

Greek Intellectual History: Tradition, Challenge, and Response Spring 2006 - HIST-3140 -001

Utah State University

Class: MWF 9:30-10:20 in Main 301

Professor: Dr. Susan O. Shapiro

Office hrs: MWF 1:30-2:20 & by appointment

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Description and Goals: This course is an attempt to **understand the major Greek philosophers in the context of the major literary authors of the period and contemporary political developments.** We will be concentrating on **ethical and political philosophy**, but we will consider questions of natural philosophy and metaphysics when this will help us better understand those thinkers' ethical and political theories.

In trying to understand the Greek philosophers in their literary and political context, our **goal will be to understand how the questions they asked were (at least in part) a response to the vital issues of the day.** Through the archaic and early classical periods, the Greeks generally relied on their **traditional values** -- as reflected in the works of Homer, Hesiod, Sophocles, and others -- to guide them through the choices and challenges of life. But when the Athenian democracy began to offer political power to those with rhetorical skills, and when the Peloponnesian War began to erode many traditional values, a new generation of thinkers emerged who **questioned the basis of traditional morality, and were eager to discard it.** These thinkers included Sophists, such as Gorgias and Thrasymachus (best known through some of Plato's dialogues), as well as the dramatist, Euripides, and the historian, Thucydides. In response to these "new ideas," Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle sought to bring back some of the traditional values, and **support them with reasoned argumentation.**

We will follow this process of tradition, challenge, and response, through reading and discussing some of the greatest works of Greek literature and philosophy.

Required Texts:

1. Fitzgerald, R. *Homer: The Odyssey* (Faraar, Straus & Giroux, 1998).
2. West, M.L. *Hesiod: Theogony, Works and Days* (Oxford, 1999)
3. Woodruff, P. *Thucydides: on Justice, Power and Human Nature* (Hackett, 1993).
4. Schein, Seth. *Sophocles: Philoktetes* (Focus, 2003)
5. Henderson, J. *Aristophanes: The Clouds* (Focus Press, 1993).
6. Podlecki, A. J. *Euripides' Medea* (Focus Press, 1991).
7. Cohen, Curd, and Reeve. *Readings in Ancient Greek Philosophy*, 3rd ed. (Hackett, 2005).

Requirements: Grades for the course will be determined as follows:

2 exams	25% each	50%
4 short papers	10% each	40%
Attendance/Participation		<u>10%</u>
Total		100%

The grading scale will be: A (100-93), A- (92-90), B+ (89-88), B (87-83), B- (82-80), C+ (79-78), C (77-73), C- (72-70), D+ (69-68), D (67-60). F represents a grade below 60. There will be no curving of grades.

Exams: There will be **two hour exams**, one about half way through the semester and one during finals week. Each exam will **concentrate** on material covered since the last exam, although it will (of course) build on what has come before. The last exam will have the same weight and format as the other exams.

Makeups: Exams can be made up only in case of a serious medical emergency (prior notification and doctor's note required).

Short Papers: During the semester **six short (3-5 page) papers will be assigned**; one about **every other week**. Each student **must write four of these**. If you write more than four papers I will count your four highest scores; **there is no penalty for writing extra papers**. You may choose to write any four you like, but I **strongly recommend that you begin right away**; don't wait to start writing your papers until the last four papers are assigned.

All short papers are due at the beginning of class on the day they are due. Late papers (beginning after class on the due-day) **will be subject to a penalty of 5 points per day**. The reason for this rule is that there will be a class discussion of the paper topic on the date that each paper is due. Thus, anyone turning in a late paper will have the benefit of the class discussion before writing it.

Attendance, Class Discussion and Homework: Since we will frequently engage in class discussions of the reading, **regular attendance and daily preparation of assigned reading materials is essential**. Class attendance and participation count for ten percent of your grade. I expect you to come to class every day with your reading assignment completed, ready to pay attention, take notes, and participate in class discussions. I plan to take attendance every day.

