Syllabus for Phil. 1315 / 3315 – Ancient Philosophy

Strake 101  Prof. Stephen Sparks
reformativ_clay@yahoo.com

Required texts:

- Jonathan Lear, Aristotle: The Desire to Understand
  [will appear as ‘Readings’, ‘Shields’, and ‘Lear’ in our schedule below]

Recommended for additional reading:

- The Cambridge Companion to Early Greek Philosophy, ed. Long
- The Cambridge Companion to Greek and Roman Philosophy, ed. Sedley
- The Cambridge Companion to Plato, ed. Kraut
- The Cambridge Companion to Plato’s Republic, ed. Ferrari
- The Cambridge Companion to Aristotle, ed. Barnes
- Frederick Copleston, A History of Philosophy, Vol. 1: Greece and Rome from the Pre-Socratics to Plotinus
- Jacques Maritain, An Introduction to Philosophy, esp. Part One, Chaps. II–IV
- Joseph Owens, A History of Ancient Western Philosophy

Online articles and resources:

- JSTOR, online archive of academic journals, http://www.jstor.org/
- Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy, http://www.iep.utm.edu/

Course description: Western philosophy has its beginnings in the 6th–4th centuries BC in Ionia, Greece, and Italy. The philosophers central to this course will include the Pre-Socratics, Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle, as well as the Hellenistic philosophers of later antiquity. As we study these ancient thinkers, we will encounter the following perennial philosophical themes: the nature and causes of the universe, the methods of philosophical inquiry, logic as the instrument of philosophy, the nature of the soul and human knowledge, and what constitutes the good life.

Course writing objectives: In a writing assignment, students will correctly identify and explain the premises and conclusion in an analysis of an argument imbedded in a text.

Classroom expectations: Class participation is vital to understanding the material, and outlining key arguments is recommended. There may be an occasional pop quiz, and you are required to prepare three well thought out questions or observations on the readings (I will collect these sporadically for credit). Be prepared to be asked for details concerning the readings and your own reasoned opinion on them, as participation is 10% of your grade. Laptops, cell phones, and other forms of disruptive digital multimedia are not permitted.
Attendance policy: Class attendance is mandatory. You may miss one class period without penalty. Any further absences not cleared with a doctor’s note will result in loss of points. *More than four unexcused absences will result in failure of the course.* You are responsible for knowledge of the lecture content and awareness of other matters I may announce in class; if you are absent, be sure to apprise yourself of what you missed. Tardiness, depending on frequency and extent, may also be marked as an absence.

Exams: All exams will include multiple choice, short answer, an essay question, and extra credit. The final is comprehensive.

Grading: Your final grade consists in number of points out of 100 earned throughout the semester:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>Short paper</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>Midterm</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>Term paper</td>
<td>30</td>
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<td>Final exam</td>
<td>30</td>
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Cheating and plagiarism: All forms of cheating and plagiarism, whether deliberate or “negligent,” will result in an F grade for the class (and may also result in submission of a Report of Academic Dishonesty). You are required to do your own work and cite all of your sources appropriately.

Office hours: TBA

READING SCHEDULE
[bold indicates new section]

AUGUST
Mon 24
Syllabus and Introduction to the Course
*Readings*, viii–x (in class)

Wed 26
**The Presocratics and the Sophists**: Introduction; The Milesians
*Readings*, 1–17
Shields, ix–xii, 1–6

Mon 31
Xenophanes
*Readings*, 23–29
Shields, 6–9

SEPTEMBER
Wed 2
Heraclitus
*Readings*, 29–40
Shields, 9–13
Mon  7  
LABOR DAY – NO CLASS

Wed  9  
The Eleatic School: Parmenides and Zeno  
Readings, 40–51  
Shields, 13–21

Mon  14  
The Eleatic School: Parmenides and Zeno  
(continued)

Wed  16  
Fifth-century Atomism: Leucippus and Democritus  
Readings, 80–93  
Shields, 21–25

Mon  21  
The Sophists: Protagoras et al.; Conclusion  
Readings, 104–118  
Shields, 25–31

Wed  23  
Socrates: the Socratic method (elenchus); Plato’s Euthyphro; Socratic irony  
Readings, 135–52  
Shields, 35–47

Mon  28  
Socrates on weakness of will (akrasia)  
Shields, 47–53

Wed  30  
Socrates’ trial and imprisonment; Plato’s Apology  
Readings, 153–78  
Shields, 53–58

OCTOBER
Mon  5  
MIDTERM

Wed  7  
Plato: Justice, virtue, and the soul; Why be moral? (from Republic II, IV, IX)  
Readings, 398–403 (read to 362d), 478–81 (442b–445c), 611–15 (from 588b)  
Shields, 61–3, 88–100

Mon  12  
FALL BREAK – NO CLASS
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>The divided line, the allegory of the cave, and Plato’s Forms</td>
<td><em>Readings</em>, 542–66 (Republic VII)</td>
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<td>Shields, 100–106</td>
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<td>Mon</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Plato’s Forms and the “Third Man” argument</td>
<td><em>Readings</em>, 647 (Parmenides 132a–b)</td>
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<td>Shields, 106–11</td>
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<td>Shields, 117–24</td>
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<td>Lear, 1–14</td>
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<td>Mon</td>
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<td>Aristotelian science and logic: <em>Metaphysics</em> I.1; <em>Posterior Analytics</em></td>
<td><em>Readings</em>, 796–98, 714–31</td>
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<td>Lear, 209–231</td>
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<td>Shields, 124–40</td>
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<td>Lear, 15–42</td>
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<td>NOVEMBER</td>
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<td>Lear 55–65, 83–95</td>
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<td>Lear, 293–309</td>
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<td>Shields, 140–44</td>
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<td>Lear, 96–116</td>
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<td>Wed</td>
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<td>The soul (continued): <em>De Anima</em> III</td>
<td><em>Readings</em>, 863–69</td>
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<td>Lear, 116–141</td>
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Mon  16
    Happiness, virtue, and akrasia: *Nicomachean Ethics* I–II (optional: VII.1–3)
    Readings, 870–90 (optional: 913–19)
    Shields, 144–56
    Lear, 152–74 (optional: 174–86)

Wed  18
    Happiness and contemplation: *Nicomachean Ethics* X
    Readings, 919–29
    Lear, 309–20

Mon  23
    **Hellenistic philosophy** (intro);
    the Epicureans
    Shields, 167–82

Wed  25
    **THANKSGIVING BREAK – NO CLASS**

Mon  30
    The Stoics
    Shields, 182–207

DECEMBER
Wed  2
    The Skeptics
    Shields, 207–29

Mon  7
    Ancient Philosophy: Conclusions; Review

Date of Final Exam: TBA