

**HUMANITIES SEMINARS  
PROGRAM, Fall 2022  
“ANCIENT GREEK  
PHILOSOPHY” SYLLABUS  
Taught by Dr. BELLA VIVANTE  
bvivante@email.arizona.edu**



<http://classics.arizona.edu/node/109>

**WELCOME to Ancient Greek Philosophy**—an excursion through the ideas of early Greek thinkers, who shifted Greek thinking from mythic descriptions of the world to observational ones. We’ll encounter a range of early philosophers collectively grouped as Presocratics and selections of Plato and Aristotle, capped by the diverse ideas of Sophists, Cynics and Stoics.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

- ◆ Bk: *Readings in Ancient Greek Philosophy: From Thales to Aristotle*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed., edd. S. Marc Cohen, Patricia Curd, & C.D.C. Reeve. Hackett Publishing Co. 2016, Paper.
- ◆ Add: Additional readings available on HSP Box online.

**Guide to this Syllabus:** readings from both the Book (Bk) and Additional Readings (Add) are sorted by theme, to help the reader to see connecting patterns of thought. You may read as sorted or as presented in the book, whichever you prefer.

**1 Sep. 23 Introduction to the course**

- ◆ **Historical and Cultural Background** to the development of Greek Philosophy
- ◆ **THE MILESIANS**, in Miletos, Ionia (Turkiye west coast):
  - ◆ **THALES, ca. 625-560**
    - ◆ Principles and Elements: Bk #3, p. 8; Add p. 2
    - ◆ Astronomy: Add p. 2
    - ◆ Earth’s nature: Bk #4, p. 8; Add p. 2
    - ◆ Geometry: Add pp. 2-3
    - ◆ Soul: Bk #5, p. 8
    - ◆ Life practices: Bk #1-2, p. 7
    - ◆ Ethics: Add p. 3
    - ◆ Public engagement: Add p. 3
  - ◆ **ANAXIMANDER, ca. 610-546**
    - ◆ Principles and Elements: Bk #1-2, p. 9; Add p. 3
    - ◆ Astronomy: Bk #3-6, p. 9
    - ◆ Meteorology: Bk #7, p. 9
    - ◆ Earth’s nature: Bk #8, p. 9; Add p. 3
    - ◆ Evolution: Bk #9-11, p. 10
  - ◆ **ANAXIMENES, ca. 585-525**
    - ◆ Principles and Elements: Bk #1-5, pp. 10-11
    - ◆ Astronomy: Bk #8, p. 11; Add p. 3
    - ◆ Meteorology: Bk #9, p. 11
    - ◆ Earth’s nature: Bk #10, p. 11

**2 Sep. 30 PYTHAGOREANS**

- ◆ **PYTHAGORAS, ca. 560-490**, Samos to Croton, S. Italy
  - ◆ Principles and Elements: Bk #13-15, pp. 14-15
  - ◆ Ontology: Bk #10, p. 14

- ◆ Astronomy: Add p. 3
- ◆ Geometry: Add p. 3
- ◆ Soul: Bk #7, p. 15; Add p. 4
- ◆ Soul/Reincarnation: Bk #5-6, p. 15
- ◆ Reincarnation: Bk #1, 8, p. 15; Add p. 5
- ◆ Life practices: Bk #2-4, 9, 11-12, pp. 15-16; Add pp. 4-5
- ◆ **PHILOLAUS, b. ca. 490-470**, Croton
  - ◆ Principles and Elements: Bk #5, 7-8, 11, 13-14, pp. 62-3
  - ◆ Ontology: Bk #1-4, 6, 7-8, 11, 13-14, p. 62
  - ◆ Astronomy: Bk #9, p. 63
  - ◆ Ethics: Bk #10, p. 63
  - ◆ Human nature: Bk #12, p. 63
- ◆ **FEMALE PYTHAGOREANS**—many writings linguistically date to late Hellenistic and are attributed to renowned female Pythagoreans from Pythagoras' time onwards
  - ◆ **THEANO: I**, student & wife of Pythagoras; 2 writers distinguished as Theano I and II
    - ◆ Principles and Elements: Add p. 6
    - ◆ Soul: Add p. 5
    - ◆ Apophthegmata (“Sayings”)—Ethics: Add p. 5
    - ◆ Life practices: Add p. 6
  - ◆ **PHINTYS**, possibly Sparta, late 5<sup>th</sup> c.
    - ◆ Ethics: Add pp. 6, 8
  - ◆ **AISARA**, Lucania, 5<sup>th</sup> c.
    - ◆ Soul: Add p. 7
  - ◆ **PERIKTIONE: I**, Plato's mother? ; 2 writers distinguished as Periktione I and II
    - ◆ Ontology: Add p. 5
    - ◆ Ethics: Add pp. 8-9

