

PHIL210 Ancient Greek Philosophy

Summer Session I 2019

Instructor: Minji Jang (jangmj@live.unc.edu)

Class Meetings: MTWThF 11:30am - 1:00pm at Caldwell Hall 213

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00 - 2:00pm, and by appointment

Office: Caldwell Hall 206A

Textbook

The required textbook for this course is *Readings in Ancient Greek Philosophy: From Thales to Aristotle – 5th Edition* (ISBN: 978-1624665325). All other readings and resources will be available on Sakai. If you, for any reason, have difficulty obtaining this textbook, please do not hesitate to let me know.

1. Course Description

What is a good and meaningful life, and how can we live it? We will examine the answers provided by philosophers in the ancient Greek and Hellenistic periods, including Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Epicurus, Epictetus, and Seneca. What is it like to live an *examined* life? A *flourishing* life? A *pleasurable* life? A *stoic* life?

2. Course Objectives

This course has three learning objectives.

- You'll be introduced to major philosophical issues, concepts, and arguments in ancient Greek and Hellenistic philosophy (mostly ethics).
- You'll learn and practice key philosophical skills, including: critical reading and thinking, arguing for your views both in writing and in discussion, and engaging in respectful and productive dialogue with your peers.
- Through examining different philosophical ways of living, you'll reflect on and develop your own views about what constitutes a good and meaningful life.

3. Course Assignments and Assessment

The required assignments for this course are as follows:

Due Date	Assignment	Percentage
Daily	Attendance & Participation	10%
Daily	Reading Responses	10%
5/22 (Wed)	Paper I	5%

6/1 (Sat)	Paper II	15%
6/9 (Sun)	Paper III	20%
5/24 (Fri)	PWOL Assignment I	10%
6/13 (Thu)	PWOL Assignment II	10%
6/19 (Wed)	Final Exam	20%

Attendance/Participation (10%)

You will meet this requirement in part by attending class regularly. But you will also need to regularly participate in discussions and in-class activities to get full points. There will be *alternative* ways of earning participation points; we will discuss a specific guideline for these assignments in class.

Cold-calling. In class, I will occasionally “cold-call” you and ask if you would like to share your thoughts. You can always feel free to “skip” a particular question or “opt-out” of being cold-called at any point during the semester for an entire class, a unit, or the rest of the semester.

Mid-semester estimate. In the mid-semester, I will release an *estimate* of your participation grade—this does not count toward your overall grade and only serves to give you a sense of how you have been doing so far. If what you see is not the grade you expected or wanted, come talk to me and we will discuss the ways to boost your grade!

Reading Responses (10%)

We will begin nearly every class by writing a short response to that day’s reading. Typically, I will ask you to answer one of the short reading guidance questions released prior to the class meeting. The goal is to give you an incentive to do the readings on time and come to class. There will be 23 in total, which I’ll grade pass/fail. I will drop your lowest 3, and the remaining 20 will count toward your grade. You will fail the reading response if it is clear that you failed to properly do the reading. You will pass the reading response if it is clear that you properly did the reading.

Three Paper (total 40%)

Paper I should be 2-3 pages in length and is worth 5% of your overall grade. You will identify and explain, in your own words, the philosophical argument(s) in the given text.

Paper II should be 3-4 pages in length and is worth 15% of your overall grade. You will identify and explain the philosophical argument(s) in the given text and critically evaluate the identified argument(s).

Paper III should be 4-6 pages and is worth 20% of your overall grade. You will explain and critically evaluate a philosophical theory in the given text. For this last paper, you should have an individual meeting with me to discuss your paper ideas *before* you start serious work on it. *I will dock you a third of a letter grade (3%) if you fail to discuss your idea with me before submitting your draft.*

Two “Philosophical Ways of Life” (PWOL) assignments (total 20%)

For these assignments, you will attempt to “live out” the different philosophical ways of life (PWOL). You will adopt the key principles, values, and practices from different PWOLS in your own life and share your experience through in-class presentations and reflection notes. Detailed guidelines will be posted on Sakai closer to the due dates.

Final Exam (20%)

The cumulative final exam will require you to answer both short-answer questions and essay questions. All short answer questions will come from the Exam Study Guide posted on Sakai; all essay questions will be released on the Exam Review Session scheduled on the last day of classes. I will post a detailed guideline on how to prepare for and take this exam closer to the exam date.

4. Grading and Other Class Policies

Each assignment will be marked out of the number of percentage points that it contributes to your overall grade. This will give you a total score of 100, which I’ll convert to your final letter grade:

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	F
94	90	87	84	80	77	74	70	67	60	0-59

For papers, I’ll also give you a corresponding letter grade for the papers. We’ll look at grading criteria closer to the due dates, but here’s a rough description of what these letter grades signify¹:

A: “*Mastery* of course content at the *highest level* of attainment that can reasonably be expected of students at a given stage of development.”

B: “*Strong* performance demonstrating a *high level* of attainment for a student at a given stage of development.”

C: “A *totally acceptable* performance demonstrating an adequate level of attainment for a student at a given stage of development.”

D: “A *marginal* performance in the required exercises demonstrating a minimal passing level of attainment [at a given stage of development].”

F: “For whatever reason, an *unacceptable* performance [at a given stage of development].”

Pluses and minuses will be given to papers that fall in between these descriptions.

Anonymous Grading

I will grade the papers and the final exam *anonymously*. This means that you shouldn’t put any identifying information on them, other than your PID number.

Due Dates and Late Policy

¹ These descriptions are from UNC’s official “Explanation of Grading System” (<https://registrar.unc.edu/academic-services/grades/explanation-of-grading-system/>).

