

PHI 310: Classical Philosophy

Fall 2010

MW 2:00 - 3:15 pm

TBA

Instructor Information:

Shawn E. Klein

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Office Hours: MW: 12-1:30pm; TTH: 12:30-1:30 pm; M: 4-5pm; and by appointment.

Class Website: <http://www.whoneedsphilosophy.com/>

Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/rcphil>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Rockford-College-Philosophy-Department/120214339280>

Course Description:

Lecture, readings, and discussion about the major philosophers and movements in ancient Greece and Rome. Figures and movements covered may include the Presocratics, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, the Atomists, Cynics, Skeptics, and Stoics. PRQ: A course in Philosophy. Credits: 3.00

Course Objectives:

At the end of the semester, the student should be able to:

1. Understand the philosophical positions of the figures and movements.
2. Distinguish between the different views of the figures and movements.
3. Explain the relationships between the figures and movements.
4. Understand the philosophical terms used.

Textbook:

There may also be reading assignments handed out in class (some may also be available for download from class website).

- *A Presocratic Reader*, ed. Patricia Curd. ISBN: 978-0-87220-326-6 Publisher: Hackett
- *Plato: Republic* (2nd ed.) Trans. Grube and Reeve. ISBN: 978-0-87220-136-1 Publisher: Hackett
- *Aristotle: Nicomachean Ethics*. Trans. Roger Crisp. 978-0521635462 Publisher: Cambridge

Supplemental/Recommended:

- <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/presocratics/> (and entries for individual thinkers)

Grading and Evaluation:

Final grades are based on a 400-point system consisting of the following:

Participation & Attendance	50
Paper 1	100
Paper 2	100
Class Leadership	100
Total	350

The grading scale is as follows:

328 – 350	94 – 100 %	A
314 – 327	90 - 93 %	A-
304 – 313	87 - 89 %	B+
293 – 303	84 – 86 %	B
279 – 292	80 - 83 %	B-
269 – 278	77 - 79 %	C+
259 – 268	74 – 76 %	C
244 – 258	70 - 73 %	C-
209 – 243	60 – 69 %	D
0 – 208	0 – 59 %	F

Letter Grade Point Values for Class Discussion and Papers:

A	100
A-	92
B+	88
B	85
B-	82
C+	78
C	75
C-	72
D+	68
D	65
D-	62
F	0

Class Participation & Attendance:

Class participation is an essential part of the philosophical process and classroom learning. Class participation includes actively taking part in class and group discussions and other in-class assignments. Out of class homework assignments may be included as part of the student's class participation grade.

Attendance as such is not required, but students are expected to attend every class. Regular class attendance is necessary in order to understand the material in this class and to participate. Students should plan to attend all classes and participate in discussions and class exercises. Absences, tardiness, or leaving early *will* affect your final grade.

If students miss a class, for whatever reason, it is *their* responsibility to find out what work was missed. They should always get class notes from another student. Students are responsible for the work from any missed class for whatever reason.

Any in-class work, including unscheduled quizzes, missed due to any absence cannot be made up.

Papers:

There are two required papers. These papers are not biographical or historical; the focus of the paper must be on analyzing philosophical ideas. Paper length: 2000-2500 words. Topics must be discussed with and approved by instructor.

Drafts for review are optional, but are strongly recommended. To be considered for review, draft must be turned in by draft due date and be 50% complete (at least 1000 words).

Students are strongly encouraged to make use of the Writing Center:

www.rockford.edu/?page=WritingCenter

Tentative Due Dates:

Draft 1: September 15

Paper 1: October 4

Draft 2: November 29

Paper 2: December 13

Class Discussion Leadership Assignment

See attached assignment description.

Academic Misconduct:

Students are expected to adhere, completely, to the Rockford College Academic Honor Code. Plagiarism and cheating of any kind will not be tolerated under *any* circumstances. Please see the Student Code section of the Student Handbook (available from the Rockford College website: <http://www.rockford.edu/?StudentHandbook>) for a full explanation of plagiarism and Academic Misconduct.

If you are unsure if a situation falls under academic dishonesty or not, consult the instructor prior to doing the work.

If you turn in a plagiarized paper, exam, or any other product of academic misconduct, this will result, at instructor's discretion, in a failing grade for the *entire* course,

appropriate college authorities will be notified, and disciplinary procedures will be initiated.