### 3 Oct. 7 THE RELATIVISTS AND PLURALISTS:

- ◆ **XENOPHANES, ca. 570-500**, Kolophon, Ionia, to Zancle, Sicily
  - ◆ Principles and Elements: Bk #28, p. 18
  - ◆ Ontology: Add p. 10
  - ◆ Astronomy: Bk #23-24, p. 18
  - ◆ Geometry: Bk #75, p. 24
  - ◆ Meteorology: Bk #19, 21, pp. 17, 18
  - ◆ Earth's nature: Bk #16-18, p. 17
  - ◆ Epistemology: Bk #20, 29-33a, p. 18
  - ◆ Theology: Bk #6-15, 27, pp. 17-18
  - ◆ Human nature: Bk #22, p. 18
  - ◆ Reincarnation: Bk #3, pp. 16-17
  - ◆ Evolution: Bk #33b-34, p. 19
  - ◆ Life practices: Bk #2, 5, 26, pp. 17-18
- ◆ **HERAKLEITOS, ca. 545-485**, Ephesos, Ionia
  - ◆ Principles and Elements: Bk #50, 53-54, p. 23
  - ◆ Ontology: Bk #11-12, 37-40, 44-49, 55-59, 66-67, 74, 76, 78, 82, pp. 21-24; Add p. 10
  - ◆ Astronomy: Bk #84-86, p. 24
  - ◆ Earth's nature: Bk #83, p. 24
  - ◆ Epistemology: Bk #10, p. 21
  - ◆ Theology: Bk #9, 15, 22, 73, 77, 90-91, 105-108, pp. 21-25
  - ◆ Soul: Bk #42-43, 51-52, 63, 87, pp. 22-24

- ◆ Ethics: Bk #16-18, 29, 33-36, 79, 100-104, pp. 21-25
- ◆ Human nature: Bk #1-5, 7-8, 13-14, 19, 25, 27-28, 30, 32, 60-62, 88-89, 95-99, pp. 20-25
- ◆ Animal nature: Bk #31, 8-72, pp. 22, 24
- ◆ Life practices: Bk #23-24, 64-65, 80-81, 94, pp. 21-25
- ◆ **EMPEDOKLES, 492-432**, Akragas, Sicily
  - ◆ Principles and Elements: Bk #34, 75, 81, 87, pp. 38, 43-44
  - ◆ Ontology: Bk #35-43, 48, 50, 78, 106-7, pp. 38-46; Add p. 10
  - ◆ Astronomy: Bk #57, 67-68, 70, p. 42-3; Add p. 11
  - ◆ Meteorology: Add p. 11
  - ◆ Earth's nature: Bk #65-6, 69, 71-74, 79-80, p. 43-4
  - ◆ Theology: Bk #4, 25, 28, 33, 61, 100, pp. 35, 37-8, 42-3, 45
  - ◆ Reincarnation: Bk #11-12, 15, 17-18, p. 36; Add p. 11
  - ◆ Ethics: Bk #7, 19, pp. 35, 37
  - ◆ Human nature: Bk #1-3, 6, 13-14, 23, 26, 31, 88, 90-91, 95-98, 110, pp. 35-37, 44-7
  - ◆ Animal nature: Bk #5, 22, 85, pp. 35, 37, 44
  - ◆ Life practices: Bk #20-21, 51-52, pp. 37, 42
- ◆ **ANAXAGORAS, ca. 500-428**, Clazomenae, Ionia
  - ◆ Principles and Elements: Bk #1-2, 24-26, pp. 48, 50
  - ◆ Ontology: Bk #3-5, 10-15, 27-28, pp. 48-50; Add pp. 11-12
  - ◆ Astronomy: Bk #18, p. 50; Add p. 12
  - ◆ Meteorology: Bk #19, p. 50; Add p. 12
  - ◆ Earth's nature: Bk #16, p. 49; Add p. 12
  - ◆ Epistemology: Bk #20-21, p. 50
  - ◆ Human nature: Bk #23, p. 50; Add p. 12
  - ◆ Animal nature: Bk #22, p. 50

