

PHILOSOPHY 31, FALL 2017

Professor Georgios Anagnostopoulos, Email: ganagnostopoulos@ucsd.edu
Office: H&SS 8034; Office Hours: Tue. & Th. 4:00-5:00 pm, and by appointment.

Texts:

J. Barnes: EARLY GREEK PHILOSOPHY (2nd edition)

Plato: FIVE DIALOGUES

Aristotle: INTRODUCTORY READINGS

Lectures & Readings:

9/28 Preliminaries: Course objectives, structure, and requirements

10/3 & 10/5 Read in Barnes, pp. 3-27: Precursors, Thales, Anaximander, Anaximenes.

The pre-philosophical accounts of the world (mythological/religious/poetic); the first scientific/philosophical accounts of the origin & constitution of the world; the substantive & methodological contributions of the Milesians; Milesian Monism, Materialism, & Hylozoism.

10/10 Read in Barnes, pp. 28-35: Pythagoras, Xenophanes.

- Pythagoras on the soul, transmigration of souls & personal identity, philosophy as a way of life.
- Xenophanes' cosmological views, his alleged skepticism, criticisms of popular views of the divine (anthropomorphism, immoralism, relativism), & his own view of the divine.

10/12 Read in Barnes, pp. 40/73, 77-91: Heraclitus, Parmenides.

- The problem of interpreting Heraclitus' extant fragments; difficulty of acquiring knowledge and its causes; Heraclitus as a follower of the Milesian naturalistic tradition & the meaning of his Logos; universal flux; unity of opposites; Heraclitus as a non-Milesian radical thinker and the problem of identity through time.
- Parmenides' two ways of inquiring (Way of Truth & of Opinion), senses vs. reason, the methodological contributions of Parmenides (Rationalism & Demonstrative Method), Monism and the properties of what is.

10/17 Read in Barnes, pp. 111-161, 185-198: The Pluralists: Empedocles & Anaxagoras.

- Empedocles on some deficiencies of the senses and the importance of reason; adherence to some of the view of Parmenides and rejection of his Monism; Empedocles' Pluralism (Four Roots plus Love & Strife) & his theory of mixing; his theories of perception & thought; purifications.
- Anaxagoras on the impossibility of generation & perishing; his rejection of Monism and his extreme pluralism; the Theses of Universal Mixture, Predominance, & Homoiomery; his views on the role of the Mind in generating and regulating the world; the nature of Mind & Thought.

10/19 Read in Barnes, pp. 203-253: Democritus, the Sophists.

- Democritus' atomism—atoms and the void; things existing by nature vs. by convention; the atomists' explanation of secondary qualities; the argument from divisibility in support of atomism; the nature of ancient atomism as a theory when compared to modern atomism.
- The Sophistic Movement, Protagoras and Relativism, the problem of teaching virtue

10/24 Read the *Euthyphro*, in Plato: FIVE DIALOGUES.

The practical context of the dialogue & the problem of pervasive disagreements about values; the primacy of the "What is X?" question & Socratic definitions; the object of definitions & Socratic Forms; Socratic ethical realism; the uses of definitions (epistemic & pragmatic); examination of the proposed definitions of piety and the Socratic elenchus; the relation of values to the divine.

10/26 and 10/31 Read the *Apology*, in Plato: FIVE DIALOGUES

The two kinds of accusers of Socrates (early & late); the climate of resentment against Socrates; his defense against the late accusations and his philosophical views on which it depends; the unexamined life; the alleged

ignorance and wisdom of Socrates; his mission & service to the gods as a way of understanding piety; why a good person cannot be harmed and why one should not fear death.

11/2 and 11/7 Read the *Meno*, in Plato: FIVE DIALOGUES.

The question of how virtue is acquired & the primacy of the “What is X?” question; Socratic Forms; Meno’s Paradox and the Socratic Fallacy; the Theory of Recollection; arguments for and against the claim that virtue is knowledge and can be taught; the distinction between Knowledge & Belief.

11/9 and 11/14 Read the *Phaedo*, in Plato: FIVE DIALOGUES.

The nature of the philosopher and of philosophy and their relation to dying—separating the soul from the body; the faculty, type of cognitive activity, and object of philosophical knowledge; the soul & Platonic Forms; the arguments concerning the nature and immortality of the soul.

11/16 Read the *Categories*; in ARISTOTLE, pp. 1-8.

The nature of Aristotelian categories and the primacy of concrete individuals; primary and secondary substances and objections to the primacy of Platonic Forms; marks of substance.

11/21 Read from *Posterior Analytics*; in ARISTOTLE, pp. 16-24, 28-30.

The nature of scientific knowledge and of the demonstrative syllogism; responses to skepticism; the nature of our knowledge of the first principles & rejection of Plato’s innate ideas.

11/28 Read from *On the Soul*, in ARISTOTLE, pp. 80-95, 97-100

Nature of the soul, perception, intellect

11/30 & 12/5 Read from *Nicomachean Ethics*, in ARISTOTLE, pp.196-216, 275-287, 216-228

The good as end, means & ends and their structure, the supreme end; happiness as the end of everything humans pursue; the nature of happiness explicated by the Function Argument; the human virtues—both ethical & intellectual; highest happiness as intellectual activity and its features; practical life as the second best form of happiness.

12/7 Read from *Politics*, in ARISTOTLE, pp. 288-291, 297-305, 310-318.

The political association and rule distinguished from other types of association and rule; the naturalness of the polis and man as a political animal; natural slavery; citizenship, political justice; Aristotle on the best state.

Requirements:

Lectures: Tu. & Th., 5:00-6:20, PETER 104. Discussions Sections: Section I, M 4:00-4:50, HSS 1128A; Section II, M 5:00-5:50, HSS 1128A. Discussion sections will NOT meet on M, October 2. The TA for the course is Ryan M Stringer (rstringe@ucsd.edu), Office: HSS 7050, Office hours: Th. 2:00-4:00 pm. Adam J Chin (ajchin@ucsd.edu) will be also assisting with discussion; Office hours: Tu. & Th. 3:00-4:00 pm, in the Philosophy Dept. Library (HSS 8th Floor) and by appointment.

Writing Requirements: (a) There will be two short, take-home examinations; the first will be due in class on Th. October 26. The prompt will be distributed in class on October 19. You will be asked to answer two questions, each worth 10 points. The second will be due in class on November 21, and the prompt will be distributed on November 14. You will be asked to answer three questions, each worth 10 points. (b) A Final Exam to be taken in class on the date and time listed in the Fall Schedule of Classes, which will cover all the materials covered in the course. In the Final you will be asked to answer four questions, each worth 10 points. (c) Two in-class quizzes (Oct. 17 and Nov. 7); in each quiz, you will be asked to give a brief answer (no more than a page) to a question from the readings/lectures. Each quiz will be worth 5 points.