Classroom Behavior:

It is expected that all students will behave in a polite, respectable manner at all times, and that they will always be tolerant and civil towards their fellow students and instructor. Any other behavior at any time will not be tolerated. The instructor reserves the right to remove a student if they fail to follow this policy.

Dropping/Withdrawal:

It is part of a student's academic responsibility to decide whether or not to drop or withdraw from a course once enrolled. If you find this course does not meet your needs or that you need to withdraw for some other reason, you must take the appropriate actions to drop or withdraw from the course. If you need to withdraw but are unable to come to campus, please contact me via telephone or email. *Instructor will not drop any students for non-attendance.*

Electronics:

All cell-phones, pagers, and other electronic devices must be turned off during class times. *Texting or messaging of any kind is not permitted during class.* See the instructor if there is a reason that you need such a device on.

It is permissible to use a laptop to take notes, but any internet connections must be turned off. This privilege will be suspended if the laptop is used for a purpose unrelated to classroom activities.

You must get instructor approval for recording of classroom activities.

Statement of Accommodation:

If you believe you are eligible to receive an academic accommodation, through such federal laws as the ADA, contact the Rockford College Disability Services Office, 815 226-4022.

Course Schedule:

Attached to this syllabus is the schedule for this course. Keep in mind that the schedule is tentative and open to change at the instructor's discretion.

Addendums:

- Confirmation form: This form must be signed and returned to instructor.
- Majoring in Philosophy
- Class Discussion Leadership Assignment
- Paper Rubric

Date	Topic	Readings	Papers
Wed, Aug 25	Intro; Myths: Hesiod and Homer		
Mon, Aug 30	Thales and the Milesians	9-16 (Presocratics Reader)	
Wed, Sep 01	Heraclitus	29-41 (PR)	
Mon, Sep 06	Labor Day: No Class		
Wed, Sep 08	Parmenides	43-51 (PR)	
Mon, Sep 13	Empedocles & Anaxagoras	53-71 (PR)	
Wed, Sep 15	Democritus	79-88 (PR)	Draft 1 Due
Mon, Sep 20	Plato, Republic	Book 1	
Wed, Sep 22	Republic	Book 2	Draft Returned
Mon, Sep 27	Republic	Book 3	
Wed, Sep 29	Republic	Book 4	
Mon, Oct 04	Republic	Book 5	Paper 1 Final Due
Wed, Oct 06	Republic	Book 6	
Mon, Oct 11	Republic	Book 7	
Wed, Oct 13	Republic	Book 8	
Mon, Oct 18	Republic	Book 9	
Wed, Oct 20	Fall Break		
Mon, Oct 25	Republic	Book 10	
Wed, Oct 27	Republic	Carry over	
Mon, Nov 01	Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics	Book 1	
Wed, Nov 03	Nicomachean Ethics	2	
Mon, Nov 08	Nicomachean Ethics	3	
Wed, Nov 10	Nicomachean Ethics	4	
Mon, Nov 15	Nicomachean Ethics	5	
Wed, Nov 17	Nicomachean Ethics	6	
Mon, Nov 22	Nicomachean Ethics	7	
Wed, Nov 24	Thanksgiving		
Mon, Nov 29	Nicomachean Ethics	8	Draft 2 Due
Wed, Dec 01	Nicomachean Ethics	9	
Mon, Dec 06	Nicomachean Ethics	10	Draft Returned
Wed, Dec 08	Carry Over		
Mon, Dec 13	Paper 2 Final Due		

Class Discussion Leadership Assignment:

Students will take responsibility for leading the discussion of the assigned readings. There will usually be two students per reading assignment. Students will need to be ready to go when we start on the assigned reading. The two students on the assignment should work independently, but they will need to make sure the focuses of their discussions are different. Questions will need to be turned in at the start of class and must be typed.

The discussion leader will identify the main themes, key concepts, and central ideas of the reading. The leader will develop discussion questions (at least 5) centered at examining these. Discussion questions will lead us to break these down, analyze them, understand them, and question them. These will be the basis for the class discussion.

Note: this is not a presentation. The leader is facilitating and leading the discussion, not lecturing or speechifying. The instructor and other students will be taking active roles in the discussion as well.

Students will receive a letter grade for each leadership assignment, based on the criteria below. These grades will be averaged to determine total leadership grade. Most students will take a leadership role around three or four times. Students must do at least three leadership assignments. If you are absent, for whatever reason, on the day you supposed to lead the class, you will need to arrange take on a leadership assignment, if available, later in the semester.