#### 4 Oct. 14 THE ELEANS, Elea, Sicily:

- ◆ **PARMENIDES, ca. 490-440**
  - ◆ Ontology: Bk #3-6, 8, 12-13, 19, pp. 27-30
  - ◆ Astronomy: Add p. 13
  - ◆ Earth's nature: Bk #14, p. 30
  - ◆ Ethics: Bk #1-2, 19 pp. 27
  - ◆ Human nature: Bk #16, p. 30
  - ◆ Human reproduction: Bk #17-18, p. 30
- ◆ **ZENO, ca. 465-390**
  - ◆ Ontology: Bk #1-5, pp. 31-2
  - ◆ Paradoxes: Bk #6-8, 11-12, pp. 32-3
- ◆ [MELISSUS, 5<sup>th</sup> c., Samos]

#### 5 Oct. 21 THE ATOMISTS:

- ◆ **LEUKIPPOS, ca. 580-510**, Elea or Miletos, school in Abdera, and
- ◆ **DEMOKRITOS, ca. 460-388**, Abdera to Athens
  - ◆ Principles and Elements: Bk #1-2, 24-26, pp. 48, 50; Add p. 13
  - ◆ Ontology: Bk #24, 43-44, 46-47, pp. 56, 58; Add p. 13
  - ◆ Atomic theory: Bk #1-2, 4, 6, 9-12, 15, 17-18, 21-23, 27-28, 30-32, 42, 45, 49, pp. 52-6, 58-9
  - ◆ Astronomy: Bk #33, 35-36, p. 57
  - ◆ Meteorology: Bk #37, p. 57
  - ◆ Geometry: Bk #29, p. 56

- ◆ The Soul & Ethics: Bk #38, 50-51, pp. 58-9; Add p. 13
- ◆ Human nature: Bk #39-41, p. 58; Add p. 14
- ◆ Human reproduction: Add p. 14
- ◆ Animal nature: Add p. 14

## 6 Oct. 28 THE SOPHISTS:

- ◆ **PROTAGORAS, ca. 490-420**, Abdera to Athens
  - ◆ Principles and Elements: Add p. 14
  - ◆ Ontology: Bk #8, p. 65; Add p. 15
  - ◆ Theology: Bk #5, p. 64
  - ◆ Life practices: Bk #1-4, 7, pp. 64-5
  - ◆ Public engagement: Add p. 15
  - ◆ Rhetoric: Bk #10-13, p. 65; Add p. 15
- ◆ **GORGIAS, ca. 485-380**, Leontini, Sicily, to Athens
  - ◆ Ontology/ Rhetoric: Bk #2, pp. 67-9; Add p. 15
  - ◆ Ethics: Add p. 15
  - ◆ Rhetoric: Bk #1, pp. 66-7; Add pp. 15-16
  - ◆ Public engagement: Add p. 16
- ◆ **PRODIKOS, b. ca. 460**, Keos
  - ◆ Theology: Bk #2-3, p. 69
  - ◆ Ethics: Add pp. 16-18
  - ◆ Rhetoric: Bk #1, p. 69

