

SYLLABUS

History 1300
Fall 2023
Western Intellectual History
Part I: Graeco-Roman Antiquity
M W 10.30-11.45 + sections TBA

Prof. James Hankins
206 Robinson Hall
Hours: Mondays 2.30-4.30
Head TF:

LECTURE AND DISCUSSION SCHEDULE

Sept 6 What was Ancient Philosophy?

Readings: No section this week. Read the excerpts from the Presocratic philosophers (website) before class on September 11. Read Hadot, chh. 1-2 for lecture.

11 The Presocratics and the beginnings of philosophy
13 Socrates, founder of the philosophical life

Reading for section: Plato, *Apology*, *Crito*. Read *Symposium* 214e-222b (website) for class Sept 13. Hadot, chh. 3-5, for lectures.

18 Plato I: Life, works, the development of his thought
20 Plato II: Ethics and politics: The *Republic*

Reading for section: Plato, *Republic*, Bks I, II (to 376c only), IV.

25 Plato III: Metaphysics and epistemology
27 Plato IV: Philosophical religion

Reading for section: Plato, *Republic* VI (506e to end), VII (to 520e only); Book X (614a-621d only); *Timaeus* 27b-55c (website).

2 Aristotle I: Life, works; ethics
4 Aristotle II: Principles of Aristotelian science

Reading for section: Aristotle, *Ethics* I-II, III.1-12. Hadot, ch. 6, for lectures.

9 UNIVERSITY HOLIDAY
11 Aristotle III: Psychology (theory of the soul)

Reading for section: Aristotle, *Ethics* V, VIII.1-3, IX.4, IX.8, X.6-9

- 16 Aristotle IV: Politics
- 18 Epicureanism I: Science

No section this week. Take-home midterm due 5 pm, 18 October

- 23 Epicureanism II: Ethics
- 25 Stoicism I: Science

Reading for section: Lucretius, *On the Nature of the Universe*, I (complete), II.1-25 and 1023-1174, III (complete), IV.1058-1287, V.1-54 and 1011-1457, VI.1-42. Hadot, ch. 7, for lectures.

- Nov 30 Stoicism II: The therapy of the emotions
- 1 Stoicism III: Ethics and society

Reading for section: Epictetus, *Handbook*; Seneca, *De beata vita* 'To Gallio' (website). Hadot, chapter 8, for lectures

- 6 Varieties of Skepticism
- 8 Major themes in Second Temple Judaism

Readings for section: Book of Deuteronomy. Book of Isaiah, chh. 40-55.
Useful introductions to both books: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible>

- 13 Early Christian thought: Jesus, Paul, and the Johannine tradition
- 15 Augustine I: Augustine's Transformation of Greek Philosophy

Readings for section: The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7); two parables of Jesus (Luke 10: 25-37, 15:11-32); Paul on conversion (Romans 1, 6-8): "Hymn to the Word" (John 1:1-18) Introductions to these books: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible>

- 20 Augustine II: The *Confessions*, Soul, Knowledge
- 22 THANKSGIVING RECESS

No section this week.

- 27 Augustine III: Human Nature and the State
- 29 Augustine IV: Creation, Time and History

Reading for section: Augustine, *Confessions* Books I-VIII. Readings for class, November 27: Augustine, *City of God*, Book XIX (course website).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Class participation (30%). The grade will be based principally on a quick, five-minute quiz at the beginning of each section. The aim here is not to test critical thinking skills but simply to check that students have completed the reading. Attendance and in-class participation will also be considered.
2. Take-home mid-term examination (30%). You will be give four or five questions and asked to write essays (maximum of 1000 words each) on two of them. Due 5pm on October 18 (30%).
4. Final examination (40%). Three hours. You will be asked to write three essays (there will be a choice of topics), 50 minutes each. There will also be an objective section of the test (true/false, multiple choice questions), 30 minutes.

READING LIST

Order from online booksellers. Also on reserve for this course at Lamont.

Plato, *Five Dialogues*, tr. Grube, 2nd edition, Hackett, 978-0872206335

Plato, *Republic*, tr. C. Rowe, Penguin Classics, 978-0141442433

Aristotle, *Ethics*, tr. T. Irwin, Hackett, 978-0872204645

Lucretius, *The Nature of Things*, tr. Stallings and Jenkyns, Penguin, 978-0140447965

Epictetus, *The Handbook*, tr. Nicholas White, Hackett, 978-0915145690

Augustine, *Confessions*, tr. R S Pine-Coffin, Penguin, 978-0140441147

Pierre Hadot, *What is Ancient Philosophy?* Harvard UP, 978-0674013735