

PHILOSOPHY 31, FALL 2019

Professor Georgios Anagnostopoulos, Email: ganagnostopoulos@ucsd.edu
Office: H&SS 8034; Office Hours: Tue. & Th. 3:45-4:45 pm, and by appointment

Texts:

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

Plato: FIVE DIALOGUES

Aristotle: INTRODUCTORY READINGS

Lectures & Readings:

9/26 Preliminaries: Course objectives, organization, & requirements

10/1 & 10/3 Read in Barnes, pp. 3-27: Precursors, Thales, Anaximander, Anaximenes.

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.

10/8 Read in Barnes, pp. 28-47: Pythagoras, Xenophanes.

- Pythagoras on the soul, transmigration of souls & 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.

10/10 Read in Barnes, pp. 48-73, 77-91: Heraclitus, Parmenides.

- The problem of interpreting Heraclitus' extant fragments; difficulty of acquiring knowledge and its causes; 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.
- Parmenides' two ways of inquiring (Way of Truth & of Opinion), senses vs. reason, the methodological contributions of Parmenides (Rationalism & Demonstrative Method), Monism and the properties of what is.

10/15 & 10/17 Read in Barnes, pp. 111-161, 185-198: The Pluralists: Empedocles & Anaxagoras.

- Empedocles on some deficiencies of the senses and the importance of reason; adherence to some of the view of Parmenides and rejection of his 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 Theses of Universal Mixture, Predominance, & Homoiomery; his views on the role of the Mind in generating and regulating the world; the nature of Mind & Thought.

10/22 Read in Barnes, pp. 203-253: Democritus, the Sophists.

- Democritus' atomism—atoms and the void; things existing by nature vs. 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.
- The Sophistic Movement, Protagoras and Relativism, the problem of teaching virtue

10/24 Read the *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.

10/29 and 10/31 Read the *Apology*, in Plato: FIVE DIALOGUES

The two kinds of accusers of Socrates (early & late); the 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 as a way of understanding piety; why a good person cannot be harmed and why one should not fear death.

11/5 and 11/7 Read the *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.

11/12 and 11/14 Read the *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.

11/19 Read the *Categories*; in ARISTOTLE, pp. 1-8.

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

11/21 Read from *Posterior Analytics*; in ARISTOTLE, pp. 16-24, 28-30.

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

11/26 Read from *On the Soul*, in ARISTOTLE, pp. 80-95, 97-100

Nature of the soul, perception, intellect

12/3 & 12/5 Read from *Nicomachean Ethics*, in ARISTOTLE, pp.196-216, 275-287, 216-228

The good as end, means & ends and their structure, the supreme end; happiness as the final end of all human desires and pursuits; different conceptions of happiness & 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.

Course Requirements:

Lectures: Tu. & Th., 5:00-6:20, PETER 102.

Discussions Sections: Section I, F 11:00-11:50, CENTR 217A; Section II, F 12:00-12:50, CENTR 217A. The Teaching Assistant for the course is Juan Carlos Gonzalez (jcg050@ucsd.edu); Office: H&SS 7013; Office hours: Tu. 1:00-3:00 pm.

Writing Requirements: There will be: (a) Two short, take-home examinations. The first will be due in class on Th., October 24, and the prompt for it will be distributed in class on Th., October 17. You will be asked to answer two questions, each worth 10 points. The second will be due in class on Th., November 21, and the prompt for it will be distributed on November 14. You will be asked to answer three questions, each worth 10 points. (b) A Final Exam that will be on all the materials covered in the course. The Final will be taken in class on the date and time listed in the Fall Schedule of Classes. (Please keep the date/time of the Final in mind when making travel arrangements for the holidays.) In the Final you will be asked to answer five questions, each worth 10 points. A set of questions will be given to you to study for the Final, and all questions on the Final will be taken from that set.