Leadership grading criteria:

- Discussion Questions.
 - Good questions raise the most important and fundamental issues. They are open-ended and so they cannot be answered by a yes or no, or by restating basic factual issues. They get discussion participants to see the issue in a new light. They encourage participants to make connections between different ideas. They promote dialogue between participants.
 - No "What do you feel about ... ?" questions.
- Preparedness and Mastery
 - A prepared leader will have more than the minimum # of discussion questions, they will be familiar with the relevant text, and have examples and illustrations from the text and life to help move the discussion along.
 - The prepared leader will demonstrate sufficient mastery of the topics discussed. This may require additional research and reading.
- Style
 - A measure of how well one leads the discussion, deals with follow-up questions, and keeps the class on task.
- Originality
 - This is a degree of difficulty. Have you taken on a more difficult and original focus? The willingness to challenge one's self and the class will be taken in to account in one's grade.

Paper Grading Rubric

- **Accuracy and Understanding:**
 - Are you accurately representing the ideas of the thinkers you are discussing?
 - Are you demonstrating your grasp of the material by being able to put the ideas into your own words?
 - Things to avoid:
 - Factual errors
 - Use of long, direct quotations
 - Vague claims/attributions

- **Critical Thought:**
 - Have you provided sufficient reasons and specific evidence to support your claims?
 - Do you provide unique examples and illustrations that support your claims?
 - Things to avoid:
 - Being non-specific or too general
 - Making a claim without providing grounding

- **Conciseness and Clarity:**
 - How clear are you in the communication of what you are trying to say? Can anyone pick up the paper and know what you are talking about?
 - Have you organized the paper in clear and effective manner?
 - Do you have a clear topic/theme?
 - Things to avoid:
 - Jumping from idea to idea without transitions
 - Unnecessarily grandiose introductions or conclusions/Puffery
 - Repetition
 - Poor grammar, spelling, or organization that interfere with communication

- **Relevancy:**
 - Does the paper focus on your topic/theme?
 - Can you say what you want to say while staying focused on your point?
 - Things to avoid:
 - Irrelevant personal/historical/biographical material or anecdotes
 - Going off on tangents unrelated to topic

- **Mechanical:**
 - Proof read; Use complete sentences
 - Double check spelling of names, new concepts
 - Standard margins, double-spaced, standard type-face and font-size
 - Staying within length parameters.
 - On time

Majoring in Philosophy: Graduate School and Career Benefits

Socrates famously said “The unexamined life is not worth living.” We might update that to say “The *examined* life will make you a living.” Majoring in philosophy prepares you not just for a life of rational reflection, but for your career and professional life.

Graduate School Information:

- LSAT (Law School Admission Test) is required for most laws schools.
 - Philosophy majors consistently score well, second only to physics/math majors, with an average score of 157.4 on the test, 5.2 points higher than the overall (weighted) mean.
- GMAT (Graduate Management Admission Test) is required for most graduate business programs, including MBAs.
 - Philosophy majors scored the fourth highest overall on the GMAT with a mean score of 580, trailing only the majors from physics, mathematics, and engineering.
- GRE (Graduate Record Exam) is required for many graduate programs.
 - According to the Educational Testing Service (ETS), philosophy majors rank first on the Verbal Reasoning and the Analytical Writing sections of the exam.

Careers and Professions:

- Law
- Business/Management: from entrepreneurs and executives to marketing and public relations
- Government Service
- Clergy
- Publishing and Writing
- Medicine
- Journalism

A Few Notable Philosophy Majors:

- Stephen Breyer and David Souter, Supreme Court Justices,
- Phil Jackson, NBA coach,
- Steve Martin, actor, author and comedian,
- Carl Icahn, billionaire financier,
- Carly Fiorina, former CEO, Hewlett Packard,
- Stone Philips, broadcaster
- Rudi Giuliani, former mayor of New York.

For more information, check out www.whoneedsphilosophy.com

Syllabus Confirmation Form

I acknowledge that I have read and understood the course syllabus, in particular the policies regarding academic misconduct, for [class:]_____. I agree to bring any questions or concerns to the instructor immediately.

This form must be completed, separated from the syllabus, and returned to the instructor prior to the last day to drop class (Fall 2010: 9/8/10).

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____