Course description

In this course we consider the beginnings of the European philosophical tradition, and examine the earliest reflections on the structure of the world, the nature of wisdom, the foundations of the good life and the limits of knowledge. Class discussion centred on course topics is highly encouraged. Students from all faculties are welcome to attend.

We begin by reviewing the suggestions that everything is made up of certain basic constituents, such as water, air, atoms or something else, and that the properties of things depend on the proportions of their constituents. We continue by considering classical Greek critiques of traditional religious beliefs, of gendered and ethnocentric practices, and of societal structures that allow demagogues to gain the upper hand in the state.

The course, furthermore, introduces students to explanations of how the changing appearances of our world are related to its permanent features, scrutinises models of individual and societal justice, and opens the question whether reason is sufficient to counter the proliferation of unfounded opinions. The ability to work with arguments founded on a broad knowledge base is emphasised.

Texts

Course organisation and student engagement
To facilitate class discussion, assigned weekly texts are to be read ahead of class lectures. Attendance during class periods, constructive participation and tolerance of the views of others are expected. Students are responsible for materials covered if classes are missed and are expected to ask classmates about any announcements while absent. Everyone is encouraged to be self-reflective about his or her own beliefs, and to constructively contribute to class discussion.

Tips for best performances
1. Do readings do weekly assignments ahead of class periods.
2. Come to class and participate in class discussion with constructive points.
3. Speak to the instructor if failing to understand the material.

Graded student activities
1. Participation, including weekly assignments 20%
2. Mid-term test 30%
3. A final take-home exam 50%

1. Participation. Assessed on the basis of a) regular attendance, b) constructive participation in class discussion, c) weekly assignments based on the course readings and analysis of the issues under discussion. Class attendance will be taken, and is particularly encouraged in the case of guest speakers (justified absences on those days should be discussed with the instructor ahead of time).

Weekly response assignments
You are expected to write up a brief response to a question regarding each week’s readings to help you engage with the material and concepts before the lecture. Responses should be brief, and handed in on the first day of classes every week (usually Tuesdays). Your response should be in your own words and not be copied from the textbook or other texts.

At the head of the page please state, in this order, a) your last and first name (e.g. JONES, Peter), b) the date assignment is due (e.g. 9 January 2018), c) the particular readings discussed (e.g. Singer and Taylor). Feedback will be given on the first sets of assignments, and occasionally thereafter. At the end of the semester the total of the assignments minus the two with the lowest grades will be graded on a pass or fail basis. Both quantity and quality of assignments will be taken into account in grading.

2. Mid-term test. It covers both readings and further points raised in lectures. Both understanding and recall of material covered, and reflective analysis, is expected. Test questions will likely consist of a combination of shorter and longer answer questions.

3. Final take-home exam. Comprehensive, comprised of long answer, and possibly also some short answer questions. Handed out on the last day of classes. Completed exams should be printed out and handed in to a specially labelled box at the Department of Philosophy 12:00 a.m. five (5) days after the last day of classes. Late exams will NOT be accepted (they will receive 0%). Exams should also be submitted through Coursespaces (unless otherwise indicated). Understanding of material covered and reflective analysis will be expected.

All graded work will be assessed on the basis of (1) care in the explanation of key points, (2) quality of development of points presented, (3) clarity, neatness, and organisation of points.
Grading scale and interpretation
Percentages will convert to a letter grade according to the standard University scheme:

- A+ = 90-100
- B+ = 77-79
- C+ = 65-69
- D = 50-59
- A = 85-89
- B = 73-76
- C = 60-64
- F = 0-49
- A- = 80-84
- B- = 70-72

What the Grading Scale Means:

**A+, A, or A-** Earned by work which is technically superior, shows mastery of the subject matter, and in the case of an A+ offers original insight and/or goes beyond course expectations. Normally achieved by a minority of students.

**B+, B, or B-** Earned by work that indicates a good comprehension of the course material, a good command of the skills needed to work with the course material, and the student’s full engagement with the course requirements and activities. A B+ represents a more complex understanding and/or application of the course material. Normally achieved by the largest number of students.

**C+ or C** Earned by work that indicates an adequate comprehension of the course material and the skills needed to work with the course material and that indicates the student has met the basic requirements for completing assigned work and/or participating in class activities.

**D** Earned by work that indicates minimal command of the course materials and/or minimal participation in class activities that is worthy of course credit toward the degree.

**F** Work that is not worthy of course credit toward the degree.

Interpretation of these grade definitions is up to the discretion of the instructor. If you receive a grade during the course that you believe is unfair, please begin by discussing the matter with the instructor (or TA) in a respectful, open-minded manner. Rest assured that if you still believe the grade you received is unfair you can appeal the matter to the chair of the department. For additional information regarding grades, please see pp. 51-53 of the most recent edition of the *Uvic Undergraduate Calendar*.

All evaluations of tests and assignments will be calculated according to *percentage scores*. Letter grades and grade point scores are listed purely for reference. Final examinations are the property of Uvic and are not returned. They are available for viewing at the Records Office according to Uvic procedures and regulations (pp. 49-51 of the calendar).

