

San José State University
Humanities and Arts/Philosophy Department
Phil. 70a-01, Ancient Philosophy, Fall '18

Instructor:	Dr. Dan C. Williamson
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Email:	Dan.Williamson@sjsu.edu
Office hours:	MW 12:15-1:15 TTh 12-1; and by appointment
Class days/time:	TTh 1:30-2:45pm
Classroom:	SH 241
Prerequisites:	English remediation or post baccalaureate
GE/SJSU Studies Category, if applicable	Area C 2

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Copies of the course syllabus and major assignment sheets may be found on Canvas, under “files.”

Course Description and Goals

The course introduces the student to some of the central philosophical texts of Ancient Greece and, as we can manage it, Rome (mostly the Stoics). It covers the contributions from the philosophers before Socrates, Plato, Aristotle and as much Hellenic Philosophy that we can get done. In addition to this, students will receive some basic historical knowledge of this period of time, including Ancient Greek religion and culture. Cultural themes include the nature of the Greek household, the place of women and other gender and class relationships. The student should expect to leave the course with a good basic knowledge of several philosophical classics and philosophers as well as a general knowledge of the history of the Greek/Mediterranean world of that time.

GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

This course satisfies General Education Area C2 as follows:

- Recognize how significant works illuminate enduring human concerns; *writing assignments such as the exams and also discussion activities will help you to consider enduring human concerns.*
- Respond to such works by writing both research-based critical analyses and personal responses; *you will be asked to write one longer paper or two papers during (student's option) the semester. Both require some research as well as your critical assessment of the ideas.*
- Write clearly and effectively; you will do at least the minimum of 1500 words this semester and then some. *You will receive constructive suggestions from the professor to improve your writing for clarity and effectiveness throughout all assignments, including the midterm short essays.*

Course Learning Objectives (CLO)

Upon successful completion of the course, students should be able to:

- Students should be able to interpret philosophical texts appropriately
- They should have some grasp of the social and historical contexts of ancient philosophy
- They should be able to articulate the above by writing that also serves to show that the student can represent arguments and ideas clearly and effectively.

Required Texts/Readings

Cohen, S. Marc, et al eds., *Readings in Ancient Greek Philosophy; From Thales to Aristotle*, Fifth Edition, Hackett Publishing Co., ISBN 13:978-1-62466-532-5

Martin, Thomas R., *Ancient Greece: From Prehistoric to Hellenistic Times*, 2nd ed., Yale Nota Bene, ISBN 9-780300-160055

Thomson, Garrett *Thales to Sextus: An Introduction to Ancient Philosophy*, Waveland Press ISBN 13: 978-1-4766-2776-0

Other readings (or recommended readings)

The course may have some materials that could be used later in the semester. I will announce this in class. These additional materials either will be available as an online link or at the Course Reserve Desk in the MLK library, listed under this course. Happily, there is also an excellent online electronic resource for the Presocratics through the SJSU

library. It is: Richard D. McKirahan, *Philosophy Before Socrates, An Introduction with Texts and Commentary*, 2nd ed., Hackett Publishing Co.. There are innumerable books on the Greeks that I will mention as time goes on.

Assignments and Grading Policy

Course Structure:

a. *Reading*

You should be able to engage the issues by reading the texts thoroughly in advance of the lectures covering the readings. Please come to class prepared and make sure to read the material thoroughly in advance. Everyone in the class will get far more from the course by doing so.

b. *Writing*

The course has a minimum of 1500 words of written work, per GE requirements. I will be working with you on all written work.

homework: For the purposes of review and increasing your abilities to express moral arguments, some brief homework assignments may be assigned. I have assigned them 50 points. All should be typed and double spaced. No handwritten homework will be accepted.

papers There are two short papers required or one longer paper. The first option: the first paper will be no more than 3 to 4 pages in length. This paper requires the student to present a clear exposition of a philosopher or philosophical topic. The second paper should be longer, minimum 5 pages, doing the same as the first paper with the addition of some independent research into the topic. The research should be based on academically sound sources. Additional requirements, explanations and due dates for these papers will be available on the course web site at the appropriate time. I will discuss this further in class. There are no re-write options on the papers. The first paper will be lower point value (35) and will serve as the basis for improvement on the more heavily weighted final paper (65). An electronic copy of the same paper you turn in to me should be submitted under this course to Turnitin.com. I will provide the password and code in class.

I strongly urge students to come in during my office hours or by appointment to discuss their paper and the topic under consideration. If enough of you want to do this, we can set up appointments in advance.

midterms Both midterms are in class and are a mixture of true/false, multiple choice and short-essay format, unless otherwise noted. The midterms and final are closed book, unless otherwise noted by the professor. The final is cumulative with an emphasis on everything not already tested in the previous midterms. The midterms will be 50 points each. I will provide review sheets on Canvas under “files” and we will review that in class prior to each midterm and the final.

The [University Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf), Course Syllabi (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>) requires the following language to be included in the syllabus:

“Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practice. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.”