## 7 Nov. 4 PLATO, 428-348, Athens: passages marked by ms. # in margins and Bk page #

- ◆ **Apology**, transliteration of Greek *Apologia*, “Defense Speech,” **not** an apology
  - ◆ 17a1-23c, pp. 90-94: the charges against Sokrates and what caused them
  - ◆ 28b3-31d9, pp. 97-100: basis for action; fear of death; care of the soul; Sokrates as gadfly, his *daimonion* (“little spirit,” his inner voice)
  - ◆ 40a1-42a6, pp. 105-6: Sokrates’ view of death and his end
- ◆ **Phaedo**
  - ◆ 107c1-118a18, pp. 196-201: immortal soul; nature of the earth; Sokrates’ end
- ◆ **Symposium**: speeches in praise of Eros, male god of Love
  - ◆ 172a1-173b12, p. 202: setting the scene
  - ◆ 178b9-180b12, pp. 206-7: Phaedrus’ speech: Athenian male love culture
  - ◆ 180c4-181d13, pp. 207-8: Pausanias: Common and Heavenly Aphrodites
  - ◆ 183d5-184e7, pp. 209-10: Pausanias: proper relationship between lover and beloved
  - ◆ 189d7-193d8, pp. 212-15: Aristophanes: Love – the desire for original human other half
  - ◆ 208e5-212b2, pp. 225-6: Sokrates: a la Diotima: Love – the desire for Idea of Beauty

## Nov. 11 VETERANS DAY – NO CLASS

## 8 Nov. 18 PLATO, cont.

- ◆ **Republic**: seeking definition of justice
  - ◆ 376c4-7, p. 266: nature of the guardians
  - ◆ 389b10-d6, p. 206-7: noble lie
  - ◆ 386a1-392a1, pp. 272-5: proper and improper stories for the guardians to hear
  - ◆ 395b11-396b4, p. 278: no improper imitation
  - ◆ 397e12-398b3, pp. 279-80: no multi-imitation
  - ◆ 412b11-417b10, pp. 289-92: rulers

- ◆ 451d4-462a1, pp. 313-20: women as guardians; women and children in common
- ◆ 473c13-e4, p. 328: philosopher-kings
- ◆ 476b3-482a16, pp. 330-333: knowledge of Beauty vs ignorance and belief
- ◆ 514a1-520d6, pp. 352-6: allegory of the cave; the philosopher's duty

**Nov. 25 THANKSGIVING WEEKEND – NO CLASS**

**9 Dec. 2 ARISTOTLE, 384-322, Chalcidice, N. Greece, to Athens**

- ◆ **Physics**
  - ◆ II.3 194b16-195b31, pp. 484-5: the 4 causes
  - ◆ II.5 198b10-199b37, pp. 489-90: causes in nature
- ◆ **De Anima (On the Soul):**
  - ◆ I.1-2 402a1-408b30, pp. 512-15: knowledge of the soul
  - ◆ III.3-4 428a1-430a8, pp. 523-25: imagination and understanding
- ◆ **Nicomachean Ethics,**
  - ◆ I.1-II.3, 1094a1-1105a16, pp. 578-88: the good; politics aims for highest good; types of happiness; types of virtue
  - ◆ I.6, 1096a11-1097a14, Add pp. 18-19: against Plato's Forms
  - ◆ II.6, 1106a13-1107a25, pp. 589-90: the mean
  - ◆ II.9, 1109a20-1109b26, pp. 592-3: finding the mean
  - ◆ V.1, 1129a1-1130a34, pp. 599-600: justice entails doer of just actions
  - ◆ VI.5, 7, 1140a24-b30, 1141a8-b22, pp. 606-7: types of wisdom
  - ◆ IX.8, 1168a27-1169b2, pp. 615-16: love for oneself and another
  - ◆ X.7-9, 1177a12-1181b25, pp. 618-23: contemplation as highest form of happiness
- ◆ **Politics**
  - ◆ I.1-13, 1252a1-1260b24, pp. 623-35: natural relationships: master-slave, husband-wife, father-child; from household to city; on slavery; types of wealth; types of rule, reasoning ability
  - ◆ II.4, 1260b25-1262b35, pp. 635-36: against Sokrates' idea of the commonality of women and children in Plato's *Republic*
  - ◆ I.12, 1259a36-1259b16, Add p. 19: hierarchy of reasoning ability
  - ◆ VII.3, 1325b13-32, p. 652: the best life

