

LINFIELD COLLEGE

PHL 320

TOPICS: ANCIENT GREEK PHILOSOPHY

INSTRUCTOR: Rod Jenks e-mail: [jenr@chemeketa.edu](mailto:jenr@chemeketa.edu)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is a survey of ancient Greek philosophy. We will briefly canvass the major pre-Socratic philosophers, and we will read and extensively analyze two of Plato's dialogues. We will cover Laches, an early dialogue and Meno, a transitional dialogue between Plato's early, Socratic phase and his middle, metaphysical phase. I will make available to the class papers I have written on each of these dialogues. Lastly, we will read and closely analyze Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to: o describe in detail and critically assess the philosophy of the major pre-Socratic philosophers; o describe and evaluate Socratic ethics, and discuss its connection to Plato's metaphysics; o discuss Aristotle's ethics and indicate its relation to Aristotle's metaphysics.

TEXTS: REQUIRED

- *Plato: Laches and Charmides*, trans. Rosamond Kent Sprague, Hackett, 1992
- *Plato: Protagoras and Meno*, trans. W.K.C. Guthrie, Penguin, 1956
- Jonathan Barnes, *Early Greek Philosophy*, Penguin, 1987
- *Aristotle: Nicomachean Ethics*, trans. Martin Ostwald, MacMillan, 1962
- Rod Jenks, "On the Sense of the Socratic Reply to Meno's Paradox," and "Moral Expertise in Plato's *Laches*," both available on-line.

RECOMMENDED

Rod Jenks, *The Contribution of Socratic Method and Plato's Theory of Truth to Plato Scholarship*, Mellen, 2001

ASSESSMENT: Course grades will be determined by the following:

Item	% of Total Grade
Quiz on the Pre-Socratics	16.7
Quiz on <i>Meno</i> and <i>Laches</i>	16.7
Quiz on <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i>	16.6
<u>Short (5-page) Paper</u>	<u>50</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Suggested paper topics will be forthcoming. I give you all the opportunity to re-write and re-submit your papers. A central skill in the art of philosophy is responding sensitively and intelligently to criticism. It is your option to decline the invitation to re-write, instead accepting the grade you were assigned on your rough draft. It is also your option to forgo the rough draft altogether, submitting only one paper on the day final drafts are due. I encourage you not to adopt either of these options, but, of course, it is your decision. See Term Schedule for details on due dates.

Plagiarism is using someone else's words and pretending they are your own. It is a form of theft, and it is utterly intolerable in academia. If you use someone else's words in your papers, you must surround those words with quotation marks and you must footnote your source. I don't want to discourage you from engaging in scholarship. It is entirely appropriate to quote other people's words in your papers. Just make sure you give credit where credit is due.

Academic Freedom: Academic discourse ought to be free of retribution, ridicule and attack. Disagreement should be encouraged and rewarded when it is succinct, relevant and articulate. Critique is encouraged, along with consideration, courtesy and respect. The discussion board, which I will monitor, is available for you to talk to each other about course content, to bounce ideas off each other, to raise questions and concerns. We are all human. As humans, we are prone to mistakes. Students should be honored and will be rewarded for bringing mistakes to light, so long as it is done in a respectful manner.

9/15-9/26	<a href="#">The PreSocratics</a>	Read in Barnes the selections from Thales, Anaximander, Xenophanes, Heraclitus, Parmenides, Xenon and Democritus
9/29	Quiz issued on the Pre-Socratics	
10/3	Quiz due on the Pre-Socratics	
10/6-10/17	<a href="#">Plato's Laches</a>	<a href="#">Read <i>Laches</i> and "Moral Expertise in Plato's Laches"</a>
10/20	Quiz issued on Laches	
10/24	Quiz due on Laches	
10/27-11/14	<a href="#">Plato's Meno</a>	<a href="#">Read <i>Meno</i> and "On the Sense of the Socratic Reply to Meno's Paradox"</a>
11/17	Quiz issued on Meno	

11/21	Quiz due on Meno
11/24-12/12	<u><a href="#">Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics</a></u>
11/28	Rough Drafts Due
12/5	Rough Drafts Returned, Graded and with Comments and Suggestions
12/12	Final Drafts Due
12/15	Quiz issued on Aristotle's Ethics
12/18	Quiz due on Aristotle's Ethics

FINIS (8/03)