Classical Philosophy
PHI 310.090
Fall 2018

Class Time: MW 2:30 – 3:45 p.m.
Classroom: Paul L. Boynton Building 212 (BO 212)

Dr. Owen M. Smith
Professor of Philosophy and Classical Studies
OFFICE: Paul L. Boynton Building 208B (BO 208B)
OFFICE HOURS:
M 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
T 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.
W 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
R 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.
and by appointment
OFFICE PHONE: (936) 468-2367
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Prerequisites for Course: None

Course Description:
Development of Western philosophy from pre-philosophical mythology through the collapse of classical antiquity

Required Text:

Course Requirements:
• Midterm Examination – 20% of final grade
• Final Examination – 30% of final grade
• Paper – 30% of final grade
• Online Group Discussions – 20% of final grade
Program Learning Outcome:
A student will be able to trace the development of a philosophical issue within a historical period or across historical periods.

Student Learning Objectives:
1. To gain an appreciation of the circumstances surrounding the origin and early development of philosophy as a discipline within Greek culture
2. To understand the insights, technical terminology, and theoretical systems proposed by the philosophers and philosophical schools of the period
3. To understand the relationships and influences among the philosophers and philosophical schools of the period
4. To gain an appreciation of the influences of the philosophers and philosophical schools of the period on the philosophical, literary, and scientific views of later historical periods, especially current views

Course Policies:
1. Class Attendance and Conduct
   a. Since in-class exercises and discussions of course material are an essential part of the course work, each student is required to attend every class session. Students are required to be punctual in their attendance and to remain in class until the end of each class session, with the exception of breaks announced by the instructor. Behavior that is disrespectful to the instructor or to other students is not acceptable during class.
   b. Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (cf. Student Conduct Code, Policy D-34.1). Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the Early Alert program. This program provides students with recommendations for resources or other assistance that is available to help SFA students succeed.
   c. Attendance will be taken each class session either verbally or in the form of an attendance sheet to be signed by each student. Each student is responsible for making sure that his/her attendance has been recorded for each class session. Attendance at a class session may be recorded only during that session.
   d. Students are not permitted to use cell phones or other electronic communication devices during class or to have cellphones on their desks or laps during class session; during class sessions, including examinations, these devices must be turned off and placed out of sight. The instructor may also require students to remove their personal possessions, such as backpacks, from their desktops during class. A penalty of one (1) partial absence will be assessed for each violation of this policy.
   e. Excessive absences may result in a failing course grade. Students who arrive late to class or leave class early are assigned partial absences; for every two (2) partial absences, one (1) full absence will be assessed against a student’s attendance record. A student who accumulates more than six (6) absences during the semester is subject to receiving a final course grade of “F.” Students are responsible for keeping track of their own attendance record and recognizing when their final course grade is endangered by excessive absences. Students who miss class sessions owing to late registration will not be charged with these absences provided that they meet with the instructor in the first three weeks of the semester to discuss the syllabus and review missed material.
f. Students are responsible for all material addressed and all exercises performed in class regardless of their attendance record. Students who miss class are encouraged to obtain notes from a classmate and review these notes with the instructor.

2. Office Hours
   a. The instructor is available to meet with students in his office during his regularly scheduled office hours. Students who wish to meet with the instructor in his office during regularly scheduled office hours do not need to make an appointment; the instructor will meet with students on a first come, first served basis.
   b. Students who wish to meet with the instructor in his office outside of regularly scheduled office hours must make an appointment with the instructor ahead of time.
   d. Students can contact the instructor outside of regularly scheduled office hours by email at the instructor’s university email address (omsmith@sfasu.edu), by telephone at the instructor’s office phone number (936-468-2367), or by using the email function or the instant message function on the university’s Desire2Learn (D2L) website.

