**PHILOSOPHY 102: HELLENISTIC PHILOSOPHY**

**Professor Monte Johnson**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The works of the Cynics, Epicureans, Stoics, and Sceptics have been lost, but their ideas survive in fragments quoted in later authors, and in extant works of Roman writers. We will read biographical accounts in Diogenes Laertius (III C.E.), and fragments of the Greek philosophers of the Hellenistic period from various sources, followed by a detailed study of some ethical and political writings of Cicero (106 - 43 B.C.E) and Seneca (4 B.C.E. - 65 C.E.). The aim of the readings is to get an idea of the range of Hellenistic ethical theories, as well as the different approaches to some more concrete ethical problems, such as the relationship between ethics and physics and logic, the relative value of pleasure and virtue, consolation and the control of emotion, and techniques of obtaining of tranquility and happiness.

OBJECTIVES

1. Learn how to read, interpret, discuss, cite, quote, and paraphrase the fundamental doctrines of the Epicureans, Stoics and Sceptics in English translation.

2. Learn the ways that Greek philosophy was transformed by Roman writers for their own purposes, and to appreciate Cicero and Seneca as literary archetypes for later legal, ethical, and social-political discourse. Appreciate the enduring influence of Hellenistic philosophy on the history of philosophy and science.

3. Conduct original and detailed research on Hellenistic Philosophy in relation to your own interests. Learn to utilize both primary and secondary sources in representing and criticizing philosophical views.

REQUIRED TEXTS

(available at UC San Diego Bookstore-- please obtain in hard copy as soon as possible)

* *Hellenistic Philosophy: introductory readings* / translated with introduction and notes by Brad Inwood and L. P. Gerson. Second edition. Indianapolis, 1997.
* *Cicero: On Moral Ends*. Translated by R. Woolf. Cambridge, 2001.
* *Seneca: Dialogues and Essays*. Translated by J. Davie. Oxford, 2007.
* Supplemental Readings (distributed in PDF on the Canvas website under "Files" or "Modules")

MEETINGS

* Lectures and Discussion: MWF 12-12:50pm at Solis 111. (See attendance policy below.)
* Office Hours: W 2-3pm at RWAC Building 1 Room 0451, or by appointment.
* Final Exam: W June 14, 11:30-2:30 (Attendance mandatory.)

EVALUATION

BOOK REVIEW

* **Assignment 1: Book Report Outline (5 points). Due April 14. (Required)**
  + **Assignment 2: Book Report Draft (10 points)\*. Due April 28. (Required)**
    - **Assignment 4: Book Report Revision (5 points)\*. Due May 12. (Required)**

RESEARCH PROJECT

* **Assignment 3: Research Outline (5 points). Due May 5. (Required)**
  + **Assignment 5: Research Essay Draft 1 (15 points). Due May 19. (Required)**
    - *Assignment 6: Research Essay Draft 2 (20 points)\*. Due June 2. (Optional)*
      * *Assignment 7: Research Essay Draft 3 and Presentation (20 points). Due June 14 and June 16. (Optional)*

DISCUSSION

* **Weekly Discussion comments (10 points). Due by Wednesday at midnight PDT each week (Required).**
  + **Weekly Discussion replies (10 points)\*. Due by Friday at midnight PDT each week (Required).**
    - *Extra credit Discussion comments (1 point per 200-300 word comment; up to 5 points). No due date. No comments accepted for credit after June 7.*

Color Coding: **Required** ; *Optional*

Detailed instructions for each assignment are available in the weekly modules. Indented items (with also have an \*) may only be submitted for points after the immediately preceding item has been submitted and graded. Research Essay draft 2 is *optional* for those seeking only a P or C final grade: required for those seeking a B or A final grade. Essay draft 3 is *optional* for those seeking only a P or C or B final grade; required for those seeking an A final grade. All students are **required**to attend the final exam.

GRADING SCHEME

* P or C: >60 points;
* B: >80;
* A: >90 points;
* All + and - modifiers at the discretion of the Professor.

ATTENDANCE

* Attendance, preparation, and active participation at all class meetings are required.
* For each class meeting missed without a written excuse (from a doctor, coach, etc.), 2 points will be subtracted from the FINAL grade.
* Attendance at the final exam (Wednesday, June 14, 11:30am-2:30pm) is mandatory for all students, regardless of whether they are presenting a final research project or not.

POLICY ON LATE WORK

* Late contributions to Discussion (including comments and replies) will not be eligible for grade points, but may be taken into consideration for + and - discretionary scores. Extra-credit comments do not have due dates.
* Late submissions of Assignments will be penalized 2.5 points per 24-hour period of lateness. Late submissions may effect eligibility to submit subsequent drafts.

SCHEDULE OUTLINE

1. **Overview and Background**
2. Introduction to Epicurus (Selections from *Hellenistic Philosophy*)
3. Cicero on Epicurus (*On Moral Ends* Book I)
4. Cicero on Epicurus (*On Moral Ends* Book II)
5. Introduction to Stoics (Selections from *Hellenistic Philosophy*)
6. Cicero on Stoics (*On Moral Ends* Book III)
7. Cicero on Stoics (*On Moral Ends* Book IV)
8. Introduction to Skepticism (*On Moral Ends* Book V)
9. Seneca, *Dialogues and Essays*
10. Seneca, *Dialogues and Essays*
11. **Final Research Presentations**