

**History of Philosophy I Course Description - Philosophy 3000**  
**Greek & Medieval Philosophy - Fall Semester 2017**  
**2:00-4:45**

Bagwell Education Building - 130

**Professor:** Dr. David Jones

**Office:** 4082 Social Science Building

**Consultation Times:** Thursdays 12:30-1:00 or by appointment

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**Web Site:** <http://ksuweb.kennesaw.edu/~djones/>

**Electronic Communications:** The University provides all KSU students with an “official” email account with the address “students.kennesaw.edu.” As a result of federal laws protecting educational information and other data, **this is the sole email account you should use to communicate with your instructor or other University officials.**

### **Course Content**

This course will explore the beginnings of Western civilization by surveying the earliest writings of the original Greek thinkers. The Greek section of the course, which is almost the entire course, begins with a look at the oldest surviving pieces of literature in the Western world (Homer’s *Iliad* and *Odyssey*) and moves through Aristotle, the thinker who profoundly influences our modern perspective of the world, to some of the Hellenistic schools such as Epicureanism and Stoicism as well as Neo-Platonism. We begin with a look at the image of human-being in the early writings of Homer and Hesiod and trace this development through the early Pre-Socratic philosophers—Anaximander, Anaximenes, Xenophanes and so forth to Herakleitos and Pythagoras—and compare this view with conceptions of the body and soul found in Plato and Aristotle. Throughout this development we will look at other important issues found in early Greek thought, art, and culture: the relationship between mythology and philosophy, mythology and science, philosophy and science, as well as the relationship between self and world. The focus of the entire course will be on the development of metaphysics and epistemology. Students will be introduced to several Ancient Greek terms (of which many are roots of English words) and are expected to develop a working vocabulary of these words throughout the course of the semester. Upon completion of the “Greek Phase” we then examine in short form the Greek influence on the Medieval Period of Europe. The emphasis of this course, however, will be on Greek philosophy.

This course provides a historical perspective to the current way(s) we view ourselves and our world; it is an archaeological expedition that uncovers the foundations of contemporary Western persons and how they think and relate to the world in which they find themselves.

### **Course Objectives**

The course is designed to provide an in-depth overview of some of the most important philosophers and philosophical movements in Western antiquity and in the early medieval period. To this end we shall examine readings from a select number of thinkers starting with the Presocratics and moving through Plato, Aristotle, and Stoicism to Medieval thinkers (Augustine, Anselm, and Aquinas), with a view to gaining an initial understanding of some of the fundamental tenets and scope of their philosophical thought. Clearly, within the confines of a fifteen-week semester, we can focus on only select philosophers. This may leave many feeling dissatisfied at having gained only a rudimentary understanding of some of the philosophers covered. It is important, however, that participants in the class recognize this feeling is intrinsic to the nature of an upper-division survey course. The major objective is to gain a sense of the developments that occur over an entire period of philosophical thought.

#### ***More specific objectives include:***

1. To develop an understanding of Western philosophy, its historical development and relation to subsequent disciplines and forms of inquiries emerging from it
2. To develop a working philosophical vocabulary, one that is especially appropriate for philosophy as well as other disciplines
3. To achieve a level of competence when dealing with a philosophical problem within philosophical and historical contexts

4. To understand and appreciate the origin and development of Western values and knowledge
5. To develop the necessary critical faculties to deal with philosophical problems and issues in a written and verbal format
6. To develop critical skills applicable to all facets of life
7. To incorporate the philosophical and historical perspective into one's professional and personal life
8. To develop one's conceptual abilities and expand our sense of being in the world and in history
9. To develop the "whole person" as one who is not narrowly defined

### **Attendance Policy**

There are no excused absences at the university level. Students are responsible for all material covered in the course, which includes lectures and discussions, readings, documentary presentations, and everything covered in class as well as outside assignments.

Students are solely responsible for managing their enrollment status in a class; nonattendance does not constitute a withdrawal.

### **Evaluation**

Philosophy 3000 is a reading and writing intensive course.

Exams will cover:

- Pre-Socratic philosophy that incorporates all readings and classroom presentations and discussions in the *Introductory Readings in Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy* by Reeve and Miller (20 points)
  - A thematic essay on the relation of Presocratic philosophy to Plato and Aristotle. This assignment will incorporate textual readings from ancient sources and engage the interpretation in these sources with a look to the Medieval Period and include responses to the interpretation of Patricia Fagan's *Plato and Tradition: The Poetic and Cultural Context of Philosophy* (25 points)
  - A Review Essay on *Socrates among Strangers* by Joseph P. Lawrence (20 points) 5-7 pages
  - Comprehensive Final Exam (25 points)
- ✓ An additional 10 points will be assessed for engaged attendance and active participation as well as completion of other outside assignments. Students may be randomly selected to give a précis of the previous class at the beginning of class. Failure to perform adequately will result in a 2 point deduction from this 10 point total.
- All writing done outside of class must be word-processed.

