

The University of New Orleans
Dept. of Philosophy

PHIL 2311: History of Ancient and Medieval Philosophy (3 credits)

SECTION 476 and 585: Online via Moodle

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Chris W. Surprenant
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Course Webpages: Accessed via Moodle.

Required Texts

1. *The First Philosophers: The Presocratics and Sophists* (Oxford, 2009; ISBN: 0199539093)
2. *Four Texts on Socrates: Plato's "Euthyphro," "Apology of Socrates," "Crito," and Aristophanes' "Clouds"* (Cornell, 1998; ISBN: 0801485746)
3. Plato, *The Republic Of Plato: Second Edition* (Basic Books, 1991; ISBN: 0465069347)
4. Aristotle, *The Basic Works of Aristotle* (Modern Library, 2001; ISBN: 0375757996)
5. Epicurus, *The Art of Happiness*, (Penguin, 2012; ISBN: 0143107216)
6. Epictetus, *Discourses and Selected Writings* (Penguin, 2008; ISBN: 0140449469)
7. Boethius, *The Consolation of Philosophy* (Dover, 2002; ISBN: 0486421635)
8. Augustine, *Confessions* (Oxford, 2009; ISBN: 0199537828)
9. Aquinas, *A Shorter Summa: The Essential Philosophical Passages of Saint Thomas Aquinas' Summa Theologica* (Ignatius Press, 1993; ISBN: 0898704383)

Course Description

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: A survey of philosophy from the early Greeks through the middle ages including such philosophers as the Pre-Socratics, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, and Thomas Aquinas.

COURSE OVERVIEW: The primary objective of this course is to acquire an historical understanding of the primary ideas and questions that concerned ancient Greek and medieval philosophers, thinkers whose ideas laid the intellectual foundations of Western civilization. Generally, our focus will be on how these thinkers answer questions such as: "What is philosophy?" "What is knowledge?" "How do we acquire knowledge?" "How ought we to live our lives?" Specifically, we will focus we will examine the differences and similarities between the ancient Greek, medieval, and our own conception of the world and ourselves. Finally, the course aims to develop the critical thinking and analytical writings skills needed not just to examine these questions in the context of ancient Greek and medieval philosophy, but also to better examine our own lives, what we value, and why we value it.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Upon successfully completing this course, students will be able to do the following:
- understand theories central to the history of ancient and medieval philosophy, and how these theories can be applied to contemporary problems
 - work with philosophical concepts and methods
 - construct and evaluate arguments
 - learn how to construct an analytical essay
 - participate in classroom discussion, developing and displaying an ability and readiness to defend one's own point of view while listening openly but carefully to others
 - demonstrate a willingness to entertain criticism, formulate and reply to reasonable objections, and represent opposing views both critically and sympathetically
 - read both primary and secondary texts, and analyze the arguments contained in them correctly

Grading

<p><u>Requirements</u> Participation = 30% (30 points) Midterm Exam = 30% (30 points) Final Exam = 40% (40 points)</p>	<p><u>Final Grade</u> A = 100 – 89.5 points B = 89.4 – 79.5 points C = 79.4 – 69.5 points D = 69.4 – 59.5 points F = 59.4 – 0 points</p>
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Course Requirements

ONLINE PARTICIPATION: Our only means of interacting as a class is through the discussion forums on Moodle. Since interacting with each other and me is important, during each week you must post a "one-minute argument" that addresses the following issues: (1) Your thoughts as to the most important or interesting issue covered in the lecture and/or reading, and (2) why you thought this issue was the most interesting. Each student is required to post a response within a few DAYS of when the lecture should be completed. If you post your response a week after a lecture should have been completed, your response will be late. Consider your responses to be "one-minute arguments." What that means is you will need to make a claim, give some evidence in support of that claim, and it should take me about 1 minute to read it. Hence, you need to write a paragraph as a discussion response, not a single sentence. After posting your discussion response, you may then post a response to someone else's ... continuing the discussion. Your one-minute argument grade will be based on the quality, timeliness, and thoughtfulness of your replies. Overall, it is worth **30%** of your final grade.

