

PHILOSOPHY 102: HELLENISTIC PHILOSOPHY

UCSD 2015 Spring
MW 5-6:20pm
SEQUO 147

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The works of the Greek founders of the greatest schools of Hellenistic philosophy, the Epicureans, Stoics, and Sceptics, have been lost, but their ideas survive in fragments quoted in later authors, and in extant works of Roman writers. We will read some of ethical and political writings of Cicero and Seneca in order to get an idea of both the range of Hellenistic ethical theories, as well as their approach to some more concrete ethical problems, such as the relationship between ethics and physics and logic, the relative value of pleasure and virtue, the control of emotion and consolation, and the possibility of tranquility and happiness.

OBJECTIVES

1. Learn how to read, interpret, discuss, cite, quote, and paraphrase the fundamental doctrines of Epicureanism, Stoicism and Scepticism in English translation.
2. Learn the ways that Greek philosophy was transformed by Roman writers for their own purposes, and to appreciate Cicero and Seneca as literary archetypes for later legal, ethical, and social-political discourse. Appreciate the enduring influence of Hellenistic philosophy on the history of philosophy and science.
3. Conduct original research on Hellenistic Philosophy in relation to your own interests. Learn to utilize both primary and secondary sources in representing and criticizing philosophical views. Present your ideas to your peers, and give and receive helpful criticism from them.

REQUIRED TEXTS (available at UCSD Bookstore)

- *Hellenistic Philosophy: introductory readings* / translated with introduction and notes by Brad Inwood and L. P. Gerson. Second edition. Indianapolis, 1997.
- *Cicero: On Moral Ends*. Translated by R. Woolf. Cambridge, 2001.
- *Seneca: Hardship and Happiness*. Translated by E. Fantham, etc. Chicago, 2014.
- *Seneca: Anger, Mercy, and Revenge*. Translated by R. A. Carter and M. C. Nussbaum. Chicago, 2010. E-book available at: <http://roger.ucsd.edu/record=b7218393~S9>

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SCHEDULE

Note: All readings should be done prior to the meeting during which they will be discussed. Please bring your textbook(s) to class, and be prepared to ask questions or make comments about the material. Consult alternate translations and editions if possible.

Meeting	Topics, Readings, and Deadlines
2014 March 30	Syllabus and Overview All readings are in the textbooks unless otherwise noted.
2014 April 1	Introduction to Epicureanism <u>Reading:</u> pp.3-45 of <i>Hellenistic Philosophy</i>
2014 iv 6	Epicurean Ethics <u>Reading:</u> Cicero, <i>On Moral Ends</i> 1
2014 iv 8	Criticism of Epicurean Ethics <u>Reading:</u> Cicero, <i>On Moral Ends</i> 2
2014 iv 13	Introduction to Stoicism <u>Reading:</u> pp. 110-178 of <i>Hellenistic Philosophy</i>
2014 iv 15	Stoic Ethics <u>Reading:</u> Cicero, <i>On Moral Ends</i> 3
2014 iv 20	Criticism of Stoic Ethics <u>Reading:</u> Cicero, <i>On Moral Ends</i> 4
2014 iv 22	Introduction to Scepticism <u>Reading:</u> Pp.261-300 of <i>Hellenistic Philosophy</i>
2014 iv 27	Neo-Academic Ethics <u>Reading:</u> Cicero, <i>On Moral Ends</i> 5
2014 iv 29	Discussion, Review, and Debate Students will divide into groups of Stoics, Epicureans, and Academics, and debate the relative merits of their philosophical Schools.

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- 2014 May 4 Introduction to Seneca
Reading: Seneca, *On the Happy Life, On Tranquility of Mind*
- 2014 v 6 Living and Working
Reading: Seneca, *On the Shortness of Life and On Leisure*
Recommended:
- 2014 v 11 Control and Constancy
Reading: Seneca, *On the Constancy of the Wise Person*
- 2014 v 13 Consolation
Required: Seneca, *Consolation to Marcia, Consolation to Helvia, Consolation to Polybius*
- 2014 v 18 Emotions and Anger
Reading: Seneca, *On Anger*
E-book available at: <http://roger.ucsd.edu/record=b7218393~S9>
- 2014 v 20 Mercy
Reading: Seneca, *On Clemency*
E-book available at: <http://roger.ucsd.edu/record=b7218393~S9>
- 2014 v 25 MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY- no class
- 2014 v 27 Revenge
Reading: *The Pumpkinification of Claudius the God*
E-book available at: <http://roger.ucsd.edu/record=b7218393~S9>
- 2014 vi 1 Research Conference Day 1
Students will begin to give 10 minute presentations on their research.
- 2014 vi 3 Research Conference Day 2
Students will begin to give 10 minute presentations on their research.
- 2014 June 12 (F) Final Examination (7-10pm): Research Conference Day 3
Each student will give a 10 minute presentations on their research.