PHILOSOPHY 102: HELLENISTIC PHILOSOPHY

Professor Monte Johnson

UCSD 2019 Spring
MWF 1-1:50pm SOLIS 111

H&SS 8009 Office hours: M 3:30-4pm and W 2:30-3:30
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The works of the Cynics, 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 biographical accounts in Diogenes Laertius (III C.E.) and fragments of the Greek philosophers of the Hellenistic period, followed by some ethical and political writings of Cicero (106 - 43 B.C.E) and Seneca (4 B.C.E. - 65 C.E.). The aim of the readings is to get an idea of the range of Hellenistic ethical theories, as well as the different approaches to some more concrete ethical problems, such as the relationship between ethics and physics and logic, the relative value of pleasure and virtue, consolation and the control of emotion, and techniques of obtaining of tranquility and happiness.

OBJECTIVES

1. Learn how to read, interpret, discuss, cite, quote, and paraphrase the fundamental doctrines of the Epicureans, Stoics and Sceptics 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 and give feedback to your peers, and receive helpful criticism from them.

REQUIRED TEXTS (available at UC San Diego Bookstore)

· *Supplemental Readings (PDF downloadable from tritoned.ucsd.edu)

EVALUATION (see separate evaluation form, which must be completed and submitted)

This course uses a method of evaluation called specifications grading. All modules for the course are graded pass/fail on the basis of the written specifications for each module. Final grades (including P/NP grades) are computed on the basis of the number of modules completed. All written work for the entire course, including copies on which feedback has been written, must be retained and submitted as a package at the end of the final exam (June 13, 2019, 2:30pm, no early or late submissions accepted). Attendance at all 30 meetings is mandatory and participation in the discussion is graded. See evaluation form for policy on absence and late submission of work.
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SCHEDULE

Note: All readings are in the required textbooks unless otherwise noted. All readings should be done prior to the meeting during which they will be discussed. Bring textbooks to class and be prepared to ask questions or make comments about the material. If possible, consult alternate translations and editions.

Meeting (2019)  Topics, Readings, and Deadlines

Week 1: Overview and Background

1. April 1  Syllabus and Evaluation

2. April 3  Historical and Philosophical overview
Research resources and techniques in Hellenistic Philosophy
Reading: Bibliography (PDF)

3. April 5  Democritus and the Atomists
Reading: Diogenes Laertius IX.6.34-49
(pp.1-7 of Supplemental Readings)
Select and acquire book for scholar assignment!

Week 2: The Socratic Circle; Cynicism, and Hedonism

4. April 8  Socrates and the Socratic Circle
Reading: Diogenes Laertius II.5.18-47
(pp.8-15 of Supplemental Readings)

5. April 10  Diogenes of Sinope and the Cynics
Reading: Diogenes Laertius VI.2.20-80
(pp.16-24 of Supplemental Readings)

6. April 12  Aristippus of Cyrene and the Cyrenaics
Reading: Diogenes Laertius II.8.65-103
(pp.25-32 of Supplemental Readings)
Student Information Form Due!

Week 3: Inquiry and Scepticism

7. April 15  Aristotle of Stagira and Questions about eudaimonia
Reading: Nicomachean Ethics I
(pp.33-45 of Supplemental Readings)

8. April 17*  Arcesilaus, Carneades and Academic Scepticism
Reading: Pp. 261-284 of Hellenistic Philosophy

9. April 19*  Pyrrho and Pyrrhonian Scepticism
Reading: Pp.285-296, 302-324, 387-398 of Hellenistic Philosophy

*Guest Lecturer: Dr. Blythe Greene

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Week 4: Epicureanism

10. April 22  Introduction to Epicureans
   **Reading:** pp.3-45 of *Hellenistic Philosophy*

11. April 24  Epicurean Ethics
   **Reading:** Cicero, *On Moral Ends* Book 1
   and Epicurus, Letter to Menoeceus
   (pp.46-48 of *Supplemental Readings*)

12. April 26  Criticism of Epicurean Ethics
   **Reading:** Cicero, *On Moral Ends* Book 2
   Scholar assignment due (hard copy only).

Week 5: Stoicism

13. April 29  Introduction to Stoics
   **Reading:** pp. 110-178 of *Hellenistic Philosophy*

14. May 1    Stoic Ethics
   **Reading:** Cicero, *On Moral Ends* Book 3

15. May 3    Criticism of Stoic Ethics
   **Reading:** Cicero, *On Moral Ends* Book 4
   Research Essay Draft 1 Due (hard copy only).

Week 6: Academic Scepticism about Ethics

16. May 6    Academic Ethics
   **Reading:** Cicero, *On Moral Ends* Book 5

17. May 8    Debate
   Students will divide into groups of Stoics, Epicureans, and
   Academics, and debate the relative merits of their philosophical
   Schools.

18. May 10   Scholar Presentations
   Rehearse your presentation to be spoken within 5 minutes.
   Scholar Assignment Revision Due (electronic copy only).

Week 7: Student Presentations

19. May 13   Scholar Presentations
   Rehearse your presentation to be spoken within 5 minutes.

20. May 15   Scholar Presentations

21. May 17   Scholar Presentations
   Research Essay Draft 2 Due (hard copy only).
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Week 8: Seneca and the Stoic Theory of Emotion

22. May 20  Introduction to Seneca
Reading: Seneca, On the Happy Life
and Letter to Lucillus 1 (p.49 of supplemental readings)

23. May 22  Anger
Reading: Seneca, On Anger III
and On Anger I-III: pp.3-96 of the text available at:
http://roger.ucsd.edu/record=b7218393~S9

24. May 24  Consolation
Reading: Seneca, Consolation to Marcia, Consolation to Helvia

Week 9: Seneca on Politics and Tranquility

May 27  MEMORIAL DAY—NO CLASS

25. May 29  Mercy
Reading: Seneca, On Mercy

26. June 31  Tranquility and Shortness of Life
Reading: Seneca, On Tranquility of Mind, On the Shortness of Life

Week 10: Student Presentations

27. June 3  Final Research Presentations
Rehearse your presentation to be spoken within 5 minutes.

28. June 5  Final Research Presentations

29. June 7  Final Research Presentations

Finals Week: Student Presentations and Submission of Work

30. June 13 (Th) 11:30am-2:30pm

Final Research Presentations
Final Examination Due
Research Essay Final Draft Due (hard copy only).
Portfolio and Completed Evaluation form due.