

PHIL 3310: Ancient Greek Philosophy
Fall Semester – 2025
Monday/Wednesday/Friday 11:00 - 11:50 AM
Wooten Hall 217

Professor

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Office Hours: M/W/F 9:00 - 10:45 AM
or by appointment

Course Description:

Advanced examination of selected philosophical thought from the pre-Socratics through Plotinus including Plato and Aristotle.

This course will trace the legacy of Socrates. We will look at the ways in which his ideas were taken up by various and competing "schools" in Athens at the close of its Golden Age. We will then follow the spread of Athenian philosophy during the Hellenistic Period and into the Roman republic. We will finish by looking at the situation of philosophy in the Roman empire during the rise of Christianity.

Textbooks and Bibliography:

All required readings are provided here in Canvas in .pdf format.

Course Projects and Requirements (Evaluation):

1. A **course journal. [25%]** The course journal will be kept all semester long, due at the end of the semester. For each class session, I will give you a response question; a few paragraphs should be sufficient in each case, but journals will be graded on relevance, completeness, and use of course material (your journal responses should show that you have read, and are applying, the assigned reading). **You will keep your journal in Canvas**, and you can find it in the "Course Journal" module on the course page. Journals will be due at the end of the semester, and all entries must be posted by the due date. **Late entries will receive no credit.**
2. **Discussion questions. [30%]** After you complete an assigned reading, you will come up with at least three questions. These can and should range from questions to clarify ideas in the reading ("What does this author mean by X?"), critical questions ("I think that the author is wrong about X, because of Z; how would they respond to this?"), or even questions about application ("Does the concept of X also apply to Z?"). Your questions should be typed up and submitted to Canvas (see the "Discussion Question" module on the course page), and each set of questions is **due before we start discussing the assigned reading**. You can and should draw upon these questions in our class discussions--in some cases, I will even call them out. Discussion questions are graded as "complete" or "incomplete." Off-topic questions will be treated as "incomplete," and late submissions will receive no credit.
3. **Two In-Class Exams [25%]**, consisting of short essays. See the course schedule below for specific dates.
4. **Class participation [20%]** is very important. This includes not only attendance, but also active involvement in class discussion. Draw upon your own discussion questions, and also engage with your fellow students about their questions!

Relevant Policies:

1. **Academic honesty is taken very seriously.** In a philosophy class, this means that sources used in papers or journals should be cited somehow (MLA style, Chicago style, etc.), and quotations from any text **clearly indicated**. It also, more importantly, means not taking credit for the work of another. Plagiarism, handing in papers downloaded off of the internet, or any other case of a student handing in something he or she has not written will be **grounds for immediate failure of the class**, no exceptions. If you have *any* questions at all, *please* consult the university's policy, and/or see me directly: "I didn't know this wasn't okay" is *not* an excuse.
2. **The use of AI to generate content for assignments is strictly prohibited.** In this course, I want you to develop *your own* critical thinking and writing skills. For this reason, the use of Generative AI (GenAI) tools like ChatGPT is not permitted. While these tools can be helpful in some contexts, they do not align with our goal of fostering the development of your independent thinking. Using GenAI to complete **any part** of an assignment, exam, or coursework will be considered a violation of academic integrity, as it prevents the development of your own skills, and will be addressed according to the [Student Academic Integrity policy](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003)[Links to an external site.](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003) (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>).
3. Silence all cell phones before entering the classroom, out of respect to fellow students and the discussion. Any student interrupting class with a cell phone or other noisy electronic device may be asked to leave the class for the day.
4. **Numerical grading scale breakdown:** At the end of this semester, I will assign you a letter grade based upon the percentage of the total points available for the semester that you have earned. My grading scale is as follows. **A:** 100%-90; **B:** 89.9-80; **C:** 79.9-70; **D:** 69.9-60; **F:** 59.9 or below.

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences:

According to UNT Policy 06.003, "Student Academic Integrity," academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

ADA Accommodation Statement:

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website at disability.unt.edu.

Emergency Notification & Procedures:

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to the UNT Learning Management System (LMS) for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Course Outline/Sequence of Subjects:

Unit 1: Athens in The Time of Socrates

August 18	First Day of Class Introductions, Syllabus, Policies, etc.
August 20	Reading: Thucydides, The Funeral Oration of Pericles Supplementary Reading: Plato, <i>Menexenus</i> Supplementary Reading: Aspasia Discussion Questions #1 Due
August 22	Funeral Oration, continued
August 25	Reading: The Sophists
August 27	Sophists, continued
August 29	Sophists, continued
September 1	Labor Day: No Class

Unit 2: Socrates

September 3	Reading: Xenophon, <i>Memorabilia</i> Supplementary Reading: A Biography of Xenophon Discussion Questions #2 Due
September 5	<i>Memorabilia</i> , continued
September 8	<i>Memorabilia</i> , continued
September 10	Reading: Plato, <i>Meno</i> Discussion Questions #3 Due
September 12	<i>Meno</i> , continued
September 15	<i>Meno</i> , continued

September 17	<i>Meno</i> , continued
September 19	Reading: The Socratic Legacy Supplementary Reading: Socratic Philosophers Discussion Questions #4 Due
September 22	The Socratic Legacy, continued

Unit 3: The Academy and The Lyceum

September 24	The Academy Reading: Plato: Letter VII Supplementary Reading: The Academy After Plato Discussion Questions #5 Due
September 26	Academy, continued
September 29	Academy, continued
October 1	The Lyceum Reading: Aristotle: Metaphysics Reading: Aristotle: Nicomachean Ethics Supplementary Reading: The Decline of the Peripatos Discussion Questions #6 Due
October 3	Lyceum, continued
October 6	Lyceum, continued
October 8	Lyceum, continued

October 10: Midterm Exam

Unit 4: Cyrenaics and The Garden

October 13	Reading: Aristippus Discussion Questions #7 Due
October 15	Aristippus, continued

October 17	Reading: Epicureanism: Letters, Maxims, Sayings Discussion Questions #8 Due
October 20	Epicureanism, continued
October 22	Epicureanism, continued

Unit 5: Cynics, The Stoa, and Skepticism

October 24	Reading: Diogenes: Epistles Discussion Questions #9 Due
October 27	Diogenes, continued
October 29	Reading: Epictetus: <i>Encheiridion</i> Discussion Questions #10 Due
October 31	<i>Encheiridion</i> , continued
November 3	<i>Encheiridion</i> , continued
November 5	<i>Encheiridion</i> , continued
November 7	Reading: Sextus Empiricus: <i>Outlines of Skepticism</i> Supplementary Reading: Pyrrhonian Scepticism and the Self-Refutation Argument Discussion Questions #11 Due
November 10	Skepticism, continued
November 12	Skepticism, continued

Unit 6: The End of Ancient Greek Philosophy: Eclecticism, Neoplatonism

November 14	Reading: Cicero: On Moral Ends Supplementary Reading: Introduction to Cicero Discussion Questions #12 Due
November 17	Cicero, continued
November 19	Cicero, continued

November 21	Cicero, continued
November 24-28	Thanksgiving Break: No Class
December 1	Reading: Platonism as a Way of Life Supplementary Reading: Plotinus: On Beauty Discussion Questions #13 Due
December 3	Last Day of Class Neoplatonism, continued; Course Wrap-Up Journal Entries Due (11:59 PM)
December 5	Reading Day: No Class