



The Berkeley Plato:
c. 125 AD Herm after a
c. 360 BC original

HISTORY OF ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY

UCSD PHILOSOPHY 110
Fall 2013 MWF 1-1:50 pm
WLH 2113

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What is knowledge? How do we know that those who profess to have knowledge actually have it? How can one inquire into anything one does not know? Is knowledge the same as the arts and sciences? How does knowledge relate to perception, belief, and truth? What kinds of account can we expect from someone who has knowledge? Is there any formal way to represent and criticize scientific reasoning and explanations? How do general principles of scientific knowledge relate to specific sciences, such as mathematics, psychology, and biology? We will examine these fundamental epistemological issues as they arise for the first time in the writings of Plato and Aristotle. We will begin by reading three aporetic dialogues of Plato concerned with knowledge: *Euthyphro*, *Meno*, and *Theaetetus*. We will then read fragments from a popular dialogue by Aristotle entitled *Exhortation to Philosophy*, followed by an in-depth examination of parts of two of his most influential books: *Physics* II and *On the Soul* II-III.

Objectives

- Learn to interpret and criticize, both in discussion and in writing, English translations of primary works of Greek philosophy.
- Understand the techniques used to scrutinize ancient sources and reconstruct the insights and arguments of historical philosophers.
- Survey major topics and problems of ancient science, epistemology and logic, and the range of philosophical approaches to exploring and resolving them.
- Encounter active professional research in the field of Greek philosophy.
- Devise and execute an original research project on ancient philosophy using primary and secondary sources.

Required Texts (available at UCSD bookstore)

- *The Complete Works of Plato*, edited by J. Cooper and D. S. Hutchinson (Indianapolis and Cambridge: Hackett Publishing Company, 1997).
- *The Basic Works of Aristotle*, edited by R. McKeon (New York: Modern Library, 2001) ISBN-10: 0375757996.

Schedule of Readings, Deadlines, Examinations, and Holidays

2013 SEPTEMBER 27 Greetings, Course Description, Evaluation Scheme.

ix 29 Plato, *Euthyphro*.

OCTOBER 2 Plato, *Euthyphro*.

x 4 Plato, *Meno*.

2012 x 7 Plato, *Meno*.

x 9 Plato, *Meno*.

x 11 Plato, *Meno*. **Scholar assignment due**

x 14 Plato, *Theaetetus* 142-151.

x 16 Plato, *Theaetetus* 151-161.

x 18 Plato, *Theaetetus* 161-168.

x 21 Plato, *Theaetetus* 168-178.

x 23 Plato, *Theaetetus* 178-188.

x 25 Plato, *Theaetetus* 188-200. **Research paper proposal and bibliography due.**

x 28 Plato, *Theaetetus* 200-210.

x 30 Aristotle: introduction.

2012 NOVEMBER 1 Aristotle, *Protrepticus*: the objection to theoretical philosophy.

xi 4 Aristotle, *Protrepticus*: the defense of theoretical philosophy.

xi 6 Aristotle, *Protrepticus*: conclusion.

xi 8 Aristotle, *Protrepticus*. **Exchange of rough drafts.**

xi 11 *VETERAN'S DAY HOLIDAY (NO CLASS)*.

xi 13 Aristotle, *Physics* 2.1-2. **Return of rough drafts.**

xi 15 Aristotle, *Physics* 2.3-7.

xi 18 Aristotle, *Physics* 2.8.

xi 20 Aristotle, *Physics* 2.9. **Research paper second drafts due.**

xi 22 *THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY (NO CLASS)*.

xi 25 *NO CLASS—PROFESSOR AT A CONFERENCE*.

xi 27 Aristotle, *On the Soul (De Anima)* 2.1-4.

xi 29 Aristotle, *On the Soul (De Anima)* 2.5-12.

2012 DECEMBER 2 Aristotle, *On the Soul (De Anima)* 3.1-3.

xii 4 Aristotle, *On the Soul (De Anima)* 3.4-13.

xii 6 **Review Session; Research paper final draft due.**

xii 9 (11:30am-2:30pm) **Final Exam: open-book, cumulative essay exam.**

Evaluation Scheme

Grading Scale: A = 900-1000; B = 800-900; C = 700-800; D = 600-700; F = <600.

