

COURSE SYLLABUS  
Philosophy 31: *History of Philosophy - Ancient Philosophy*  
Fall 2004, Tu. & Th. 5-6:20, CSB 002

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In this course we will study the birth of Western philosophical thought in the Greek world between 600 and 300 BCE. Much of the course is concerned with the thought of the Presocratic philosophers and their early attempts to explain the world around them without reference to the Homeric gods. But we will also spend some time considering the writings of Plato and Aristotle whose thinking stands, even today, at the center of many contemporary philosophical debates. This course is the first in a series of courses on the history of philosophy.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

There are 3 required texts for this course:

- [EGP] *Early Greek Philosophy*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, J. Barnes (Penguin: 2003)
- [FD] *Five Dialogues* of Plato, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, trans. G. M. A. Grube (Hackett: 2002)
- [IR] *Introductory Readings* of Aristotle, trans. T. Irwin and G. Fine (Hackett: 1996)

All texts can be found at the UCSD bookstore.

INSTRUCTOR:

- Aaron Schiller, aaschiller@ucsd.edu. Office Hours: Tu. 1:30-3:30 or by appointment, 8088 HSS.

TEACHING ASSISTANTS:

- James Messina, jmessina@ucsd.edu. Office Hours: TBA. James teaches the following sections:

A02: Wed. 5-5:50, Center Hall, Rm. 205

A04: Wed. 4-4:50, Center Hall, Rm. 203

- Ioan Muntean, imuntean@ucsd.edu. Office Hours: TBA. Ioan teaches the following sections:

A01: Tu. 7-7:50, Center Hall, Rm. 201

A03: Fri. 1-1:50, Center Hall, Rm. 203

ON GRADING:

Your grade in this course will be determined by your performance on two midterms, a final exam, and section attendance and participation. Each midterm is worth 25% of your overall course grade, the final is worth 45%, and section attendance and participation is worth 5%. The two midterms are take-home and will consist of two short essays each. The final is in-class and will consist of four short essays on questions that will be provided to you before the exam. Section attendance is covered below. Your grade for this course will be kept by the TA whose section you signed up for when enrolling in the course, so be sure you know who your TA is. Address all questions about grading to your TA first. If a grading issue is not resolved by talking to your TA, then come to the instructor.

ON SECTION ATTENDANCE:

Section attendance will count for 5% of your final course grade (i.e., potentially the difference between a B- and a B+, or between a B and an A-, etc.). To receive the full 5%, you will be required to attend *at least 5 sections*. Students who attend more than the required 5 sections, and those that regularly participate in section discussions, may have an additional 2 points added to their final grade at the discretion of the TA.

ON ACADEMIC HONESTY:

The academic senate has a strict policy on cheating and they urge instructors to include the following information on their syllabi: Any student caught cheating will face the minimum consequence of being reported to the Dean of that student's college as having violated UCSD's standards of academic honesty. Further consequences could include failure in this course or worse. *I therefore strongly advise you not to cheat in this or any other course.* Cheating in this course is hereby defined as plagiarizing *any part* of two short essay midterms, or by turning in already written or otherwise copied essays for the in-class final. For more on academic honesty see the UCSD Policy on Integrity of Scholarship at <http://www-senate.ucsd.edu/manual/appendices/app2.htm#AP14>.

SCHEDULE:

MEETING	TOPIC	READING
9/23	Introduction to Course	---
9/28	Early Origin Myths, Thales	EGP, Intro, Ch. 1, Ch. 2
9/30	Anaximander and Anaximenes	EGP, Ch. 3, Ch. 4
10/5	Pythagoras	EGP, Ch. 5
10/7	Alcmaeon and Xenophanes	EGP, Ch. 6, Ch. 7
10/12	Heraclitus	EGP, Ch. 8
10/14	Parmenides	EGP, Ch. 9
10/19	Melissus and Zeno	<b>MT1 Due</b> EGP, Ch. 10
10/21	Empedocles	EGP, Ch. 12
10/26	Anaxagoras	EGP, Ch. 18
10/28	Democritus	EGP, Ch. 21
11/2	Introduction to Socrates and Plato, Euthyphro	FD, Euthyphro 2a - 9c
11/4	Euthyphro continued	FD, Euthyphro 9c - 16a
11/9	Phaedo	FD, Phaedo 57a - 91c
11/11	<b>University Holiday</b>	---
11/16	Phaedo continued	<b>MT2 Due</b> FD, Phaedo - 91c - 118a
11/18	Meno	FD, Meno - 70a - 100b
11/23	Aristotle: The Categories	IR, 1a1 - 4b20
11/25	<b>University Holiday</b>	---
11/30	Aristotle: The Posterior Analytics	IR, 71a3 - 100b18
12/2	Catch-up and Course Review	---
12/7	<b>In-Class Final Exam: 7 - 10 PM</b>	---

*Note that this is subject to change at the instructor's discretion, but that every attempt will be made to stay on schedule.*