3. Examinations
   a. The instructor will provide fair notice of each examination and will clearly identify the material for which students will be responsible. It is the instructor’s custom to schedule extra office hours prior to each examination and to hand out a study guide containing sample problems and exercises.
   b. Students are required to follow all directions provided on the examinations. Failure by a student to follow directions on an examination may result in penalties being assessed against that student’s examination grade. Partial credit will be awarded on the examinations. Students should attempt to address every essay topic on the examination; even if a student does not finish an essay, s/he will earn points for work shown.
   c. Any student who anticipates missing an examination is required to make every reasonable effort to notify the instructor prior to the examination. Following a missed examination, a student is required to contact the instructor in writing prior to the next class session, circumstances permitting, to request a make-up examination. The instructor may refuse to administer make-up examinations to students who, in his judgment, have not met these requirements. Under ordinary circumstances, the instructor does not administer make-up examinations once the original examination has been graded and returned to the class.
   d. A student who wishes to take a make-up examination must submit a written request to the instructor identifying the course in which the student is enrolled, the number and date of the missed examination, and the reason for missing the examination. This document must be submitted to the instructor at the time of the make-up examination; make-up examinations will not be administered to students who have not submitted a written request.
   e. The instructor will administer make-up examinations without penalty only to those students who could not take an examination at the designated time owing to serious illness or another similarly compelling reason. Any student who wishes to take a make-up examination without a grade penalty must attach to his/her written request some form of credible written documentation for the reason cited by the student for missing the original examination. The instructor may, at his discretion, administer a make-up examination with a substantial grade penalty to students who fail to take an examination at the designated time without an acceptable excuse.
   f. The format, time, and circumstances of make-up examinations are at the discretion of the instructor.
   g. The final examination will be administered during the final examination period. Students who have multiple examinations on the same day during the final examination period and wish to reschedule the final examination in this course are required to consult the instructor before the beginning of the final examination period. In no case will the instructor administer the final examination prior to the end of classes.
4. Paper
   a. Each student is required to compose one (1) 10-12 page paper. This paper consists of three components: a prospectus, a rough draft, and a final draft. Each component of the paper must follow the MLA manuscript guidelines for English and the humanities. Each component must furthermore be submitted in Microsoft Word, Rich Text Format (RTF), or Adobe Acrobat (PDF) format as an attachment to an e-mail sent to the instructor’s university e-mail address (omsmith@sfasu.edu).
   b. Prospectus: Students must submit a written prospectus for the paper. The prospectus must contain a statement of the paper project and a preliminary list of works cited. Students must receive written approval of the prospectus from the instructor before proceeding to the next component of the paper. Students will not be permitted to change their topic once the prospectus has been approved by the instructor. The due date for the prospectus is MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2018. Failure to submit a prospectus by the due date will result in a 10-point penalty against the final grade of the paper. The cut-off date for the submission of an acceptable prospectus is MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2018. Failure to submit an acceptable prospectus by the cut-off date will result in a score of zero (0.0) on this course requirement.
   c. Rough draft: Students must submit a complete rough draft of their paper and then schedule a conference to review this draft with the instructor. Students may not schedule a conference with the instructor until they have submitted an acceptable rough draft of their paper, and students may not proceed to the final component of the paper until the conference has been completed. The due date for a rough draft is MONDAY, NOVEMBER 05, 2018. Failure to submit a rough draft by the due date will result in 10-point penalty against the final grade of the paper. The cut-off date for the submission of an acceptable rough draft is MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2018. Failure to submit an acceptable rough draft by the cut-off date will result in a score of zero (0.0) for this course requirement.
   d. Final draft: Students must revise the rough draft of their paper and submit a complete final draft. The due date for the final draft of the paper is FRIDAY, DECEMBER 07, 2018. Failure to submit a complete final draft by the due date will result in a score of zero (0.0) for this course requirement.
   e. Extensions: Requests for extensions on any of the due dates associated with the papers will be granted at the instructor’s discretion only for serious illness or other similarly compelling reason. Any student who wishes to obtain an extension must submit a written request to the instructor identifying the reason for the extension. Credible written documentation supporting the request must be attached to the request.

