

PHILOSOPHY 102: HELLENISTIC PHILOSOPHY

UCSD 2012 Spring MWF 1-2pm SEQUO 148

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The works of the founders of the greatest schools of Hellenistic philosophy including the Epicureans and the Stoics have been lost, but their ideas survive in the works of later writers, among them the famous Roman politicians Cicero and Seneca. We will read some of their ethical and political writings in order to get an idea of both the range of ethical theories of the period, as well as the approach to some more concrete ethical problems, such as the value of pleasure and virtue, the importance of wealth and power, the control of emotion, and the possibility of tranquility and happiness.

REQUIRED TEXTS (available at UCSD Bookstore)

- *Cicero: On Moral Ends*. Translated by R. Woolf. Cambridge, 2001.
- *Seneca: Dialogues and Essays*. Translated by J. Davie. Oxford, 2007.

EVALUATION

1. Participation (100 points): Regular attendance and participation are required. You may participate by asking questions or making comments in class, or by posting questions or comments to the class discussion board on ted.ucsd.edu.
2. Scribe Assignment (100 points): A group writing assignment and revision exercise, with an oral participation component. (See separate handout for details.)
3. Scholar Assignment (100 points): A bibliography and library skills assignment, consisting of two parts each worth up to 50 points: (a) a bibliography consisting of 12-17 items borrowed from the library; and (b) a compiled group bibliography.
4. Research Paper (300 points): Consists of three parts: (a) a 400-800 word proposal and bibliography, due ???; (b) a 1000-1500 word rough draft due ???; and (c) a 1500-2000 word final draft, due ???. Each part is worth up to 100 points; late sections will suffer a 100 point penalty for each late section. No electronic submissions accepted.
5. Midterm Examination (100 points): Open-book, cumulative essay exam, on ??? (???) in class. It is not possible to reschedule or retake the midterm exam.
6. Final Examination (300 points): Open-book, cumulative essay exam, on June 7 (Monday) 3-6 pm. It will not be possible to reschedule or retake the final exam.

SCHEDULE

Meeting	Reading	Due
2012 April 2	Epicurus, <i>Letter to Menoeceus</i> (handout)	
2012 iv 4	Cicero, <i>On Moral Ends</i> 1	
2012 iv 6	Cicero, <i>On Moral Ends</i> 1	
2012 iv 9	Cicero, <i>On Moral Ends</i> 2	
2012 iv 11	Cicero, <i>On Moral Ends</i> 2	
2012 iv 13	Cicero, <i>On Moral Ends</i> 2	Scholars assignment
2012 iv 16	Cicero, <i>On Moral Ends</i> 3	
2012 iv 18	Cicero, <i>On Moral Ends</i> 3	
2012 iv 20	NO CLASS (Professor at a conference)	
2012 iv 23	Cicero, <i>On Moral Ends</i> 4	
2012 iv 25	Cicero, <i>On Moral Ends</i> 4	
2012 iv 27	Cicero, <i>On Moral Ends</i> 4	Research Proposal
2012 iv 30	Cicero, <i>On Moral Ends</i> 5	
2012 May 2	Cicero, <i>On Moral Ends</i> 5	
2012 v 4	Cicero, <i>On Moral Ends</i> 5	
2012 v 7	Discussion and Review	
2012 v 9	Discussion and Review	
2012 v 11	Midterm Examination (in class)	
2012 v 14	Introduction to Seneca	
2012 v 16	Seneca, <i>On the Happy Life</i>	
2012 v 18	Seneca, <i>On the Tranquility of the Soul</i>	Research Paper Draft
2012 v 21	Seneca, <i>On the Shortness of Life</i>	
2012 v 23	Seneca, <i>Consolation to Marcia</i>	
2012 v 25	Seneca, <i>Consolation to Helvia</i>	
2012 v 28	Memorial Day Holiday (no class)	
2012 v 30	Seneca, <i>On Anger</i> , book III	
2012 June 1	Seneca, <i>On Mercy</i>	
2012 vi 4	Seneca, <i>On Providence</i>	
2012 vi 6	Seneca, <i>On Earthquakes</i>	
2012 vi 8	Discussion and Review	Research Paper Final
2012 June 14 (Th) 11:30am-2:30pm	Final Examination	