PHIL 1315 B: Ancient Philosophy
Fall 2016 Syllabus
Instructor: Dr. Stephen Striby
Office: Carriage House, 713-525-3184
stribys@stthom.edu
Office Hours: M-F: 8:30-9:30
M, W: 1:00-2:00; T, Th: 11:00-12:00


Course Content: We will begin the semester with a discussion of the Pre-Socratic philosophers and Socrates. Next, we will enter the largest part of the course: a treatment of the most important ideas of Plato and Aristotle. We will proceed by subject matter, beginning with their views of matter and causality, and continuing through the topics of soul and body, moral virtue, happiness, and knowledge, ending with their views of God. We will complete the course with a brief examination of the Stoic and Epicurean philosophies.

Course Learning Outcomes: By the end of the course, the successful student will be able to:

1) Show an understanding of how both Plato and Aristotle have clear, substantive accounts of the spiritual capacities of persons. This outcome advances Goal Four of the Core Curriculum Student Learning Outcomes, which calls for students to “affirm the dignity of the human person.”

2) Articulate a basic understanding of Plato’s and Aristotle’s views of God, and be able to compare and contrast these ideas of God with those of the Christian God. This advances Goal Three of the Core Curriculum Student Learning Outcomes,
which "encourages an ongoing dialogue between faith and reason."

3) Show an understanding of Plato’s and Aristotle’s treatments of moral virtue and happiness. This outcome will help to advance Goal One of the Core Curriculum Student Learning Outcomes, which relates to “the pursuit of knowledge for its own sake,” the forming of “habits of mind through which knowledge can mature into wisdom,” and to the understanding that “loving God will lead to happiness while pursuing the attainment of mere creatures will not.”

4) Better articulate and defend, by both written and oral means, philosophical positions on a number of issues. Particularly, the student will be expected to “correctly identify and explain the premises and conclusion of an argument imbedded in a text” in two writing assignments—one near the beginning of the semester, and one completed near the end of the semester. Thus, the student should have developed their skills in writing argumentative essays, and be more competent in speaking clearly and intelligibly on philosophical matters. This learning outcome is the first philosophy writing outcome, and a specification of the QEP logic writing outcome. In addition, it helps to advance Goal Five of the Core Curriculum Student Learning Outcomes, which calls students to “develop competence in critical thinking, critical reading, effective writing, and oral communication.”

**Grading and Attendance:** There will be two essay tests, each worth 15% of the final grade, and a comprehensive final exam worth 20% of the final grade. The student will complete two papers: one, a short essay worth 10% of the grade, and the other, a longer research paper worth 20% of the grade. There will be eight quizzes on the readings worth 20% of the final grade. These will occur at the beginning of class and will not be previously announced. There will be no makeup quizzes, but provisions can be made to make up a test if the student is excused for his or her absence.
possibility of an absence being excused, the student must contact Dr. Striby by the end of the day of the absence, and have a sound reason for his or her absence. Students may gain or lose up to six percentage points based on their attendance and participation in class discussions. More than three unexcused absences will cause the student to lose points on the final grade, with each unexcused absence causing a one percent reduction in the grade.

**Grading scale:** A: 94-100, A-: 90-93: A grade of A reflects excellent work on the part of the student. To earn a grade of A, the student must excel on all or most of the assignments and tests, show considerable understanding of concepts and arguments presented in class and in the readings, produce well written, diligently researched papers, and have good attendance and participation. B+: 87-89, B: 83-86, B-: 80-82: To earn a grade in the B range, the student must complete all of the assignments and tests, show good understanding of the aforementioned concepts and arguments, produce well written papers, and have good attendance and participation. C+: 77-79, C: 73-76, C-: 70-72: To attain a grade of C, the student must complete all of the assignments and tests, show some understanding of concepts and arguments, write a good paper, and consistently attend class. D+: 65-69, D: 60-64: To attain a grade of D, the student must complete the assignments and tests, show some understanding of concepts and arguments, and show some consistency in attending class. F: Below 60: A grade of F is given when the student fails to complete assignments, fails to show any consistency in attending class or in understanding the material, plagiarizes on a paper, or cheats on a test.
Course Calendar

Week One (Aug. 23, 25): What is philosophy; Pre-Socratic Philosophers
Week Two (Aug. 30, Sept. 1): Plato’s *Euthyphro*; Socrates’ *Apology*
Week Three (Sept. 6, 8): Aristotle’s *Metaphysics*, Bk. I
Week Four (Sept. 13, 15): Plato’s *Phaedo* Aristotle’s *De Anima*
Week Five (Sept. 20, 22): Aristotle’s *De Anima* cont. Review for Test #1
Week Six (Sept. 27, 29): TEST#1(29th); Plato’s *Republic*, Bk. IV
Week Seven (Oct. 4, 6): Aristotle’s *Nicomachean Ethics*, Bk. II and III

--- Fall Break Oct. 10th and 11th ---

Week Eight (Oct. 13): Plato’s *Meno*
Week Nine (Oct. 18, 20): Plato’s *Symposium*; Plato’s *Republic*, Bks. VI, VII
Week Ten (Oct. 25, 27): Plato’s *Republic* cont.; *Nicomachean Ethics*, Bk. X
Week Eleven (Nov. 1, 3): Aristotle’s *Metaphysics*, Bks XI, XII
Week Twelve (Nov. 8, 10): Review for test two; TEST #2(10th)
Week Thirteen (Nov. 15, 17): Epictetus and the Stoics
Week Fourteen (Nov. 22): Epicureanism

--- Thanksgiving Break Nov. 23rd - 25th ---

Week Fifteen (Nov. 29, Dec. 1): Review for Final Exam

FINAL EXAM: Thursday, Dec. 8, 8:00am

PAPER DUE DATES: Short Paper: Thursday, Sept. 8th; Research Paper: Thursday, Nov. 17th (Tuesday, Nov. 8th: +2 pts.)