Attendance Grade

Each student is allowed **three personal days to be absent** with no questions asked. This is equivalent to a full week of classes. Any **unexcused absences beyond the three personal days will result in points taken off the student's attendance grade** as follows: each student is given 100 attendance points at the beginning of the semester. **Each unexcused absence will result in three points subtracted from his/her attendance grade.** Thus, if a student is absent six times during the semester (i.e., two weeks worth of classes), that would be three absences beyond the three that are allowed, and would result in an attendance grade of 100 - 9 or 91. **The attendance grade will count for 10% of the student's final grade.** Although this policy may seem a bit punitive, I believe it is a fair way to reward those students who come to class consistently throughout the semester. **If you must be absent because of illness or any other circumstance beyond your control, please let me know,** and I may excuse your absence.

Academic Honesty: Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated in this class. If you have any questions about what plagiarism is or what constitutes unauthorized assistance, please do not hesitate to ask me.

This information is available in Braille or large print format upon request.

Tentative Assignment Schedule

Note: Readings Assignments and Papers are Due on the Date Specified

Part I: Tradition

Week 1

- M 1/9 - Introduction
 W 1/11 - Homer, *Iliad*, Book 1 (HANDOUT)
 F 1/13 - **Film:** *The Greek Beginnings* (questions)

Week 2

- M 1/16 - **Martin Luther King Day** (no class)
 W 1/18 - Homer, *Iliad*, Book 1 (HANDOUT)
 F 1/20 - Homer, *Odyssey*, Book 1

Week 3

- M 1/23 - Homer, *Odyssey*, Books 2-3
 W 1/25 - Homer, *Odyssey*, Book 4 **Paper 1 due**
 F 1/27 - Hesiod, *Works and Days*, lines 1-201

Week 4

- M 1/30 - Hesiod, *Works and Days*, lines 202-301
 W 2/1 - Hesiod, *Theogony*, lines 1-505
 F 2/3 - Intro, Xenophanes, and Heraclitus (AGP, pp. 1-14 & 21-34)

Week 5

- M 2/6 - Anaxagoras and Empedocles (AGP pp. 42-58) **Paper 2 Due**
 W 2/8 - Sophocles, *Philoktetes*
 F 2/10 - Sophocles, *Philoktetes*

Part II: Challenge

Week 6

- M 2/13 - Thucydides: Pericles' Funeral Oration & Plague (pp. 39-58)
 W 2/15 - Thucydides: Corcyrean Revolution (pp. 89-95)
 F 2/17 - Thucydides: Melian Dialogue (pp. 97-109) **Paper 3 Due**

Week 7

- M 2/20 - **Washington/Lincoln Day - no class**
 T 2/21 - no Monday class (too confusing)
 W 2/22 - catch up
 F 2/24 - **Exam 1**

Week 8

- M 2/27 - Euripides, *Medea*
 W 3/1 - Euripides, *Medea*
 F 3/3 - Plato, *Republic* Book 1 (AGP pp. 331-350)

Week 9

- M 3/6 - Plato, *Republic* Book 1 (AGP pp. 351-359)
 W 3/8 - The Sophists (AGP pp. 80-88)
 F 3/10 - catch up **Paper 4 Due**

SPRING BREAK - March 13-17**Week 10**

- M 3/20 - Aristophanes, *Clouds*
 W 3/22 - Aristophanes, *Clouds*
 F 3/24 - Introduction to Plato and Plato, *Euthyphro* (AGP pp. 89-114)

Part III: Response**Week 11**

- M 3/27 - Plato, *The Apology*
 W 3/29 - Plato, *The Apology*
 F 3/31 - Plato, *The Apology*

Week 12

- M 4/3 - catch up **Paper 5 due**
 W 4/5 - **Film:** *Minds and Men* (questions)
 F 4/7- Dr. Shapiro out of town - no class

Week 13

- M 4/10 - Plato, *Crito* and *Phaedo* (death scene)
 W 4/12 - Plato, *Republic* - Sun, Line and Cave
 F 4/14 - Plato, *Republic* - Myth of Er

Week 14

- M 4/17 - Plato, *Phaedo* (recollection of forms)
 W 4/19 - catch up
 F 4/21 - catch up

Paper 6 Due**Week 15**

- M 4/24 - Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*
 W 4/26 - Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*
 F 4/28 - Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*

Exam Week: April 29 - May 3

- M 5/1 - Exam 3 - 9:30 - 11:30 AM