Ancient Greek Seminar
Phil 5323.29128 Spring 2019

Dr. Bensen Cain bensen.cain@okstate.edu
Office: 262 Murray Hall Office hrs: Thurs 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.
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or by appt. (744-9241)

Course Description. Depending on student interest and in order to be conversant fully with Plato and Aristotle as philosophers, we will read and discuss their metaphysical, epistemological, ethical, and psychological views, keeping in mind the ties between ethics and politics as well as the historical context in 5th and 4th century Athens.

Course Requirements. All requirements must be met to complete the course.
(1) Attendance and participation: 10%.
(2) Two short written assignments (4-5 pages each): 25%.
(3) Mid-term Exam: 20%.
(4) Bibliography assignment and presentation of proposed paper topic: 15%.
(5) Final paper (8-10 pages): 30%.
Grade scale used: 100-90 (A); 89-80 (B); 79-70 (C); 69-60 (D); 59-50 (F).

Required texts.

Format. Class meetings are conducted as interactive discussion with some lecturing. Please bring your primary source book to class at all times.

Attendance and late paper policies. Attendance is mandatory and will be recorded on a regular basis. The level of participation, mental alertness, and attendance or lack thereof, are taken into account in cases in which borderline grades are determined. Late papers, excused or unexcused, will receive a 5 pt. penalty automatically. No exceptions.

Class format and classroom etiquette. Class meetings are discussion-based, interactive, and oriented towards student responsiveness. Common courtesy requires that everyone put away cell phones before class begins and settle down. Also, please refrain from eating in class and arriving late or leaving early without prior notification. These and any other distracting behaviors will elicit my immediate, negative attention and could initiate an unpleasant reprimand.

Academic Integrity. Any form of academic dishonesty may result in an F for the course. The OSU syllabus attachment provides information on university policies and procedures which describes the meaning of academic integrity and violations of it. It is the student’s responsibility to know the policies. Link to syllabus attachment:
https://academicaffairs.okstate.edu/sites/default/files/Spring20201920Syllabus20Attachment.pdf
**Reading schedule #1 Overview**

(Details and revisions on the readings are forthcoming.)

**Notice of temporary room changes.** We will meet in Murray Rm. 340 on Mondays 1/28, 2/04, 2/11, 2/18 and in Murray Rm. 341 on Wednesday 2/20.

Week One: 1/14 – 1/16  
Introduction and Preliminaries on **Plato and Socrates**  
Read Cooper’s introduction, especially Sections II, III, and IV.  
*First reading will likely be the *Protagoras*

**Time adjustment:** *Class will meet at 4:30 for Wed 1/16.*

Week Two: 1/23  
Continue the reading: *Protagoras*

Week Three: 1/28 – 1/30  
Finish *Protagoras* and begin *Phaedo*  
**Reading:** *Phaedo*

Week Four: 2/04 – 2/06  
Continue the reading: *Phaedo*

*First paper due to Online Classroom: Fri 2/08 by midnight.

**We may switch to Aristotle’s metaphysics, at this point, or… continue with Plato.**

Week Five: 2/11 – 2/13  
Plato’s moral psychology: *Republic* Bk. IV (excerpt)  
Continuation of topic: Bk. IX (excerpt)  
**Plato on Knowledge and Opinion:** Bk. V (excerpt)

Week Six: 2/18 – 2/20  
Divided Line and Dialectic: *Republic* Bks. VI-VII  
**Plato on mimesis:** *Republic* Bks. III and X (excerpts)

Week Seven: 2/25 – 2/27  
**Reading:** *Theaetetus*, as a whole dialogue  
Alternative reading: *Sophist* or *Parmenides* (excerpts)

Week Eight: 3/04 – 3/06  
Aristotle on method; overview and selected readings.  
**Reading:** *Metaphysics* (excerpts)  
*Physics* (excerpts)

Week Nine: 3/11 – 3/13  
Aristotle on the soul.  
**Reading:** *De Anima* (excerpts)

*Second paper due to Online Classroom: Fri 3/15 by midnight.

**Spring Break: 3/18 – 3/22**  
Mid-term will likely be scheduled after Spring Break