**Late assignments, extensions and plagiarism**
Late weekly assignments will **not** be accepted and the test will **not** be rescheduled (no make-up exams). If a test is missed serious, **documented**, reasons, the final exam will be weighted so as to incorporate the weighting of the missed exam. Documented evidence for having legitimately missed an exam and an explanatory statement in writing have to be received **no more than ten days after the deadline or exam missed**. Late papers will have 5% subtracted per working day from grade unless documentation is provided of illness or family emergency. Academic honesty will be expected in this course. **Plagiarism (e.g. copying from others or working together on the take-home exam) may lead to dismissal from the course and the university.** Any matters not covered in this handout will be handled in accordance with University and
Department policies. Please familiarize yourself with them at http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2017-05/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html.

Other matters
Transition and inclusivity/diversity
Students who are new to the University, and would like assistance may contact the Transition Office, www.uvic.ca/transition. UVic is committed to providing a safe, supportive learning environment for all members. Further information regarding UVic policies on human rights, equity, discrimination and harassment are located in the Uvic calendar (p. 15), but if you have any particular concerns in our course please do not hesitate to contact me.

Counseling Services
Many, if not most, students experience some difficulties with their mental health during their years as undergraduate students. It is hard to shake the stigma associated with problems like depression and anxiety, but if at any point you can benefit from help with mental health issues, please contact UVic Counseling Services, which is an excellent resource at your disposal on campus. They genuinely want to help, so why not take advantage of this free resource?

Important Dates
Please consult the UVic Calendar’s Academic Year Important Dates for information about last possible dates to withdraw from courses without penalty, examinations period start/end dates, etc.

Technology in Classroom
Some students require laptops or voice recognition apps for their learning strategies, so I do not prohibit their use in the classroom. However, studies demonstrate that multi-tasking reduces the performance of other nearby students, so anyone caught on social media, internet surfing, etc. will be asked to leave and potentially subject to disciplinary action.

Academic Advising
For information about declaring a program, academic concessions or interpreting your UVic CAPP report, please visit Undergraduate Advising or make an appointment with an adviser.

Territory Acknowledgment
The University of Victoria is committed to acknowledging and respecting the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day. For information about support for indigenous students and efforts to foster reconciliation, please visit the UVic Office of Indigenous Academic & Community Engagement.

Schedule of lectures and tests
Please note that the schedule is subject to changes. Weekly reading assignments will be confirmed during class periods, so please be attentive to announcements in class and on Coursespaces. Class time will be divided between lectures and discussion. Informed participation in class discussion will be expected, assigned texts should be read in advance. Readings are from our textbook unless indicated otherwise.

Week 1
6-12 Jan  Introduction
Readings: Introduction and Maps and Timeline (in our Reeve, Miller and Gerson textbook), Thales, Anaximander, Anaximenes
Week 2  
**Early Greek Philosophy**  
13-19 Jan  
Readings: Pythagoras, Xenophanes, Heraclitus

Week 3  
**Early Greek Philosophy**  
20-26 Jan  
Readings: Parmenides, Zeno  
**Friday 24 January GUEST LECTURE: Dr. Geoffrey Kron, on Ancient Greece**  
*21 Sept, last day for adding courses*

Week 4  
**Early Greek Philosophy**  
27 Jan-2 Feb  
Readings: Empedocles, Anaxagoras, Democritus  
** Friday 30 January: FIELD TRIP to Greek and Roman Studies. Meet at Clearihue B409**  
(REQUIRED)

Week 5  
**Socrates and Plato**  
3-9 Feb  
Readings: Euthyphro, Apology, Crito  
**7 February: Deadline for choice of the topic for short paper/group presentation**

Week 6  
**Review and midterm**  
10-16 Feb  
No new readings  
*Monday 8 October, Thanksgiving Day*  
**14 February: Mid-term**

Week 7  
**READING WEEK**  
17-23 Feb  
*17 February: Family Day*  
No new readings  
**Plato on love and beauty**  
Readings: Symposium, Republic (selected sections TBA)  
**22 January: Last day for adding courses**

Week 8  
**Plato on justice and on the first utopia**  
24 Feb- 1 Mar  
Readings: Republic (selected sections TBA)  
**29 February: Last Day for Withdrawing without Penalty**

Week 9  
**Aristotle on the good life (ethics)**  
2-8 Mar  
Readings: Nichomachean Ethics (selected sections TBA)  
*31 Oct: Last day for withdrawing from courses without penalty of failure*

Week 10  
**Aristotle on what there is (metaphysics)**  
9-15 Mar  
Readings: Metaphysics and Physics (selected sections TBA)

Week 11  
**Aristotle on what there is (metaphysics)**  
16-22 Mar  
Readings: Metaphysics and Physics (selected sections TBA)  
**Aristotle continued and later schools of philosophy**  
Readings: Epicurus, Lucretius, Greek Stoics
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<th>Week 12</th>
<th>Later schools of philosophy continued</th>
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<td>23-29 Mar</td>
<td>Readings: Epicurus, Lucretius, Greek Stoics and TBA</td>
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<th>Week 13</th>
<th>Review, Course Experience Survey and summary-conclusion</th>
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<td>30 Mar-5 Apr</td>
<td><strong>Friday 3 April: Last day of classes and Final take-home exam questions handed out</strong></td>
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<th>Week 14</th>
<th><em><strong>By NOON Wednesday 8 April: Final exam submission (hardcopy AND Coursespaces)</strong></em></th>
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