Final Examination

The final is worth 125 points and will be the same format as the midterms. As with the midterms a review sheet will be made available on Canvas under “files.”

active learning I rarely just lecture. I like to engage in discussion with students. Come prepared for discussion. This will help you improve your comprehension of the material

participation I give 25 basic participation points reflecting your overall performance in the class. Make yourself noticed by speaking up, positively and constructively, please.

group activities The course provides the student with the opportunity to explore ideas in our texts in discussion groups on a regular basis. I hand out a separate sheet of guidelines for discussions and presentations. Groups can review what has already been lectured on or on what has not been lectured on that is in our texts or in other materials and topics appropriate to the course. You can develop material for the paper from what you do in a group, they need not be entirely separate. This activity is worth 50 points.

Grading Information

As above, separate instructions will be available on Canvas for papers, group and as noted for homework and review. These explain what student should be able to do for a grade in each activity.

I grade on points. I provide percentages below. Each assignment will follow something similar to the following:

The assignment is a midterm and is valued at 50 points.

50-45 A
44-39 B
38-33 C
32-27 D

26 and below F

Similarly, the final grade would be calculated thus:

450-427 A 23 pts
426-404 A- 22 pts
403- 388 B+ 15 pts
387-362 B “
361-346 B- “

And following based on 10% for each grade range and then broken down proportionally within each range.

d. Grade Breakdown:

Homework	50	(points per assignment will vary and the total might go higher or lower)	11%
Position Papers	100	(points on individual papers: 35/65)	22% (appx)
Participation	25	5-6%	
Group	50	11%	
Midterms	100	(50 points each)	11/22%
Final	<u>125</u>	27% appx	
	50		

Please see the Classroom Protocol sheet for all information regarding late assignments and other relevant issues. I will accept *some* late work, depending on good reasons. But repeated late assignments could result in a reduction of the grade, excluding midterms and finals. If you can't make a midterm or need to reschedule a final, please check with me for such arrangements. Not taking the final is

For more detail and other issues, please consult the “Classroom Protocol” sheet available in Canvas in this class under “files.”

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>.

Briefly, students are expected to behave in a responsible fashion worthy of a college student. It goes without saying that ethical behavior is mandatory and any variation from that is simply not acceptable. For those with special needs, please know that you are welcome in this class and I will do all I can to accommodate your needs.

Phil 70a-01, Ancient Philosophy, Fall '18 Schedule

The following is subject to change with fair notice.

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	8/21,8/23	Introduction to the course
2	8/28, 8/30	The Ancient Greek World. Begin reading Martin, Chapters 1-4. Cohen, Introduction, pgs. 1-10, 530-546 (Aristotle in Cohen). Thomson: Historical and Cultural Introduction. 8/31 is the last day to drop; it is the student's responsibility to drop.
3	9/4, 9/6	Continue the above and read Cohen, Chapter 2 for this short week and Chapter 1, Part 1 in Thomson (The Milesians) 9/3 is a Holiday
4	9/11, 9/13	The "Presocratics" continued 9/10 is the last day to add. Cohen, Chapters 3-5 and Thomson, The Ionians from Chapter 1.
5	9/18, 9/20	Continue Presocratics, Chapters 6-10, Cohen and Thomson, Chapters 2 and 3 (up through the Pluralists and Atomists. When finished then we begin Plato's dialogues in Cohen: Euthyphro, Apology, Crito. Corresponding readings in Martin for this and later weeks: Chapters 5-8; Thomson : Part II, Chapter 4 (possibly some of Chapter 5).
6	9/25, 9/27	Continue and as soon as we finish, review with some Group Work., <i>First Midterm this week or beginning of next on Weeks 1-5 roughly; mainly early Greek culture and religion and the Presocratics. There may be some material on the first of Plato's dialogues included.</i>
7	10/2, 10/4	Continue Plato, above, and then begin Plato's <i>Republic</i> , Books I,II, IV, V(474c-480a), VI(504e-511e), VIII; Books IX and X, various; . I may interpolate some corresponding ideas from Aristotle as well. TBA on that; read Thomson Chapters 6 and7.
8	10/9, 10/11	Continue
9	10/16, 10/18	Continue and group work this week or next, review.
10	10/23, 10/25	Continue. <i>Second Midterm this week or next; Plato</i>
11	10/30, 11/1	Begin Aristotle; selections from Physics in Cohen, pgs. 732-764, all. Metaphysics pgs. 809- 838 Other sections TBA; corresponding readings: Martin, Chapter 9, Thomson, various from Chapters 9-11, TBA
12	11/6, 11/8	Continue
13	11/13, 11/15	Continue and begin Nicomachean Ethics in Cohen, pgs. 870- 905 and possibly more. I would like to try to integrate the Stoics (Marcus Aurelius and others) here alongside our reading of Aristotle's Ethics.

		So, we'll begin with some Hellenism. There should be an abundance of online texts for this. Background reading from Martin; Chapter 10 Thomson: various from Chapter 12
14	11/20, 11/22	Continue; <i>11/22 is a Holiday, Thanksgiving.</i>
15	11/27, 11/29	Continue and group work
16	12/4, 12/7	Continue group work ; 12/7 is our last day
		<i>Final Examination: Thursday, December 13th, 1215-1430</i> The final paper is due on the day of the final.