Each paper is due at **11:30am** sharp on the due date and should be submitted to me electronically at jangmj@live.unc.edu in a Word (.docx) format. The file name should be your PID number.

You may earn an extension for a paper assignment if you make a reasonable request *at least 72 hours in advance* of the due date. *Late papers, without an extension granted in advance, will be docked a full letter grade (10%) for each calendar day or part of a day they are late.*

Page Limit Policy

Formatting

Your papers should be ready for anonymous grading. Use a standard format (1-inch margin, 12 pt Times New Roman, double-spaced) and do not include any identifying information other than your PID number. Make sure to include your PID number both in the body of your paper and in the file name. *I will dock a third of a letter grade (3%) for a paper that fails to have the correct format – even by mistake.*

Page Limit

Your three papers (but not the written components of PWOL assignments) are subject to strict page limits. *I will dock a third of a letter grade (3%) for each third of a page you are over or under the required page range.*

5. Commitment to Safe Learning and Resources

Together as a class, we are committed to creating a safe learning environment for everyone involved, irrespective of their ability, age, economic status, ethnicity, first language, gender expression and identity, national origin, race, religion, sex, and sexuality. Personal offenses or discriminatory remarks toward others on any of these bases will not be tolerated in class under any circumstances.

Climate Surveys. During the semester, we will have *anonymous climate surveys* to ensure that everyone feels welcomed and respected during class discussions and lectures. If you have any concerns about the learning environment at any time during the semester, please let me know immediately.

Accommodations

If you need special accommodations for class assignments, please register with the **Accessibility Resources & Service Office** (<https://ars.unc.edu/>). Once I receive an official request from the ARS Office, I'd be happy to make the arrangements!

Counseling and Psychological Services

CAPS (<https://caps.unc.edu/>) is strongly committed to addressing the mental health needs of a diverse student body through timely access to consultation and connection to clinically appropriate services, both for short-term and long-term needs.

Writing Center

To ensure the anonymous grading, I will not read the paper drafts. But you can always set up an appointment with one of the coaches at the **UNC Writing Center** (<https://writingcenter.unc.edu/>) to improve your paper at any stages of writing – from brainstorming, to polishing a full draft.

6. Reading Schedule (Subject to change)

Introduction

Week 1

5/15 (Wed) – Course Overview & How to Read Philosophy

- Syllabus

Unit 1. An Examined Life (Socrates, Plato)

5/16 (Thu) – *The Socratic Method*

- Euthyphro

5/17 (Fri) – *The Trial of Socrates*

- Apology

Week 2

5/20 (Mon) – *Civil Disobedience*

- Crito
- Martin Luther King, “Letter from Birmingham Jail” (1963)

5/21 (Tue) – *Philosophical Inquiry; Meno’s Paradox*

- Meno

5/22 (Wed) – *The Challenge of the Republic*

- Republic I
- **Paper I due at 11:30am**

5/23 (Thu) – *The Challenge, cont’d; Constructing the Kallipolis*

- Republic II 357a-376d
- Republic III 412b-417b

5/24 (Fri) – *The Tri-partite Soul; the Allegory of the Cave*

- Republic IV 427d-445e
- Republic VII 514a-521c
- **PWOL I script due at 11:30am**

Week 3

5/27 (Mon) – *Memorial Day* (No class)

5/28 (Tue) – *Addressing the Challenge; Rewards for Living Well in the Afterlife*

- Republic IX
- Republic X 614b-621d

Unit 2. A Flourishing Life (Aristotle)

5/29 (Wed) – *The Function Argument*

- Nicomachean Ethics I 1-5, 7-9, 13

5/30 (Thu) – *Doctrine of the Mean*

- Nicomachean Ethics II 1-7, 9

5/31 (Fri) – *Moral Responsibility*

- Nicomachean Ethics III 1-5

6/1 (Sat)

- **Paper II due at 11:30am**

Week 4

6/3 (Mon) – *Friendship*

- Nicomachean Ethics VIII 1-6
- Nicomachean Ethics IX 3-4, 8-9

6/4 (Tue) – *Eudaimonia*

- Nicomachean Ethics X 1, 4-9
- Suggested: Politics I 1-6, 13

Unit 3. A Pleasurable Life (Epicurus)

6/5 (Wed) – *Epicurus*

- Letter to Menoecus
- Principal Doctrines

Unit 4. A Stoic Life (Epictetus, Seneca)

6/6 (Thu) – *Epictetus*

- The Enchiridion

6/7 (Fri) – *Seneca*

- On the Shortness of Life

6/9 (Sun)

- **Paper III due at 11:30am**

Unit 5. Searching for Meaning in Life

Week 5

6/10 (Mon) – *Absurdity of Living*

- Thomas Nagel, “The Absurd” (1971)

- Arthur Schopenhauer, “On the Sufferings of the World” (1851)

6/11 (Tue) – *Meaningful Life*

- Susan Wolf, “Meaning in Life and Why It Matters,” *Tanner Lecture I and II* (2007)

6/12 (Wed) – *(Long and) Meaningful Life, cont’d*

- Héctor García and Francesc Miralles, Chapter 4, 6, 7, and 9 in *Ikigai: The Japanese Secret to a Long and Happy Life* (2016)

6/13 (Thu) – *PWOL II Presentation Day!*

- **PWOL II reflection due at 11:30am (6/13)**

6/14 (Fri) – *Wrapping up!*

Exam Preparation

Week 6

6/17 (Mon) – *Exam Review Session!*

6/19 (Wed): **Final Exam (11:30am-2:30pm)** – UNC Summer School Final Exam Schedules 2019