

Phil 11: Introduction to Philosophy

Winter 2012

Tues. and Thurs., 6–7:45pm, Classroom Unit 1.

Professor: Abe Stone (abestone@ucsc.edu¹)

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Office hours: Tues., 4–5pm and Thurs., 3–4pm, or by appointment.

Teaching Assistants:

Evan Lam (eclam@ucsc.edu)

Sections: Thurs. 8:30am (Soc. Sci. 2 room 165); Thurs. 4pm (Soc. Sci. 2 room 167).

Ben Roome (broome@ucsc.edu)

Sections: Mon. 5pm; Mon. 6:30pm (both in Merrill 132)

Rob Trumbull (rtrumbul@ucsc.edu)

Sections: Mon. 9:30am; Mon. 11am (both in Hum. & Soc. Sci. 250)

Description

Philosophy is unlike many other disciplines in that it is not at all obvious how it should be introduced. This course will essentially be a course about Socrates (c. 469-399 BC), the ancient Athenian philosopher who is in a certain way the intellectual ancestor of all later philosophers. One of the things we will need to think about as we go on is how, and to what extent, that could be considered an introduction to the subject.

Course Requirements

Participation in discussion sections (good participation will be possible grounds for raising course grade, especially if it is on a borderline).

Beginning with the day of the third class session, there will be two short assignments every week, to be done on-line via the “Tests & Quizzes” section of the course

¹Please feel free to contact the instructor and/or your TA with questions about the substance of the course (philosophical issues, questions about the meaning of the texts, questions about paper topics, etc.). On administrative issues (grades, lateness/extensions, due dates, section times, etc.) please try your TA first.

on ecommons. Each assignment will contain a single multiple choice or fill-in-the-blank question designed to help you focus on details of the reading, and one or two short answer questions. In the later part of the course, some of the assignments will be designed to prepare you to write the final paper (e.g. to choose and revise a thesis and introductory paragraph). All of these short assignments together will be worth 60% of the course grade, based on a point score which will be translated into a letter grade on a curve to be determined.

A final paper (5–7 pages) is due (via e-mail to your TA and cc to me) on Wed., Mar. 21, and will count for 40% of the grade. Please send in MSWord or a format easily convertible to MSWord. The final paper assignment will be available on-line (with links from this syllabus and from my main course page) as soon as I know what it is.

All assignments are due by midnight on the due date.

Texts

Plato, *Euthydemus*, tr. Mary P. Nichols and Gregory A. McBray (Focus/R. Pullins, 2010) (ISBN 1585103055).

Plato, *Meno*, tr. George Anastaplo and Laurence Berns (Focus/R. Pullins, 1998) (ISBN 0941051714).

Thomas G. West and Grace Starry West, eds., *Four Texts on Socrates: Plato's Euthyphro, Apology, and Crito and Aristophanes' Clouds* (Cornell, 1998) (ISBN 0801485746).

The above texts should be available at the Literary Guillotine, and they will also be put on reserve at McHenry. Readings not from texts on the above list are available on ecommons.

Readings

Tues., Jan. 10: (no reading, first class).

Thurs., Jan. 12: Diogenes Laertius, "Prologue," "Thales," and "Anaxagoras," from *Lives of Eminent Philosophers*.

Tues., Jan. 17: Plato, *Ion*.

Thurs., Jan. 19: Plato, *Euthyphro* (from *Four Texts on Socrates*: note that this is different from the *Euthydemus*, which we'll be reading later); short assignment 1 due.

Tues., Jan. 24: Aristophanes, *Clouds* (from *Four Texts on Socrates*), lines 1–813; short assignment 2 due.

Thurs., Jan. 26: Aristophanes, *Clouds*, lines 814–end; short assignment 3 due.

Tues., Jan. 31: Plato, *Apology* (from *Four Texts on Socrates*), 17a–35d; short assignment 4 due.

Thurs., Feb. 2: Plato, *Apology*, 35d–end; short assignment 5 due.

Tues., Feb. 7: Plato, *Meno*, 70a–80b; short assignment 6 due.

Thurs., Feb. 9: Plato, *Meno*, 80b–89c; short assignment 7 due.

Tues., Feb. 14: Plato, *Meno*, 89c–96d; short assignment 8 due.

Thurs., Feb. 16: Plato, *Meno*, 96d–end; *Gorgias*, 515a–522c.

Tues., Feb. 21: Plato, *Euthydemus*, 271^a–282^e; short assignment 9 due.

Thurs., Feb. 23: Plato, *Euthydemus*, 283^a–293^a, through the end of Socrates' first speech (“... the rest of our lives beautifully”).

Tues., Feb. 28: Plato, *Euthydemus*, 293^a–end; short assignment 10 due.

Thurs., Mar. 1: **no class** (strike).

Tues., Mar. 6: Plato, *Charmides*, 163e–175d.

Thurs., Mar. 8: Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, 1.1–4, 1.7, 1.13, 2.6–7; *Politics*, 1.1 and 1.13.

Fri., Mar. 9: short assignment 11 due.

Tues., Mar. 13: Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* 1.5, 1.8, 4.5, 4.7; 10.6–8.

Thurs., Mar. 15: Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* 6.3–7, 6.12–13; *Metaphysics*, 1.1–2, 4.1–2; short assignment 12 due.

The final lecture was to be on Diogenes Laertius, “Diogenes,” from *Lives of Eminent Philosophers*. Due to the strike, there will be no time for this, though I’m open

to the possibility of rescheduling it (e.g. for a time during finals week) if there is any interest.

Wed., Mar. 21: **final paper due.**