

History of Ancient Philosophy
Boston University 2014 Summer II CAS PH300 B1

Course Details

Instructor: Guy Schuh (guyschuh@bu.edu)
Room: SMG 306
Time: Monday/Tuesday/Thursday 10-12:30pm
Office Hours: Fridays 12:00-2:00 Mugar Library Office 440

Course Description

We will approach the tradition of Ancient Philosophy through the problem of “selfishness” or “self-love.” Can human beings care more about others than they do about themselves, or is it a necessary part of our nature to care most of all about our own good? We will approach this problem through the writings of three ancient thinkers: Plato, Aristotle and Thucydides.

Required Texts

Pangle, *The Roots of Political Philosophy: Ten Forgotten Socratic Dialogues*, 1987 (Cornell University Press), ISBN 9780801494659
Bartlett, *Aristotle’s Nicomachean Ethics*, 2012 (University of Chicago Press), ISBN 9780226026756

Course Requirements and Grading

- quizzes and in-class writing assignments 30%
- papers 30%
- final paper 30%
- participation 10%

Attendance and Participation

- Students are expected to arrive to class on time, having finished the assigned readings and prepared to contribute to the class discussion. Attendance is mandatory. Each student may miss **only one class** without an excuse. Additional unexcused absences will lower your grade by **one third per absence**. For instance, the highest grade you can earn while having two absences is an A-.
- Students will complete **daily** in-classroom quizzes **without the aid of books or notes**, unless explicitly permitted by the instructor.
- Students will write **four (4) one-page papers**. Topics will be assigned during the Wednesday class that proceeds the Monday they are due. Papers are due in hard copy at the **beginning of class** on the date they are due. All papers should be based on primary texts alone. They should be double or 1.5-spaced with 11 or 12 font size.
- Students will write a **final four-page paper**. The topic must be discussed with and approved by the instructor. The final paper is due in hard copy at the **beginning of the last class**.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. For details and policies on plagiarism, consult <http://www.bu.edu/cas/students/undergrad-resources/code/> ; when in doubt whether a specific case counts as plagiarism, contact me **before** you hand in your paper.

Schedule (subject to change with due notice)

- Week 1 6/30 Mon. Introduction. Plato: *Hipparchus* beginning-228b
7/1 Tues. Plato: *Hipparchus* 228b-end
7/3 Thurs. Plato: *Alcibiades I* 113d-118b
- Week 2 7/7 Mon. Thucydides: *Melian Dialogue* **First Paper Due**
7/8 Tues. Aristotle: *Nicomachean Ethics* Bk. 9, chap. 8; Bk. 1 chaps. 1-4
7/10 Thurs. Aristotle: *Nicomachean Ethics* Bk. 1 chaps. 5-7
- Week 3 7/14 Mon. Aristotle: *Nicomachean Ethics* Bk. 1 chaps. 8-11 **Second Paper Due**
7/15 Tues. Aristotle: *Nicomachean Ethics* Bk. 1 chap. 12-Bk. 2 chap. 4
7/17 Thurs. Aristotle: *Nicomachean Ethics* Bk. 3 chaps. 6-9
- Week 4 7/21 Mon. Aristotle: *Nicomachean Ethics* Bk. 8 chaps. 1-4 **Third Paper Due**
7/22 Tues. Aristotle: *Nicomachean Ethics* Bk. 8 chaps. 5-8
7/24 Thurs. Aristotle: *Nicomachean Ethics* Bk. 8 chaps. 9-12
- Week 5 7/28 Mon. Aristotle: *Nicomachean Ethics* Bk. 8 chap. 13-Bk. 9 chap. 1 **Fourth Paper Due**
7/29 Tues. Aristotle: *Nicomachean Ethics* Bk. 9 chaps. 2-4
7/31 Thurs. Aristotle: *Nicomachean Ethics* Bk. 9 chaps. 5-7
- Week 6 8/4 Mon. Aristotle: *Nicomachean Ethics* Bk. 9 chap. 8
8/5 Tues. Aristotle: *Nicomachean Ethics* Bk. 9 chaps. 9-10
8/7 Thurs. Aristotle: *Nicomachean Ethics* Bk. 9 chaps. 11-12 **Final Paper Due**