Grading will be based strictly on the following scale:

90+=A  
80-89=B  
70-79=C  
60-69=D  
-59=F

**Of note:** The Mike Ryan Lecture Series covers a variety of philosophical topics and is delivered by the Philosophy Student Association. Lectures are scheduled usually at 12:30 on Thursdays and last approximately 90 minutes. Extra credit may be offered for these lectures and other approved philosophical lectures on campus or elsewhere. These papers will be exegetical and critical in nature.

### **Course Format**

Classroom sessions will be both lecture and discussion with the emphasis placed on informal lecture. Students are encouraged and expected to ask questions and must be prepared each class to discuss the problems and issues of the class.

### **Writing Center:**

The KSU Writing Center is a free service offered to all students. Experienced writing assistants work with you throughout the writing process (on concerns such as topic development, revision, research, documentation,

grammar, and mechanics) although assistants cannot edit or proofread your paper for you. Appointments are strongly encouraged. For more information or to make an appointment, visit <http://www.kennesaw.edu/english/WritingCenter>, or stop by Room 242 in the English Building.

### **Course and Classroom Policies**

All work completed outside of class must be word-processed. There are no guaranteed provisions for extra-credit in Philosophy 3000. Attendance in Philosophy 3000 is necessary and mandatory. Consider the statement on academic honesty in the *Kennesaw State University Undergraduate Catalogue* to be a part of this Course Description and Syllabus. Students caught plagiarizing will receive an automatic failure for the course. Active cellular telephones must be disabled during class. Also, in order to enhance critical listening skills, no audio or visual taping of lectures is permitted without the instructor's approval.

### **Course Expectations**

Assigned texts and portions of those texts must be read carefully and completely in advance of being covered in lecture, and read again after the lectures. Reading texts should be regarded as an independent task coordinated with that of listening to lectures. Do not assume one can be substituted for the other. Students are advised to make reading notes and strongly discouraged the use of commercial study guides and other such insubstantial abstracts. Students should take detailed lecture notes.

Philosophy demands a high degree of skill in writing. Students beginning the study of philosophy are expected to be competent writers and their skills are expected to show distinct improvement as their study of philosophy progresses. Consequently, students should expect that their writing will be held to higher standards than in other courses. Writing will be given considerable attention to promote improvement.

### **Class Notes Policy**

Notes or recordings made by students in this class based on my lectures, discussion group or class discussions are not permitted. Permission to make notes or recordings falls within my discretion as the instructor and as informed by instructional purposes, classroom order, property interests and other reasonable considerations arising in the academic context. Notes and recordings of this class are not permitted and may not be exchanged or distributed for any commercial purpose, for compensation, or for any purpose other than your personal study. Unless authorized by the University in advance and explicitly and in writing permitted by me, commercial or any non-personal use of class notes or recordings constitutes an unauthorized commercial activity. As the instructor in this course, I retain all intellectual property rights in the lecture materials. Misuse of course notes or recordings derived from lecture material may also subject you to legal proceedings.

### **Academic Integrity Statement:**

Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the *Student Code of Conduct*, as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs. The *Student Code of Conduct*, Section 5.C, addresses the university's policy on academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to university materials, misrepresentation/falsification of university records or academic work, malicious removal, retention, or destruction of library materials, malicious/intentional misuse of computer facilities and/or services, and misuse of student identification cards. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the Department of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity (SCAI), which includes either an "informal" resolution by a faculty member, resulting in a grade adjustment, or a formal hearing procedure, which may subject a student to the Code of Conduct's minimum one semester suspension requirement. See also <https://web.kennesaw.edu/scai/content/ksu-student-code-conduct>.

### **Special Note on Academic Integrity:**

If any student plagiarizes in writing a paper, that is, copies or closely paraphrases from a source without proper quotation and acknowledgment of the source, that student will be given a failing grade in the course.

