

History of Ancient Philosophy
Boston University 2013 Summer II CAS PH300 B1

Course Details

Instructor: Guy Schuh (guyschuh@bu.edu)
Room: CAS 323A
Time: Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday 6-8:30pm
Office Hours: Tues. 12-2pm in Mugar Library Office 440 (on the fourth floor), or by appointment

Course Description

We will approach the tradition of Ancient Philosophy primarily through two of its greatest philosophers, **Plato** and **Aristotle**. We will study some of their writings in order to become acquainted with two important issues within Ancient Philosophy: **the nature of Socratic (or Platonic) investigation** and **the problem of virtue**.

Required Texts

West and West, *Four Texts on Socrates*, Rev 98 (Cornell University Press), ISBN 9780801485749
Bartlett, *"Protagoras" and "Meno,"* 2004 (Cornell University Press), ISBN 9780801488658
Bartlett, *Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics*, 2012 (University of Chicago Press), ISBN 9780226026756

Course Requirements and Grading

- quizzes and in-class writing assignments 20%
- question assignments 20%
- papers 25%
- final exam 25%
- 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 each deliver a total of **two written questions** about two different readings, **as arranged with the instructor**, by the **start** of the class in which each reading will be discussed. Students should be prepared to present their questions to the class.
- Students will write **three (3) one-page papers**. Topics will be assigned during the Wednesday class that proceeds the Monday they are due. Papers are due 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 cumulative **final exam on the last day of class**, without the aid of

notes. A make-up exam will be granted only in the case of an emergency, and the student must notify the instructor of the emergency **before start of the exam** and if possible **before the day of the exam**. If anyone needs extra time to write an exam because of an academic disability, please notify me in the first week of 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)

First Unit: Socratic/Platonic Investigation

- Week 1 7/1 Mon. Introduction. Plato: *Apology* 17a-24b
 7/2 Tues. Plato: *Apology* 24b-28b
 7/3 Wed. Plato: *Apology* 28b-35e
- Week 2 7/8 Mon. Plato: *Apology* 35e-end
 7/9 Tues. Plato: *Euthyphro* 2a-6e
 7/10 Wed. Plato: *Euthyphro* 6e-11e
- Week 3 7/15 Mon. Plato: *Euthyphro* 11e-end **First Paper Due**

Second Unit: The Problem of Virtue

- 7/16 Tues. Plato: *Meno* 70a-79e
 7/17 Wed. Plato: *Meno* 79e-86c
- Week 4 7/22 Mon. Plato: *Meno* 86c-95a **Second Paper Due**
 7/23 Tues. Plato: *Meno* 95a-end
 7/24 Wed. Aristotle: *Nicomachean Ethics*; Bk. 1, chaps. 1-5
- Week 5 7/29 Mon. Aristotle: *Nicomachean Ethics*; Bk. 1, chaps. 6-9 **Third Paper Due**
 7/30 Tues. Aristotle: *Nicomachean Ethics*; Bk. 1, chaps. 10-13
 7/31 Wed. Aristotle: *Nicomachean Ethics*; Bk. 2, chaps. 1-4
- Week 6 8/5 Mon. Aristotle: *Nicomachean Ethics*; Bk. 2, chaps. 5-7
 8/6 Tues. Aristotle: *Nicomachean Ethics*; Bk. 2 chaps. 8-9
 8/7 Wed. **Final Exam**