must notify me of any day on which you are not capable of attending. You may trade dates, but it will not be possible to “make up” an assignment if it is missed. If you fail to contact your group on the day of the lecture that you are responsible to be a scribe for, you will receive 0/100 points for the assignment.
10. The final electronic version will also be posted to the course website for the benefit of all the students in the class, and will be made publically available.

9. Sample Production Schedule:

1. Take scribe notes in class (e.g. on March 29); meet with other scribes and compose minutes. Email a copy to monte@ucsd.edu.
2. Read minutes aloud in next class (e.g. on March 31).
4. Revise minutes based on Professor's comments; send electronic copy to professor by following class (e.g. April 5)
5. Electronic copy posted to Web Site (e.g. on April 8)

10. Format: The font should be Times New Roman 12 point. No extra spaces between paragraphs. Do not right justify (aligning the text). Underline all foreign expressions and titles. Put scribe names in alphabetical order. The heading should be centered in the body following this example:

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UCSD Winter 2011
Philosophy 102: Hellenistic Philosophy
Professor Monte Johnson
Scribes: Phillip Beabout, Matt Uhlhorn, and Adam Yakira

Lecture on 2011 March 29
Epicurus, Letter to Menoeceus

Epicurus was born in Athens...

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11. Please send the file as a .doc file (not .docx, .pdf, etc.)

12. Name the file according to the following example: 2011iii29 Hellenistic.doc. Replace the Roman numeral and following Arabic number by the appropriate date of the lecture on which the minutes are based; e.g. 2011iii29 = 2011 March; 2011iv5 = 2011 April 5; 2011V10 = 2011 March 10.

13. The final electronic version will then be graded on the following criteria: (1) correct formatting; (2) accuracy; (2) completeness; (3) concision (circa 1000 words); (4) grammatical and typographical correctness, especially with reference to textual citations; (5) elegance; and (6) insight and import of the original questions.

14. Common deductions include: Wrong font, right-justified, improper format or filename **-10 points**; Misspellings or reference and citation problems **-25 points**; lack of original questions **-10 points / missing question**; Late **-20 points / day**.

Philosophy 102: Hellenistic Philosophy
UCSD 2011 Spring

STUDENT INFORMATION FORM

* = Field that must be filled out to receive credit in the class

Name (as you wish to be addressed):

*Name (as it appears in University Records):

*UCSD Email address:

*UCSD Major:

*UCSD Year of expected graduation:

*UCSD College:

Previous courses taken from me:

Previous philosophy courses taken (name of course and college if other than UCSD; **use names not codes**):

Foreign languages you are capable of speaking or writing, or are studying:

Requested date for scribe assignment (optional):

Special needs (including any days on which you cannot be present in class):