Instructor: Dr. Steve Naragon, Office: Ad Bldg., #231c (Phone — office: 982-5041; home: 982-6033)
Online Syllabus (more detailed): http://users.manchester.edu/Facstaff/SSNaragon/Online/316-F09/Welcome.html

Required Texts
(3) Many brief selections, provided as handouts, from the works of Epicurus, Epictetus, Sextus Empiricus, Plotinus, Augustine, Anselm, Abelard, Ibn-Sina, Ibn-Rushd, Thomas Aquinas, William of Ockham, Meister Eckhart, and Pico della Mirandola, as well as some current secondary literature.

Recommended Texts

Course Objectives
We will read philosophers from the very beginnings of the philosophical enterprise in the west, and then work our way through Plato, Aristotle, and the Hellenists, and end with various medieval thinkers (Jewish, Christian, and Muslim), with a special focus on certain doctrines of Augustine and Aquinas. These texts are quite challenging for most undergraduates — they certainly challenge me at times! — but they will reward your sustained intellectual effort. The readings are multi-layered and well worth your best effort. If you do not try to understand them, of course, then they will strike you as obscure and pointless.

By the end of the course you should have: (1) become acquainted with the nature and early history of Western philosophy; (2) developed your skills for critically evaluating arguments and beliefs; (3) developed a sense of the historiography of philosophy; (4) found the source of a great many of our current beliefs; (5) had ample opportunity to reflect on certain questions confronting us all: How can I know something to be true? What is the good life and how is it attained? What is it to be human?

Some virtues to bring with you into the philosophy classroom: humility when comparing your beliefs with those of others; patience for listening closely to views that seem foolish or misguided to you; courage to advance in the face of adversity what seems to be the correct view; endurance for following arguments to their conclusion; humor for those moments when you feel the utter futility of your efforts.

Requirements and Grading
Readings. Read the assignments closely prior to class, and *always bring the text*. Class discussions and your success in this class depend upon this. If you are not willing to commit yourself to this, then it would be best to withdraw from the course.

Attendance and Participation. A course on philosophy is by its nature aimed at self-examination and discussion; consequently, taking the class requires being there. Being there is the first step, however, but it’s not enough. Uninformed talk is worse than silence, so you need to arrive at class having worked through and reflected on the readings for the day. Consequently, part of your participation grade will be based on brief, one-paragraph reflections on some passage in the reading (it can be any passage, so long as it doesn’t overlap with the topic of the daily essay). These *pre-class paragraphs are due by 9:00 AM (sent through ANGEL), and late is the same as never*. Each class period will be graded following a 6 pt. rubric (see below).

Almost Daily Essays. An essay topic is provided for nearly every day, and the essays are due before class. You will need to complete fifteen of these for full credit (that works out to about one essay per week). This flexibility allows you to better fit the requirements of this class to your particular interests and to your overall workload for the semester. These 1-2 page essays should be submitted through ANGEL. They will be graded following a 5 pt. rubric (below). See the online syllabus for more information.

Exams. There will be three in-class short-essay exams.

Grading. The three exams are worth 15% each of the course grade (3 x 15% = 45%), the set of essays is worth a total of 40%. Participation is 15%.

Plagiarism. Avoid this or perish! *Plagiarism* consists of submitting the statements, ideas, opinions, or findings of another as *if they were your own*. It is *not* plagiarism to copy from or paraphrase a source as long as this is acknowledged and the source is properly cited. See the college Catalog for a fuller discussion.

Cell Phones. Please do not bring these to class. If you do bring a cell phone, it needs to be turned off and put away, preferably at the bottom of a very deep pocket or book bag. If you are unable to part company with your cell phone, or are unable to keep it turned off and stowed, then please do not come to class. Thank you.
Participation Rubric (6 points total)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pre-class paragraph (2 pts)</th>
<th>Quality of contributions (2 pts)</th>
<th>Frequency of participation (2 pts)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 = Interesting passage, good discussion, helpful questions or worries are raised. 1 = Passage chosen suggests a lack of effort with the text, or else the paragraph lacks enough depth or care.</td>
<td>2 = Comments are relevant and reflect an understanding of the text(s) and previous remarks of other students. 1 = Comments suggest a lack of preparation or lack of attention to the remarks of others.</td>
<td>2 = Active participation at appropriate times. 1 = Occasional participation.</td>
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Daily Essay Rubric (5 points total)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Length (1 pt)</th>
<th>Discussion (2 pts)</th>
<th>Mechanics (2 pts)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 = At least 500 words. 0 = Less than 500 words.</td>
<td>2 = Good grasp of the text/ideas and focused discussion of the topic. 1 = Some unclarity and/or lack of focus.</td>
<td>2 = Good use of topic sentences; no errors of spelling, punctuation, or grammar. 1 = Two or more errors.</td>
</tr>
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READING SCHEDULE

(AGP = Ancient Greek Philosophy)

