

Professor: Jeremy Fischer
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Office Hours: MTWR, 2:10-3:10, and by appointment

Course Description

This course will introduce you to the philosophical theories and arguments of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle, as well as those of several “Presocratic” philosophers. Students will learn how to scrutinize ancient texts and critically assess these philosophers’ views on topics in ethics, moral psychology, philosophy of mind, epistemology, and metaphysics.

Required Texts

Readings in Ancient Greek Philosophy: From Thales to Aristotle, edited by Cohen, Curd, and Reeve. Hackett, 4th Revised Edition (ISBN-13: 978-1603844628)

Evaluation

This course includes three kinds of evaluation: homework assignments, a final exam, and class participation. A passing grade on each of the two main components of the course—homework assignments and exam—is a necessary condition for passing the course.

1. 15 Short Homework Assignments (60%)
 - a. Assignments will typically consist of reconstructing or evaluating a short argument from the assigned text for that day, and will never require more than one page of writing.
 - b. Homework assignments will be posted on Angel for each class. You must complete 15, and only 15, of these assignments, and you must complete at least 6 assignments by the end of September. (You may only submit 9 assignments after September.)
 - c. All students must complete the homework assignment about Plato’s Allegory of the Cave, tentatively due on October 20th.
 - d. These assignments must be typed and printed out in 12-point font.
 - e. As we discuss these assignments in class, you may correct by hand any errors you have made, and you will receive partial credit for these corrections.
 - f. One purpose of these assignments is to enable sophisticated engagement with the lecture. So, assignments will be due at the beginning of class on the day on which they are due, and emailed assignments and assignments submitted by another person will not be accepted.
 - g. The best strategy: complete every assignment with the intention of submitting it, then decide during class whether to submit it.
2. In-class Final Exam on December 5th (30%)

The final exam will consist of short concept-identification questions and short essay questions.
3. Class Participation (10%)

Class participation includes participation in classroom discussion, note card questions and comments, office hour visits, and email correspondence with me about the material of the course. You should participate in some way at least once every week, on average.

Grading Scale

A = 90% or higher

C = 70-79%

F = 59% or lower

B = 80-89%

D = 60-69%

Students on the borderline of two grades will be bumped up to the higher grade only if they have completed all assignments and if the final exam score reflects the higher grade.

Policy on Late Assignments

Homework assignments are due at the beginning of class. Late assignments will not be accepted except in the event of a personal emergency.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism is defined by UAHuntsville as the utilization of another person's written work, published or unpublished, as one's own work. Any indication of plagiarism or other forms of academic misconduct will be investigated and documentation of such will be considered justification for failure of the course and disciplinary action. Plagiarism includes submitting for a grade, work previously submitted by another student or using the intellectual property of others without proper citation. As the course manager, I reserve the right to use plagiarism prevention software called **Turnitin** in order to help students learn how to write without taking words from another person's work. More information is available at the UAHuntsville Library: <http://libguides.uah.edu/plagiarism>.

Cell Phones: Cell phones and pagers are to be turned off during class and are not to be used during exams.

Angel: Students must access ANGEL every day as course announcements and materials will be posted throughout the semester. ANGEL Learning is the official Course Management System for UAH. Login problems and password resets need to be directed to the TAG Help Desk, helpdesk@uah.edu, 256-824-3333, www.uah.edu/tag. Course communications will be sent in Angel. The response time to emails or course questions will be generally within 48 hours Monday –Friday.

ADA: The University of Alabama in Huntsville is committed to providing equal educational opportunities for all qualified students with disabilities. Students with disabilities must notify their course manager the first week of class, and contact the DSS office (256-824-6203) with requests for accommodations no less than two weeks prior to the start of term (<http://www.uah.edu/health-and-wellness/disability-support/welcome>).

Tentative Schedule of Reading Assignments

8.20: Introduction

1. The Pre-Socratic Philosophers

8.25: The Milesians, pp. 10-17

8.27: Heraclitus, pp. 29-39

9.1: Labor Day

9.3: Parmenides, pp. 40-46

9.8: Zeno, pp. 47-51; Melissus, pp. 93-96

9.10: Atomism, pp. 80-92

2. Plato's Socrates

9.15: The Sophists, pp. 104-117

9.17: Plato, *Apology*, pp. 153-178

9.22: Plato, *Euthyphro*, pp. 135-152

9.24: Plato, *Meno*, pp. 241-254 only

3. Plato's Middle Dialogues

9.29: Plato, *Symposium*, pp. 320-343

10.1: Plato, *Symposium*, pp. 344-368

10.6: Plato, *Republic*, I. 352d-354c; II.357a-362a, 368c-376d

10.8: Plato, *Republic*, III. 412b-417b; IV. 427d-445e

10.13: Plato, *Republic*, V. 451d-457c, 472a-480a

10.15: Plato, *Republic*, VI. 487b-494a, 502d-511e

10.20: Plato, *Republic*, VII. 514a-521b

10.22: Plato, *Republic*, IX. 580d-592b

10.27: Plato, *Phaedo*, pp. 267-291

10.29: Plato, *Phaedo*, pp. 291-319.

4. Aristotle

11.3: Introduction and Aristotle, *Categories*, pp. 683-700

11.5: Aristotle, *Physics I*, pp. 732-757

11.10: Aristotle, *Metaphysics*, I and IV (Selections), pp. 796-815

11.12: Aristotle, *Metaphysics*, VII-VIII (Selections), pp. 815-838

11.17: Aristotle, *De Anima*, I.1, 4 and II.1-4, pp. 847-859

11.19: Aristotle, *De Anima*, II.5-III (selections), pp. 859-869

11.24: Aristotle, *Posterior Analytics*, I.1-3, pp. 714-719; II. 19, pp. 728-731

11.26: Thanksgiving

12.1: Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, I.7, pp. 874-878; Aristotle, *Politics*, I.1-2, pp. 930-933

12.5: In-Class Final Exam at 11:30am-2:00pm