



Philosophy 70a-01 Ancient Philosophy

Fall 2020 Dr. Dan C. Williamson
SH 241, TTh 10:30am-11:45am

Required Readings: (much of this and other central texts are online)

S. Marc Cohen, et al eds. *Readings in Ancient Greek Philosophy*, Fifth ed., Indianapolis, IN: Hackett Publishing, 2016

Thomas R. Martin, *Ancient Greece*, Second Ed., New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 2013

Garrett Thomson, *Thales to Sextus: And Introduction to Ancient Philosophy*, Long Grove, IL; Waveland Press, 2016

The Parthenon still stands in Athens, Greece and so does the central importance of Greek Philosophy to Philosophy and cultures worldwide. The Greeks of the Archaic and Classical Ages knew radical adversity and like Socrates above, retained their tranquility in the face of war, death and plague. They are our teachers to this day. The originality and wide range of Ancient Greek thought is instrumental to understanding contemporary Philosophy. It has several interesting comparisons to the thought of the Chinese Sages such as Confucius, Lao Tze and Chuang Tzu. However, The main focus of this course will be on both Greek Philosophy from its earliest beginnings, as well as some amount of reflection on Greek culture as well. The emphasis will be on the philosophers before Socrates, Socrates, Plato and Aristotle. Given time, Roman Philosophers who followed the traditions of the Hellenic Greeks, including the Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius, will also be considered. If one wishes to create new philosophy, and an ethical core, one must always take into account these wise and worldly thinkers.