**Wed, Aug 31**
Introduction to the class

**Presocratics & Plato**

**Fri, Sep 2**
Read: Miletics
Read: AGP (selections from/about the Miletics).

**Mon, Sep 5**
Heraclitus and Xenophanes
Read: AGP (selections).

**Wed, Sep 7**
Pythagoras
Read: AGP (selections).

**Fri, Sep 9**
Parmenides and Zeno
Read: AGP (selections).

**Mon, Sep 12**
Pluralists and Atomists
Read: AGP (selections from Anaxagoras, Empedocles, Leucippus, and Democritus).

**Wed, Sep 14**
Sophists
Read: (editor intro + selections from Protagoras and Gorgias).

**Fri, Sep 16**
Plato: Introduction and Apology
Read: AGP (editor introduction + dialogue).

**Mon, Sep 19**
Plato’s Euthyphro
Read: AGP (dialogue)

**Wed, Sep 21**
Plato’s Meno (1st half)
Read: AGP (dialogue)

**Fri, Sep 23**
Plato’s Meno (2nd half)
Read: AGP (dialogue)

**Mon, Sep 26**
Plato’s Republic, Bk. I
Read: AGP (Republic, Bk. 1).

**Wed, Sep 28**
Plato’s Republic, Bk. I
Read: (see Sep 30)

**Fri, Sep 30**
Plato’s Republic, Bk. II-IV
Read: AGP (Republic, 357a-362c, 368c-376e, 412b-417b, 427d-445e).

**Mon, Oct 3**
Plato’s Republic, Bk. VI-VII
Read: AGP (Republic, Bks. 6-7).

**Wed, Oct 5**
Exam #1

**Aristotle & Hellenism**

**Fri, Oct 7**
Aristotle’s Categories and De Interpretatione
Read: AGP (Categories, chs. 1-5; On Interpretation, chs. 1-4, 7, 9).

**Mon, Oct 10**
Aristotle’s Topics and Posterior Analytics
Read: AGP (Topics, Bk. 1, chs. 1-2; Posterior Analytics, Bk. 1, chs. 1, 3; Bk. 2, ch. 19).
Wed, Oct 12
Aristotle’s *Physic*
Read: AGP (Physics, Bk. 1, chs. 1, 1-5; Bk. 2, chs. 1-3, 7-8).

Fri, Oct 14
Aristotle’s *Generation and Corruption*
Read: (Generation and Corruption, Bk. 1, chs. 1, 4; Bk. II, ch. 5).

Mon, Oct 17 — Fall Break

Wed, Oct 19
Aristotle’s *Metaphysics*
Read: AGP (Metaphysics, Bk. 1; Bk. 4, ch. 1).

Fri, Oct 21
Aristotle’s *De Anima*
Read: AGP (On the Soul, Bk. 2; Bk. 3, chs. 4, 5, 10).

Mon, Oct 24
Aristotle’s *Nicomachean Ethics*
Read: AGP (Nicomachean Ethics, Bk. 1).

Wed, Oct 26
Aristotle’s *Nicomachean Ethics*
Read: AGP (Nicomachean Ethics, Bk. 2).

Fri, Oct 28
Epicureanism
Read: Epicurus, “Letter to Herodotus” (online) and “Letter to Menoeceus” (online).

Mon, Oct 31
Stoicism
Read: Epictetus, Handbook (online).

Wed, Nov 2
Skepticism
Read: Sextus Empiricus, selection from Outline of Pyrrhonism (online)

Fri, Nov 4 Exam #2

--- The Middle Ages ---

Mon, Nov 7
Neo-Platonism — On the Real and Beauty
Read: Gerson, “Plotinus” (SEP) (online); Plotinus, “On Beauty” (a selection from the *Enneads*) (online).

Wed, Nov 9
Augustine — Basic Doctrines
Read:

Fri, Nov 11
Augustine — On Creation and Time
Read: Augustine, *Confessions*, Bk. 11 (online).

Mon, Nov 14
Ibn-Sina (Avicenna) — On the Soul
Read: Ibn-Sina, Concerning the Soul (selection) (online).

Wed, Nov 16
Ibn-Rushd (Averroes) — On Reading Scripture
Read: Ibn-Rushd, The Decisive Treatise (online).

Fri, Nov 18
Moses Maimonides — On Negative Theology

Mon, Nov 21
Peter Abelard — On Universals
Read: Peter Abelard, On Universals (selection) (online).

--- Thanksgiving ---

Mon, Nov 28
Aquinas — Faith and Reason

Wed, Nov 30
Aquinas — On Proving God’s Existence

Fri, Dec 2 — Class does not meet

Mon, Dec 5
William of Ockham — On Divine Will

Wed, Dec 7
Meister Eckhart — On Mystical Awareness of God
Read: Meister Eckhart, “Sermon #1” (online); Reiner Schürmann, “Meister Eckhart” (online).

Fri, Dec 9
Pico della Mirandola — On Human Beings
Read: “Giovanni Pico della Mirandola,” in the Catholic Encyclopedia (online); Pico, “Oration on Man (selection)” (online).

Finals Week Exam #3