

PHILOSOPHY 31, FALL 2015

Professor Georgios Anagnostopoulos, Email: ganagnostopoulos@ucsd.edu
Office: H&SS 8034; Office Hours: Friday 2:00-4:00, and by appointment.

Texts:

J. Barnes: EARLY GREEK PHILOSOPHY (2nd edition)

Plato: FIVE DIALOGUES

Aristotle: INTRODUCTORY READINGS

Readings:

1. Precursors, Thales, Anaximander, Anaximenes; in Barnes, pp. 3-27.

The pre-philosophical accounts of the world (mythological/religious/poetic); the first scientific/philosophical accounts of the origin & constitution of the world; the substantive & methodological contributions of the Milesians; Milesian Monism, Materialism, & Hylozoism.

2. Pythagoras, Xenophanes, Heraclitus; in Barnes, pp. 28-35, 40-73.

- Pythagoras on the soul, transmigration of the soul & personal identity, philosophy as a way of life.
- Xenophanes' cosmological views, his alleged skepticism, criticisms of popular views of the divine (anthropomorphism, immoralism, relativism), & his own view of the divine.
- Heraclitus' aphoristic style and the problem of interpreting the extant fragments, human ignorance, and the reasons for the difficulty of acquiring knowledge; Heraclitus as a follower of the Milesian naturalistic tradition & the meaning of his Logos; universal flux; unity of opposites; Heraclitus as a non-Milesian radical thinker and the problem of identity through time.

3. Parmenides; in Barnes, pp. 77-91.

The two ways of inquiring (the way of Truth & of Opinion), senses vs. reason, the methodological contributions of Parmenides (Rationalism & the Demonstrative Method), the properties of what is.

4. The Pluralists: Empedocles, Anaxagoras, Democritus; in Barnes, pp. 111-161, 185-198, 203-253.

- Empedocles on the unreliability of the senses and the importance of reason; the impossibility of that which is not & of generation & corruption; the rejection of Parmenides' Monism; Empedocles' Pluralism (Four Roots plus Love & Strife) & his theory of mixing; his theories of perception & thought; purifications.
- Anaxagoras on the impossibility of generation & perishing; his rejection of Monism and his extreme pluralism; the Universal Mixture Thesis, the Predominance Thesis, & the Homoiomery Thesis; his views on the role of the Mind in generating and regulating the world; the nature of Mind & Thought.
- Democritus' atomism—atoms and the void; the distinction between things existing by nature and by convention; the atomists' explanation of secondary qualities; the argument from divisibility in support of atomism; the nature of ancient atomism as a theory when compared to modern atomism.

5. *Euthyphro*; in Plato: FIVE DIALOGUES.

The practical context of the dialogue & the problem of pervasive disagreements about values; the primacy of the "What is X?" question & Socratic definitions; the object of definitions & Socratic Forms; Socratic ethical realism; the uses of definitions (epistemic & pragmatic); examination of the proposed definitions of piety and the Socratic elenchus; the relation of values to the divine.

6. *Apology*; in Plato: FIVE DIALOGUES

The two kinds of accusations against Socrates (early & late); the alleged climate of resentment against Socrates; his defense against the late accusations and his philosophical views on which it depends; the unexamined life; the alleged ignorance and wisdom of Socrates; his mission & service to the gods; why a good person cannot be harmed and why one should not fear death.

7. *Meno*; in Plato, FIVE DIALOGUES.

The question of how virtue is acquired & the primacy of the “What is X?” question; Socratic Forms; Meno’s Paradox and the Socratic Fallacy; the Theory of Recollection; arguments for and against the claim that virtue is knowledge and can be taught; the distinction between Knowledge & Belief.

8. *Phaedo*; in Plato, FIVE DIALOGUES.

The nature of the philosopher and of philosophy and their relation to dying—separating the soul from the body; the faculty, type of cognitive activity, and object of philosophical knowledge; the soul & Platonic Forms; the arguments concerning the nature and immortality of the soul.

9. *Categories*; in ARISTOTLE, pp. 1-8.

The nature of Aristotelian categories and the primacy of concrete individuals; primary and secondary substances and the rejection of the primacy of Platonic Forms; marks of substance.

10. *Posterior Analytics*; in ARISTOTLE, pp. 16-24, 28-30.

The nature of scientific knowledge and of the premises of demonstrative reasoning; responses to skepticism; the nature of our knowledge of the first principles & rejection of Plato’s innate ideas.

11. *Nicomachean Ethics*; in ARISTOTLE, pp.196-216, 275-287, 216-228.

The good as the object or end of desire; things pursued as means and as ends and their structure; the supreme end; happiness as the end of everything humans pursue; the nature of happiness explicated by the Function Argument; the human virtues—both ethical & intellectual; highest happiness as intellectual activity and its features; practical life as the second best form of happiness.

12. *Politics*; in ARISTOTLE, pp. 288-296, 310-318.

The political association and rule distinguished from other types of association and rule; the naturalness of the polis and man as a political animal; natural slavery; Aristotle on the best state.

Requirements:

Lectures are M. & W., 5:00-6:20, PCYNH 120.

Writing Requirements: (a) There will be two short, take-home examinations; the first will be due in class on W. October 21. The prompt will be distributed in class on October 14. You will be asked to answer two questions, each worth 10 points. The second will be due on November 18, and the prompt will be distributed on November 9. You will be asked to answer three questions, each worth 10 points. (b) A Final Exam to be taken in class on the date and time listed in the Fall Schedule of Classes, which will cover all the materials assigned for the course. In the Final you will be asked to answer four questions, each worth 10 points. (c) Three in-class quizzes; in each quiz, you will be asked to give a brief answer (about half a page) to a question from the readings/lectures. The three quizzes together will worth 10 points.