Philosophy 211: WI- Ancient Philosophy
03
MWF: 10:30 - 11:20 (60328)

INSTRUCTOR:     Ron Loo
OFFICE:         Palanakila 144
OFFICE HOURS:   Mon:  1:35 - 3:35 p.m.
                Thurs: 2:35 - 4:35 p.m.
                Fri:    1:35 - 3:35 p.m.
(Other times by mutual agreement)
TELEPHONE:      236-9144, rloo@hawaii.edu
EFFECTIVE DATE: Fall 2010

Windward Community College Mission Statement
Windward Community College is committed to excellence in the liberal arts and career development; we support and challenge individuals to develop skills, fulfill their potential, enrich their lives, and become contributing, culturally aware members of our community.

CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION:
The philosophical traditions of Greece and Rome between the 5th century BCE and the 5th century CE. Important works by four representative figures (two from classical Greece and two from the Roman Tradition).

ACTIVITIES REQUIRED AT OTHER THAN REGULARLY SCHEDULED CLASS TIMES:
Field Trip(s): Optional

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:
At the completion of this course, you should be able to:

1. Discuss terms and concepts like the ‘doctrine of the mean’ and the ‘doctrine of forms or ideas’ and evaluate their relevance (significance) for modern times.

2. Identify and discuss contributions of selected philosophers and the influence of each on the other through a historical perspective.

3. Trace some of the roots of present day thought through the application of concepts and points of view forwarded in this class.

4. Discuss the major tenets of the “classical mind” in order to characterize this period of time in a coherent and meaningful way.
COURSE CONTENT:

Concepts or Topics

• PRESOCRATICS
  Milesians: Problem of the One and the Many
  Speculators on: Problem of Appearance and Reality
  Atomists
  Sophists: First to Raise Questions In Moral, Social, Political Philosophy

• PLATONIC THOUGHT
  Doctrine of Forms
  Justice
  Best Form of Government
  Philosopher - King
  Classification of Goods
  Tripart Psyche
  Training of Leaders (Guardians)
  Good Life

• ARISTOTELIAN THOUGHT
  Eudaimonia
  Moral Virtue
  Doctrine of the Mean
  Origin of the State
  Classifications of States
  Polis
  View of Citizenship
  Good Life
  Rejection of Plato’s Forms

Skills

1. Use articulate and well reasoned writing to demonstrate grasp of course materials.
2. Apply concepts in ancient philosophy to the contemporary world.
3. Interpret and critique relevant texts.
4. Use logical arguments philosophical concepts, and examples to analyze and evaluate ancient philosophy.
5. Explain the influence of selected Western philosophers.
6. Identify and assess assumptions supporting ethical, metaphysical, epistemological and political theories.
7. Recognize philosophical issues.
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COURSE TASKS:

1. Unit Exams: Complete three (3) in-class exams. Each exam will consist of matching questions, short answer questions, and essay questions (history of philosophy questions, analysis questions, evaluation questions, comparison/contrast questions) that will require you to analyze, explain, justify viewpoints, and/or evaluate course materials. Questions for the exams will be drawn from unit study guides (based on reading assignments, lectures, movies, paperback, texts.) that will be distributed two weeks prior to the exams. Make-up exams will only be given in cases of illness (with a doctor’s note) or valid emergency. There is no comprehensive final exam for this course.

2. Short Essays: Write three (3) essays which will require you to analyze, interpret, synthesize, summarize, and evaluate selected course materials. Each essay will consist of three (3) double-spaced, typewritten pages (with 1 inch margins) of philosophical reflection. It will be based on readings assigned for the course. While students are required to write both a rough draft and a final draft for each essay, only the final draft is graded.

3. Journal: Submit a journal that will require you to demonstrate your understanding of the “classical mind.” This assignment will consist of three (3) typewritten components: a) a clear statement of the salient features (mention at least 4) of the “classical mind,” b) a list totaling 7 pieces of literature (from at least 3 of the following philosophies: Platonic thought, Aristotelian thought, Stoic thought, Pyrrhonian Scepticism, Presocratic thought) and a brief explanation of how each piece of literature exemplifies a feature of the classical mind, c) answers to assigned reading questions for 2 units of this course.
MODE OF INSTRUCTION:
Classes will combine lectures with discussion. Sessions will consist of exegesis (lectures), brief writing (in-class) assignments, discussion (of lectures, reading assignments, videos, guest speakers), audio visual materials/guest speakers where appropriate.