Pluses and minuses at the Professor's discretion.

1. Participation (100 points): The class is discussion-based, and regular attendance, preparation, and contribution in person in the classroom is required. Participation credit may also be earned by posting to the Discussion section of the online course system.

2. Scholar Assignment (100 points), due Nov. 11: The assignment requires you to create an annotated bibliography and to borrow any available items on your bibliography from the UCSD library (see handout entitled "Scholar Assignment" for further details).

3. Research Paper (400 points total): This assignment has four components, each with its own due dates. Failure to meet any deadline will automatically result in the loss of all possible points on that component (see handout entitled "Research Paper" for further details):

a. 200-300 word Proposal and bibliography (100 points), due Oct. 25. The proposal must have a provisional title, a description of the paper's problem or thesis; and a bibliography consisting of at least two primary sources (passages of Plato or Aristotle), and two secondary sources (articles or books by other scholars).

b. 1500 word Rough Draft (100 points), the first due Nov. 8, at which point it will be exchanged with that of a random colleague, who will comment on your paper. A draft revised on the basis your colleague's comments will then be due to the Professor in class on November 20.

c. Handwritten Comments on a colleague's research paper, due Nov. 13 (100 points). You should help correct spelling, grammatical, logical, interpretive, and philosophical problems in your colleague's paper. Point out things you do not understand, that you think should be expanded or condensed, and specific places where you disagree about interpretations. Keep a copy of your comments.

d. 3000 word Final Draft (100 points), Dec. 6, substantially revised on the basis of previous criticism.

4. Scribe Assignment (100 points): A group project involving speaking before the class and publishing a report on the class discussion (see separate handout for further details).

5. Final Exam (300 points): Cumulative, open-book, essay examination, Dec. 9. 11:30am-2:30pm. Note: there is no possibility of re-scheduling the final exam. Failure to show up for the final exam will automatically result in a final grade of F.

Textual Citations and Use of Secondary Literature

I. Ancient Sources

References to Plato and Aristotle in all written and oral work should refer to the standard pagination used by scholars.¹

A complete reference to Plato has four elements: work, book, page, column, and line. Since we are working in translation, we will give the name of the translator, but not use line numbers; and since we are not reading any multi-book works, we will only use book numbers in written works. Thus a complete reference for our purpose will look like the following quotation from the Crito:

Socrates says that “the only valid consideration, as we were saying just now, is whether we should be acting rightly in giving money and gratitude to those who will lead me out of here, and ourselves helping with the escape, or whether in truth we shall do wrong in doing all of this” (*Crito* 48cd, tr. Grube).

The same citation would be employed in a paraphrase, as follows, but without reference to the translator:

Socrates says that money, reputation, and even the safety of his children are irrelevant, because the only thing that matters is whether escape from prison would be morally right or wrong (*Crito* 48cd).

Since the quotation is contained in two columns, c and d, we write “cd”. Were the quote to continue to the next page, we would write 48c-49a, in order to indicate that we are quoting from 48c to 49a.

For Aristotle, see the handout “The Aristotle Corpus and How to Cite it”.

II. Modern Sources

All other sources must be cited by name of author, date, title of article (or book), title of journal (for an article), place of publication (for a book), or URL (for internet resources), and date of publication, and page numbers. For subsequent references, you may use a shortened form (such as name and date, or name an abbreviated title). Include a complete bibliography of all works consulted with each submission (including proposals, outlines, and drafts). Examples:

Cornford, F. M. (1935). *Plato’s Theory of Knowledge*. London and New York.

Frede, D. (2009; accessed September 20, 2011). “Plato’s Ethics”. *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/plato-ethics/>

Sedley, D. (1998). “Platonic Causes”. *Phronesis* 43, 114-132.

¹ Known as the “Stephanus numbers” for Plato, because of the renaissance edition of Stephanus; and “Bekker numbers” for Aristotle, because of the nineteenth century edition of Bekker.