### **ADA Compliance:**

Students with qualifying disabilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act who require "reasonable accommodation(s)" to complete the course may request those from Office of Student Disability Services. Students requiring such accommodations are required to work with the University's Office of Student Disability Services rather than engaging in this discussion with individual faculty

members or academic departments. If, after reviewing the course syllabus, a student anticipates or should have anticipated a need for accommodation, he or she must submit documentation requesting an accommodation and permitting time for a determination prior to submitting assignments or taking course quizzes or exams. Students may not request retroactive accommodation for needs that were or should have been foreseeable. Students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations. Student Disability Services is located in the Carmichael Student Center in Suite 267. Please visit the Student Disabilities Services website at [www.kennesaw.edu/stu\\_dev/sds](http://www.kennesaw.edu/stu_dev/sds) for more information, or call the office at 470-578-6443.

### **Required Texts**

*Introductory Readings in Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy*

C. D. C. Reeve and Patricia Lee Miller

Hackett

ISBN: 0872208303

*Socrates among Strangers*

Joseph P. Lawrence

Northwestern University Press

ISBN- 978-0-8101-3169-9 (paperback)

*Plato and Tradition: The Poetic and Cultural Context of Philosophy*

Patricia Fagan

Northwestern University Press

ISBN- 0-8101-2864-0

\* Students who feel uncomfortable reading and studying original texts in translation are advised to withdraw at the beginning of the term. Many of the readings are very difficult and require serious engagement. Making a significant time commitment to this course is essential.

**HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY I SYLLABUS**  
**PHILOSOPHY 3000 – Fall 2016**

(Dates are subject to change, but topics will be discussed in order)

Class Readings in Greek Philosophy: *Introductory Readings in Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy*  
by C. D. C. Reeve and Patricia Lee Miller

<b>DATES</b>	<b>TOPICS and READINGS</b>
Aug. 16 – 23	Course Introduction, Introduction to Philosophy The Greek Mythic World: Hesiod's <i>Kosmos</i> Homeric Psyche The Beginning of Philosophy: Thales, Conceptualizing the World – Monism Anaximander's <i>Apeiron</i> , Anaximenes' <i>Archē</i> Xenophanes: The Question of Personification <b>Read Appropriate Sections in Reeve and Miller (1-3)</b> <b>Read Handouts</b>
Aug. 30 - Sept. 13	Pythagoras: Mathematics and the World The Immortality of Soul and Beans Herakleitos: Change and Pluralism Parmenides: The Quest for Truth & Being Zeno: Logical Paradoxes and Reality <b>Read Appropriate Sections in Reeve and Miller (4-20)</b> <b>Read Fagan</b>
<b>Sept. 20</b>	<b>Exam 1</b>
Sept. 27 – Oct. 4	Empedokles: The Cosmic Balance Anaxagoras: Conceiving the Mind Demokritos: The Atomic Theory Sokrates, the Sophists, and Plato: The Politics of Truth <i>Euthyphro</i> , <i>Apology</i> , <i>Crito</i> <b>Read Appropriate Sections in Reeve and Miller (22-40; 49-78)</b> <b>Read Fagan</b>
<b>October 5</b>	<b>Last Day to Withdraw without Academic Penalty</b>
Oct. 11 - 18	Plato: Death, Immortality and Soul <i>Phaedo</i> , Plato's Theory of Ideas; <i>Republic</i> Books I-X Revisit the <i>Crito</i> <b>Read Appropriate Sections in Reeve and Miller (112-230)</b> <b>Read Fagan</b>
<b>Oct. 25</b>	<b>Book Review Essay on Lawrence due</b>
Nov. 1- 8	Plato: The Idea of Beauty and Love, and Madness: <i>Phaedrus</i> and <i>Symposium</i> Plato: The Universal Harmony: Music of the Spheres <i>Timaeus</i>

**Read Appropriate Sections in Reeve and Miller (243-250)**  
**Read Fagan**

For Aristotle's View  
Aristotle: World and God  
*Categories, Physics, Metaphysics, On the Soul, Ethics, and Politics*  
**Read Appropriate Sections in Reeve and Miller (250-357)**

Stoicism and Epicureanism  
**Read Hellenistic Philosophy Section in Reeve and Miller (357-380)**

**Nov. 15**

**Exam 2**

Nov. 21-28

Autumn Break

Nov. 29

Neo-Platonism and Augustine: The Metaphysics of God;  
Aquinas: Reason and Faith  
**Read Appropriate Plotinus Section in Reeve and Miller (480-503)**  
**Read *On Free Choice of the Will*, Augustine**  
<http://bit.ly/2btcAas> (3-126)  
**Read Anselm (Ontological Argument – Handout)**  
**Read St. Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologicae***  
**First part, a, Question 2, Article 3**  
<http://bit.ly/2aUUHd>

**Dec. 6**

**Final Comprehensive Exam**