**10 Dec. 9 4<sup>th</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> c. Philosophers:**

- ◆ **Cynics:**
  - ◆ **Diogenes, ca. 410-320, Sinope (s. central Black Sea) to Athens, Corinth**
    - ◆ Ethics: Add p. 19
    - ◆ Human nature: Add pp. 20-21
    - ◆ Life practices: Add p. 21
  - ◆ **Krates, 360-280, Thebes**
    - ◆ Human nature: Add pp. 21-22
  - ◆ **Hipparkhia, late 4<sup>th</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> c., Maroneia**
    - ◆ Life practices: Add p. 22
- ◆ **Epicurus, 341-270, Samos to Athens**
  - ◆ Ontology: Add p. 22
  - ◆ Atomic theory: Add pp. 22
  - ◆ Astronomy: Add p. 22-23
  - ◆ Soul: Add p. 23

- ◆ Ethics: Add pp. 23-4
- ◆ Life practices: Add pp. 24-5
- ◆ **Stoics:**
  - ◆ **Zeno, 335-263,**
    - ◆ Ethics: Add p. 25
    - ◆ Epistemology: Add p. 25
    - ◆ Life practices: Add pp. 25-6
  - ◆ **Epictetus, d. 135 CE,** Phrygia, Rome, Nikopolis, NW Greece, *The Handbook*
- ◆ **Concluding discussion**

**MODERN COLLECTIONS: Translations, some Interpretations**

Barnes, Jonathan, trans. 1987. *Early Greek Philosophy*. Penguin.

Brouwer, René. 2014. *The Stoic Sage: The Early Stoics on Wisdom, Sagehood and Socrates*. Cambridge UK.

Inwood, Brad and Lloyd P. Gerson. 1997. *Hellenistic Philosophy: Introductory Readings*. Hackett.

Dutsch, Dorota. 2020. *Pythagorean Women Philosophers: Between Belief & Suspicion*. Oxford.

Hamilton, Edith and Huntington Cairns, eds. 1961. *The Collected Dialogues of Plato*. Princeton.

Hamilton, Edith, ed. 1961. *The Complete Works of Aristotle*. Princeton.

Kirk, G.S. & J.E. Raven, eds. 1957. *The Presocratic Philosophers*. Cambridge, UK.

Long, George, trans. 2009. *Epictetus: The Enchiridion, Or, Handbook*. The Floating Press.

McKeon, Richard. 1947. *Introduction to Aristotle*. NY: The Modern Library,

Pomeroy, Sarah B. 2013. *The Pythagorean Women: Their History and Writings*. Johns Hopkins.

Vivante, Bella. 2008/09. *Daughters of Gaia: Women in the Ancient Mediterranean World*. Praeger/ Oklahoma.

Waithe, Mary Ellen, ed. 1987. *A History of Women Philosophers*, vol. 1. Dordrecht: Martinus Nijhoff Publ.

Waterfield, Robin, trans. 2000. *The First Philosophers: The Presocratics and Sophists*. Oxford.

Wheelwright, Philip, trans. 1966. *The Presocratics*. The Odyssey Press.

White, Stephen, trans. 2021. *Diogenes Laertius: Lives of Eminent Philosophers*. Cambridge, UK.

**BASIC GENERAL REFERENCE: *The Oxford Classical Dictionary*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. 2003.**