EXAMS: There will be **2** exams, each covering about 1/2 of the course material each. Each exam will be completed online. **You MAY use your text and notes but you may NOT collaborate or access Internet sites to assist you in completing the exam.** You will have **exactly 1 attempt to complete an exam**, so load an exam only if you are prepared to finish it. **Each exam must be completed within 2 1/2 hours (150 minutes).** Regardless of when you begin an exam, **each exam must be submitted by 11:55 p.m. on the day of the exam.** Hence, if you load an exam after 10:25 p.m., you will have less than 150 minutes to submit it. After 11:56 p.m., it will impossible to submit your exam for a grade. The exams are worth **70%** of your final grade, 30% for the first exam and 40% for the second exam. **Exam 1 must be completed by Sunday, March 1. Exam 2 must be completed by Sunday, May 3.**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT: Each student must acknowledge knowing that each exam must be submitted by 11:55 p.m. CST on the days identified. Each student must also acknowledge having read UNO's Academic Dishonesty Policy and pledge to abide by it in this course. This acknowledgement must be completed before you are able to take either Exam 1 or Exam 2.

Course Policies

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and evaluating academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the Student Code of Conduct for further information. The Code is available online at <http://www.studentaffairs.uno.edu>. Each student is required to pledge that all completed work will be submitting according to the principles of academic integrity as defined in the statement on Academic Dishonesty in the UNO Student Code of Conduct

AUDITS: Whether an audit is successful will depend only on your one minute argument performance.

DISABILITY ACCOMODATIONS: It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services as well as their instructors to discuss their individual needs for accommodations. For more information, please go to <http://www.ods.uno.edu>.

INCOMPLETES: Incompletes are STRONGLY discouraged. Should you need to take an incomplete, arrangements must be made with me well before the last class meeting.

LATE STARTS: There are no special dispensations for late-start students.

LATE WORK: Work cannot be completed for credit after the deadline.

MAKE UP EXAMS: All exams will be available the first day of class. Each exam will disappear at **11:55 p.m.** the night it must be submitted. Each student must acknowledge understanding when each exam must be completed. Consequently, no make-up exam will be given to any student who did not attempt an exam before it disappears.

PROCTERING: To ensure academic integrity, all students enrolled in distance learning courses at the University of New Orleans may be required to participate in additional student identification procedures. At the discretion of the faculty member teaching the course, these measures may include on-campus proctored examinations, off-site or online proctored examinations, or other reasonable measures to ensure student identity. Authentication measures for this course are identified below and any fees associated are the responsibility of the student.

This class will deliver exams via Moodle and will use your Moodle password as the method of verification. The University of New Orleans partners with Proctor U, a live, online proctoring service that allows students to complete exams from any location using a computer, webcam, and reliable internet connection

Course Schedule

- Jan 12 – Jan 18** Course Introduction and What can we learn from ancient and medieval philosophers?
- Jan 19 – Jan 25** *The First Philosophers* (pp. 3-81)
- Jan 26 – Feb 1** Plato, "Euthyphro" & Plato, "Apology" and
- Feb 2 – Feb 8** Plato, "Crito" & Aristophanes, "Clouds"
- Feb 9 – Feb 15** Plato, Republic, Book I
- Feb 16 – Feb 22** Plato, *Republic*, Books II - V
- Feb 23 – Mar 1** Plato, *Republic*, Books VI - X
- Mar 2 – Mar 8** Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Books I, II, III (ch. 1-5)
- Mar 9 – Mar 15** Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book V, VI, VII, and X
- Mar 16 – Mar 22** Aristotle, *Politics*, Books I, II, and III | Aristotle, *Rhetoric*, Book 1, Chapter 1-15
- Mar 23 – Mar 29** Epicurus, *The Art of Happiness*
- Mar 30 – Apr 5** Epictetus, "Discourses" and "Enchirideon"
- Apr 6 – Apr 12** Boethius, *Consolation of Philosophy*
- Apr 13 – Apr 19** Augustine, *Confessions*
- Apr 20 – Apr 26** Aquinas, *A Shorter Summa*