Philosophy 211: WI- Ancient Philosophy
03
MW: 11:00 - 12:15 (63259)

INSTRUCTOR: Ron Loo
OFFICE: Palanakila 144
OFFICE HOURS: Mon: 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Wed: 4:10 - 5:10 p.m.
Thurs: 12:30 - 1:30 p.m., 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.
(Other times by mutual agreement)
TELEPHONE: 236-9144, rloo@hawaii.edu
EFFECTIVE DATE: Fall 2011

Windward Community College Mission Statement
Windward Community College offers innovative programs in the arts and sciences and opportunities to gain knowledge and understanding of Hawai‘i and its unique heritage. With a special commitment to support the access and educational needs of Native Hawaiians, we provide O‘ahu’s Ko‘olau region and beyond with liberal arts, career and lifelong learning in a supportive and challenging environment — inspiring students to excellence.

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. WCC: DH

ACTIVITITES 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.
Phil. 211 Course Outcomes

WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE HALLMARKS:

1. Writing promotes learning of course content.
2. Writing is considered to be a process in which multiple drafts are encouraged.
3. Writing contributes significantly to each student’s course grade.
4. Students do a substantial amount of writing, a minimum of 4,000 words. Depending on the types of writing appropriate to the discipline, students may write critical essays or reviews, journal entries, lab reports, research reports or reaction papers.
5. To allow for meaningful teacher-student interaction on each student’s writing, the class is restricted to 20 students.

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

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.
Phil. 211 Course Outcomes, 3

COURSE CONTENT:

Concepts or Topics | Skills
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- **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

- **HELENISTIC 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

- **HELENISTIC 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
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 two rough drafts and a final draft for each essay, only the final draft is graded. Late work will be penalized ten (10) points per week for each week that the assignment is late.

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. Late work will be penalized ten (10) points per week for each week that the assignment is late. (NOTE: This assignment will consist of approximately 40 pages of typewritten work.)
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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 (2 per short essay) 18  =  (3 x 06)
   Journal 100  =  (1 X 100)

3. Letter grades will be assigned based on the number of points earned for the course.
   A: 455 - 518
   B: 391 - 454
   C: 327 - 390
   D: 263 - 326
   F: 199 – 262
   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)
   Douglas, M.  Philosophy

2. Required texts:
   Inwood, B. (tr.)  Helenistic 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:
   Regular attendance is expected of all students. Students who are absent often rarely do well in the course. Students who stop attending this class and who do not formally withdraw from the course will receive a failing grade.

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.
OTHER INFORMATION:

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.

7. Rough Drafts (for Short Essays):
   Students are required to conference with the instructor on the two rough drafts for each essay. Your drafts must be double-spaced and incorporate 1 inch margins. They need to reflect clarity of expression, good grammar, logical reasoning, and critical thought.

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. 21 (W)

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: Oct. 31 (M)
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. 14 (W)  11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

*LAST DAY Course Work Can Be Submitted for Credit:  Dec. 07 (W) 12:30 p.m.*