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PHIL 251.01: History of Ancient & Medieval Philosophy

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Phil. 251: History of Ancient & Medieval Philosophy
Fall Semester 2000
Prof. R.E. Walton

SYLLABUS

Philosophy 251 is the first course in the year-long history of philosophy series, 251, 252. It presumes to cover philosophers whose work falls within the period c. 585 BC to 1400 AD, a mere 2000 years. The course emphasizes the Classical Greek philosophers, the Hellenistic Greek and Roman thinkers (the Epicureans, the Stoics, etc.) and introduces the Christian philosophers from Augustine to Aquinas. To undertake this course, students should have at least sophomore standing, have had a rigorous composition course and an elementary logic course similar to PHIL 210. It would also be helpful to have had the European civilization survey course and, perhaps, LS 151, or similar.

TEXTS:

Allen, R.E. (ed.), *Greek Philosophy; Thales to Aristotle*.
Plato, *Republic* (trans. G.M.A. Grube)
Saunders, Jason L. (ed.), *Greek and Roman Philosophy After Aristotle*.

REQUIREMENTS:

Assigned portions of the texts should be read carefully and completely in advance of their being covered in lecture. Reading of the texts should be regarded as an independent task coordinate with that of listening to the lectures. (Do not make the mistake of assuming that one can be substituted for the other.) I advise making reading notes. I strongly discourage the use of commercial study guides and other such flimsy abstracts.

You should take detailed lecture notes. You should consult with me when you have trouble understanding something in readings or lectures, or when you wish to pursue a topic beyond the level at which it is covered in lecture. Office hours are maintained for this purpose.

Each student will prepare 2 or 3 short papers (500-1000 words) on assigned topics. The papers will be exegetical and critical in nature. Assignments will be given on short notice; papers will be due 5-7 days after they are assigned. Papers are graded on a 1-7 scale, with a basic paper which commits no errors awarded a 4. All students will meet with me to discuss their first paper.

There will be regular quizzes given throughout the semester at a rate of about one every other week. These quizzes will often be unannounced. There may be an hour-long examination if it seems appropriate. There will be a final examination required of all students, administered on the date listed below.

Philosophy demands a high degree of skill in writing. Students beginning the study of philosophy are expected to be competent writers and it is expected that their skills will show distinct improvement as their study of philosophy progresses. Thus, you

should expect that your writing will be held to higher standards than in other courses you have taken. Writing will be given considerable attention in order that you may improve.

READINGS:

	<u>Text</u>	<u>Week</u>
1.	Allen, pp. 25-34	I
2.	" , pp. 40-42	II
3.	" , pp. 43-48	III
4.	" , pp. 49-54	III
5.	" , pp. 35-39	III
6.	Plato, <i>Euthyphro</i>	IV
7.	" , <i>Apology</i>	IV
8.	" , <i>Crito</i>	V
9.	" , <i>Republic</i> (Grube)	V,VI
10.	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> (Allen, 384-408)	VII
11.	" , <i>Categories</i> (Allen, 285-290)	VII
12.	" , <i>Physics</i> (Allen, 413-421)	VIII
13.	" , <i>Metaphysics</i> (Allen, 307-313)	VIII
14.	" , <i>Metaphysics</i> (Allen, 369-383)	VIII
15.	Epicureanism, (Saunders, 1-57)	IX
16.	Stoicism, (Saunders, 59-150)	X
17.	Scepticism, (Saunders, 151-197)	X
18.	Plotinus, <i>Ennead I, 6</i> (Saunders, 229-239)	XI
19.	Augustine, misc. (reserve)	XI
20.	Anselm of Canterbury, (reserve)	XII
21.	Thomas Aquinas (reserve)	XIV

FINAL EXAM: Mon., Dec. 18, 8:00-10:00

ACADEMIC POLICIES

1.0 ASSIGNMENT OF GRADES:

Course grades will be assigned on the basis of a statistical analysis of the total class performance, adjusted by the instructor's judgment. In other words, grading will basically be "on a curve," except that the curve will be shifted up or down according to how the class compares to previous classes in the same course. Thus, there are no simple absolute grading standards ("90 percent or better, for an 'A,'" etc.); however, experience indicates that you are unlikely to be awarded a grade higher than 'D' unless you earn at least 50% of the available points for the term.

Grades on individual examinations or writing assignments will be assigned as objectively and accurately as possible; there is always some degree of variation or "error," however. This variation will be taken into account when course grades are determined. Grading accuracy estimates will often be announced when tests and papers are returned. These may be recorded in the gradebook, along with all other descriptive information for the assignment (total points possible, average score, etc.). A difference of a half-dozen points, or so, in the semester total will therefore not by itself usually make a difference in your final grade for the course.

When assigning final grades, improvement over the period of the term will be taken into account. Effort, in and of itself, will *not* be taken into account.

Students registered under the Pass/No Pass option must qualify for a grade of 'C', or better, to earn a 'P'. Courses without prerequisites should not be taken Pass/No Pass.

Incompletes will be assigned only as University policy intends. I will not give anyone an incomplete simply as a means of avoiding an unsatisfactory mark.

A note on dropping this course: You may drop by phone [until Sept. 25], or merely by filing a **drop slip** with the Registrar's Office anytime before the published drop deadline [Oct. 16]. Drop slips require my signature; the Department secretary may sign for me should I be unavailable. *I will approve a petition to drop after the latter deadline only if the reason for seeking to drop is something beyond the student's control, and it implies that this particular course, and not some other, must be dropped. Poor performance--or relatively poor performance--is not such a reason.* It is not possible to drop a course by any means after the last week of classes.

2.0 TIMELINESS:

Examinations must be taken when given unless satisfactory, *prior* arrangements have been made with me. Permission to take an examination at an alternate time will ordinarily be granted only for reasons of health, family emergency, participation in a University sponsored event away from campus, or similar factors generally beyond the student's control. You may not postpone examinations because you are not prepared to take them, or otherwise find it inconvenient. University policy forbids faculty from rescheduling finals.

Written work must be presented on the announced due date. *Papers will be accepted without penalty for one calendar day following the due date*; thereafter, they will be marked down one grade ('B'=> 'C', etc.) for tardiness. No papers will be accepted after the marked papers have been returned to the class. Exceptions to these rules will be made under the same conditions as those for examinations.

3.0 CLASS ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:

Students are expected to attend all regularly scheduled class meetings: see the University attendance policy. You should realize that class attendance and careful attention to the lectures are necessary conditions for achieving the ends at which the course aims. Therefore, attendance will be checked and unexcused absences noted. Since examinations and other written work are only samples of your knowledge of the course material, attendance will be taken into account when assigning final grades. Course grades may be reduced for excessive absence. Students who are absent without excuse for a week's worth of classes (e.g., 3 absences in a course meeting MWF), or more, certainly are in jeopardy of having their course grade reduced.

4.0 PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

Students should read the plagiarism warning in the University *Catalog*. I will strictly enforce the University's rule against plagiarism and cheating. Plagiarism or cheating on a minor assignment will be punished by a grade of '0' on that assignment; these offenses on a major assignment will earn the transgressor an 'F' in the course and a memorandum to the Dean of Students. For purposes of this provision two minor offenses will be treated as equivalent to one major one.

5.0 A NOTE ON CLASSROOM COURTESY:

Classes begin at 10 minutes past the hour. Students are expected to be seated by that time and to remain seated until the class is dismissed. If you must leave before the class ends because of a medical appointment, or similar commitment, notify me before class begins and sit in the back row near the door. *Students who leave without providing such notice and have not suddenly taken ill will be expected to file a drop form and not to return.*