University of St. Thomas/Strake Jesuit Dual Credit Course
Ancient Philosophy/Philosophy (Course# 1315)
Fall, 2016

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. We shall explore 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.

Instructor
Mark McNeil (MA Philosophy, Center for Thomistic Studies, University of St. Thomas; MA Theological Studies, University of St. Thomas at St. Mary’s Seminary; MA Biblical Studies, Luther Rice Seminary)
Contact:
Office: 713-490-8233
Email: mmcneil@strakejesuit.org

Textbooks


Requirements and Grading
Below are the categories considered in arriving at a student’s grade. Each of these will be discussed in class. Your participation in class includes attendance, attentiveness, and engagement in class discussions. Quizzes include pop quizzes as well as planned quizzes. Papers should be written in Chicago style. Further details on paper requirements will be given in class.

Participation: 20%
Papers (2): 20%
Quizzes: 20%
Midterm Exam: 20%
Final Exam (Comprehensive): 20%

Course Outline: Ancient Philosophy

I. Introduction to the Philosophical Experience and Mindset
   A. Terminology
   B. Historical Eras, Major Philosophers
   C. Definition and Disagreement
   D. Reasons to Study Philosophy

II. Presocratics
    A. Thales
    B. Anaximander
    C. Anaximenes
    D. Pythagoras/Pythagoreanism
    E. Zenophanes
    F. Heraclitus
    G. Parmenides/Zeno
    H. Atomism/Pluralism (Anaxagoras, Empedocles)

III. Sophists (Protagoras, Gorgias, Antiphon, Critias)

IV. Plato
    A. Life
    B. Euthyphro
    C. Apology
    D. Crito
    E. Gorgias
    F. Phaedo
    G. Republic

V. Aristotle
   A. Aristotle and Plato, Method, Key Categories
   B. Prior and Posterior Analytics
   C. Physics
   D. De Anima
   E. Metaphysics
   F. Ethics and Politics

VI. Stoicism

VII. Plotinus
A. Beauty
B. Influence on Augustine (*Confessions* 7)

VIII. Theological Reflections
A. Church Fathers
B. Augustine
C. Aquinas
D. Jewish and Islamic Philosophy

IX. Ancient and Modern/Postmodern Philosophy