METHOD OF GRADING:
1. Criteria for evaluating course work:
   a. Grasp of the problem/concept/topic.
   b. Logic and persuasiveness of the presentation.
   c. Perceptiveness in seeing and weighing various alternative interpretations.
   d. Demonstration of critical analysis.
   e. Clarity with which the topic/concept was discussed.
   f. Employment of philosophical methodology.

2. Weight of tasks:
   Unit Exams 100 = (2 x 50)
   Short Essays 300 = (3 x 100)
   Rough Draft (for Short Essays) 15 = (3 x 05)
   Journal 100 = (1 x 100)
                     515

3. Letter grades will be assigned based on the number of points earned for the course.
   A: 453 - 515
   B: 390 - 452
   C: 327 - 389
   D: 284 - 326
   F: 221 – 283
   W: Formal withdrawal from the course (this procedure must be initiated by the student.)
LEARNING RESOURCES AND MATERIALS:
1. Recommended texts:
   Copleston, F.  
   *A History of Philosophy* (Vols. I and II)  
   *Encyclopedia of Philosophy*

2. Required texts:
   Inwood, B. (tr.)  
   *Hellenistic Philosophy* (2nd ed.)
   Irwin, T. (tr.)  
   *Aristotle: Selections* (05 ed.)
   Reeve, C.D.C. (tr.)  
   *Republic* (4th ed.)
   Waterfield, R. (tr.)  
   *First Philosophers* (09 ed.)

OTHER INFORMATION:
1. Class Attendance:
   The subject matter of this course is intellectually challenging and students who miss classes regularly rarely do well.

2. Class Preparation:
   Students are expected to prepare adequately for each class session. This means that reading and/or writing assignments should be completed so that they can be discussed by the next class.

3. Learning Assistance:
   Seek assistance with your learning problems as soon as they are encountered.

4. Cell Phones:
   Set your cell phones and/or pagers to “silent” so the class can focus on the lesson for the day.

5. How To Succeed In This Course:
   a. Keep up with reading and writing assignments.
   b. Attend class regularly and take “good notes”.
   c. Participate in class discussions.

6. Reading Materials:
   This is a reading intensive class. None of the readings are easy, and students should expect to read them several times to understand them well.
OTHER INFORMATION:
7. Rough Drafts (for Short Essays):
   Your drafts must be double-spaced and incorporate 1 inch margins.
8. Last Day Course Work Can Be Submitted for Credit:
   Dec. 08 (W) 1:00 p.m.

DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT
If you have a physical, sensory, health, cognitive, or mental health disability that could limit your ability to fully participate in this class, you are encouraged to contact the Disability Specialist Counselor to discuss reasonable accommodations that will help you succeed in this class. Ann Lemke can be reached at 235-7448, HYPERLINK "mailto:lemke@hawaii.edu" lemke@hawaii.edu, or you may stop by Hale ‘Akoakoa 213 for more information. Revised May 10, 2007
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Philosophy 211
Overview

UNIT 1:  •  

Presocratic Thought
Milesians: Problem of the One and the Many
Speculators on: Problem of Appearance and Reality
Atomists
Sophists: First to Raise Questions In Moral, Social, Political Philosophy

Platonic Thought
Doctrine of Forms
Justice
Best Form of Government
Philosopher - King
Classification of Goods
Tripart Psyche
Training of Leaders (Guardians)
Good Life
Exam #1: Sept. 27 (M)

UNIT 2:  •  

Aristotelian Thought
Eudaimonia
Moral Virtue
Doctrine of the Mean
Origin of the State
Classifications of States
Polis
View of Citizenship
Good Life
Rejection of Plato’s Forms
Exam #2: Nov. 01 (M)
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Philosophy 211
Overview

UNIT 3:  •  **Hellenistic Philosophy: Stoicism**
Peace of Mind
Nature of Man
Perfect and Virtuous Man
The Good Life
Fate
Argos Logos
God: Origin of Idea and Nature
Cosmos

•  **Hellenistic Philosophy: Pyrrhonian Scepticism**
Nature of Pyrrhonian Scepticism
Goal of Pyrrhonian Scepticism
How Pyrrhonian Scepticism differs from
   Cyrenaicism, Academic Scepticism, And Dogmatism
Meaning of ‘I Suspend Judgment’
Modes: Influence Suspension of Judgment
Ataraxia
Arguments for Existence of God
Arguments Against Existence of God

Exam #3:  Dec. 13 (M) 11:30 a.m. – 1:20 p.m.

*LAST DAY Course Work Can Be Submitted for Credit:  Dec. 08 (W) 1:00 p.m.*