

PHH 3100 Greek Philosophy
Fred Freckmann

Course Description: A study of the origins of Western Philosophy, this course explores the fundamental emergence of rationality in Greek thought from the Pre-Socratics through the works of Plato and Aristotle. Emphasis will be placed on topics such as the nature of reality, the structure of knowledge and the good life.

Objectives:

1. To grasp fundamental concepts in Greek Philosophy.
2. To establish working knowledge of fundamental theories.
3. To understand the historical development of ideas in Greek thought.

Expected Competencies:

1. To think critically about Greek Philosophy.
2. To write competently about the origins of Western thought.
3. To compare and contrast Greek thinkers.

Text: Greek Philosophy: Thales to Aristotle, (3rd edition) edited by Reginald E. Allen

Method of Instruction: The textbook will serve as the basis for lectures, discussions, and exams. An occasional video will be shown and exercises will be conducted periodically to supplement the content.

Attendance: Attendance is extremely important. Arrangements for excused absences must be made **PRIOR** to the absence. Students are responsible for all material covered in class.

Method of Grading:

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| 1. Exams | (2 @ 33.33%) | 66.66% |
| 2. Research Paper or Book Report | (1 @ 33.33%) | 33.33% |

Paper: Each student is required to write either a report on a scholarly book in some area of Greek philosophy or a research paper on one Idea such as: Happiness, Goodness, Beauty, Truth, Perfection, Light, Love, Soul, Justice, Idealism, Realism, Immortality, Freedom, Destiny, or Education with an emphasis on Greek Philosophy. If a book is selected, it is the student's responsibility to search for the proper book in the library. **The book or idea** selected must be approved by the instructor. Papers must be at least 4-5 pages (typed and double spaced) with bibliography/works cited, footnotes or endnotes or parenthetical citations to include page numbers.

Grading Criteria for Research Papers/Essays

1. **Form:**
 - (a) Unity of thought/coherence of expression
 - (b) Sentence and paragraph variety, grammar/spelling
2. **Content:**
 - (a) Adequate development of your thesis or main idea
 - (b) "Reporting"--a concise demonstration of your acquaintance with the material (min req for a "C")
 - (c) "Analysis" --the ability to compare, contrast, and
 - (d) "Synthesis" --a demonstration of your ability to reach a sound conclusion (min req for an "A")