5. Online Group Discussions
   a. The class will be divided into small groups for online discussions. Periodically, the instructor will post topics for online discussion. Each discussion topic will be graded separately.
   b. For each online discussion, each student must post a minimum of three substantial (reflective) on-topic posts, including at least two that respond directly to posts made by classmates. In order to be eligible for a grade of C on a discussion, a student must make at least one post during the first 48 hours a discussion is open. Failure to post during the first 72 hours of a discussion will result in a student’s exclusion from that discussion and a grade of 0 for that discussion.
   c. Students may increase their score on this component by posting more frequently, more thoughtfully, and more collegially (i.e., demonstrating a consideration for the ideas of classmates in constructing a position).
   d. Permissible responses include agreements and disagreements with classmates’ posts, provided that the responses include the reasoning behind these agreements and disagreements, elaboration of one’s own ideas or ideas presented by others, and posts that include properly credited ideas drawn from a variety of sources, including life experiences, material learned in other courses, and concepts encountered outside of class while reading or viewing a variety of media.
   e. Impermissible responses include simple agreements or disagreements with classmates’ posts without justification or expansion, irrelevant responses, responses that attack or mock classmates, and responses that contain expletives or other offensive language.
   f. Periodically throughout the semester, the instructor may make asynchronous online assignments. The grades on such assignments will be included in this portion of a student’s final course grade.
6. Academic Integrity
   a. Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.
   b. Definition of Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were one’s own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one’s own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit. The complete policy is available online by using the following link: <http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student_academic_dishonesty.pdf>.
   c. Students are required to be familiar with all items they submit in fulfillment of course requirements. If in the instructor’s opinion, a student does not demonstrate sufficient familiarity with any such item, the instructor may reject the item and assign the student a score of zero (0.0) for that item.
   d. Students in this course are required to adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity. Any student who commits an act of cheating or plagiarism in this course is subject to receiving a final course grade of “F.” Moreover, the student will be required to meet with the instructor to discuss the incident, and a formal Report of Academic Dishonesty will be submitted to the student’s personal file.

7. Accommodations: To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to <http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/>.

8. Withheld Grades: Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.
Tentative Course Schedule:

Week 1
• August 27: Orientation
• August 29: Sources for Classical Philosophy

Week 2
• September 03: The Protophilosophical Matrix of ancient Near Eastern mythology – Texts
• September 05: The Protophilosophical Matrix of ancient Near Eastern mythology – Interpretation

Week 3
• September 10: The Ionian Materialists – Thales of Miletus
• September 12: The Ionian Materialists – Anaximander of Miletus

Week 4
• September 17: The Ionian Materialists – Anaximenes of Miletus
• September 19: The Ionian Materialists – Heraclitus of Ephesus, Part I (Fire)

Week 5
• September 24: The Ionian Materialists – Heraclitus of Ephesus, Part II (Logos)
• September 26: The Ionian Materialists – Empedocles of Acragas

Week 6
• October 01: Pythagoras of Samos, Part I
• October 03: Pythagoras of Samos, Part II

Week 7
• October 08: Philolaus of Croton and Pythagoreanism in the fifth century B.C.E.
• October 10: The Eleatics – Parmenides of Elea, Part I (The Way of Truth)

Week 8
• October 15: MIDTERM EXAMINATION
• October 17: The Eleatics – Parmenides of Elea, Part II (The Way of Seeming)

Week 9
• October 22: The Eleatics – Zeno of Elea
• October 24: The Atomists – Leucippus of Miletus and Democritus of Abdera, Part I (Cosmology)

Week 10
• October 29: The Atomists – Leucippus of Miletus and Democritus of Abdera, Part II (Epistemology)
• October 31: The Problem of the One and the Many

Week 11
• November 05: The Sophists
• November 07: Socrates of Athens and the Socratic Problem

Week 12
• November 12: Plato of Athens – Ontology Part I (Analogy of the Sun – Republic)
• November 14: Plato of Athens – Ontology Part II (Analogy of the Divided Line – Republic)

Week 13
• November 19: NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
• November 21: NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Week 14
• November 26: Plato of Athens – Resolution of the Problem of the One and the Many
• November 28: Aristotle of Stagira – Ontology I (Fundamental Principles – Metaphysics)

Week 15
• December 03: Aristotle of Stagira – Ontology II (Unmoved Mover – Metaphysics)
• December 05: Aristotle of Stagira – Resolution of the Problem of the One and the Many

FINAL EXAMINATION: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 10:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

Summary of Paper Due Dates:
• Prospectus: Monday, October 15, 2018
• Cut-off date for submission of an acceptable prospectus: Monday, October 22, 2018
• Complete Rough Draft: Monday, November 05, 2018
• Cut-off date for submission of a complete rough draft: Monday, November 12, 2018
• Final Draft: Friday, December 7, 2018