

PHH 3100 – GREEK PHILOSOPHY  
Dr. Howe

**Course Description:**

A study of the origins of Western Philosophy, this course examines the 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

**Texts:**

R. Allen, ed.: *Greek Philosophy: Thales to Aristotle*

**Course Objectives**

1. To grasp fundamental concepts in Greek philosophy.
2. To establish working knowledge of fundamental theories.
3. To understand 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 major Greek thinkers.

**Class Work:**

There will be assigned readings for each class. The specific pages will be announced prior to class meetings. Students should prepare for class by carefully studying the reading materials. Each class will include lecture and discussions. Areas of study include:

The Milesians  
Pythagoras and Pythagoreanism  
Heraclitus  
The Eleatics  
The Pluralists  
Plato's Early Dialogs  
Plato's Middle Dialogs  
Aristotle's Metaphysics  
Aristotle's Ethics

**Tests**

There will be two tests. One mid-term essay exam and a final essay exam.

**Book Report**

Each student is required to write a 4 to 5 page (typed and double-spaced) report on a scholarly book in some area of Greek philosophy. It is the student's responsibility to search for the proper book in the library. The work selected must be approved by the instructor

**Grading:**

Each test will count for 1/3 of final grade. The book report will also count for 1/3 of final grade. Attendance is very important. Any student missing more than two meetings should contact the instructor. Missed classes may effect final grade.