This course is meant to introduce students to the doctrines and arguments of some of the major Greek philosophers of antiquity.

After a brief discussion of the presocratic philosophers and sophists, we begin with an examination of the thought of Socrates (469-399 BCE) as it is presented in some of the early dialogues of Plato (Apology, Crito, Laches, Charmides, Euthyphro). Founder of the most famous of the ancient schools, the Academy, Plato (427-347 BCE) was a follower of Socrates and one of many such followers to write ‘Socratic discourses’ (Sokratikoi logoi), dialogues in which Socrates is portrayed in philosophical conversation with some interlocutor(s). Although some scholars have disputed the claim, it is often held that in his early dialogues Plato gives a reasonably accurate account of what Socrates himself thought. (Scholars are generally agreed, on the other hand, that in later dialogues Plato largely uses the character of Socrates to propound his own arguments and doctrines.) We will be reading these early dialogues, then, with an eye to understanding Socrates’ views, keeping in mind, however, the possibility that they are not, after all, accurate presentations of what the historical Socrates thought.

Scholars commonly distinguish two further periods in Plato’s career of writing dialogues—a middle period and a late period. We shall be reading two dialogues from Plato’s middle period, the Meno and the Phaedo. These two dialogues introduce the reader to some of those doctrines for which Plato is best known—for example, the doctrine of recollection, the doctrine of the soul’s immortality, and the doctrine of Forms. These doctrines are undoubtedly to be attributed to Plato, rather than Socrates, although Plato himself may well have understood some of them, at least, to be natural developments of Socrates’ views.

We will then turn to an examination of some of the arguments and doctrines of Aristotle (384-321 BCE), the most famous of Plato’s students. Although Aristotle, like Plato, wrote dialogues that were extremely popular in antiquity, only fragments of these survive. Most of his extant writings are treatises on particular subjects that were meant for consumption primarily by members of his school, the Lyceum. We shall be reading excerpts from four of these: Categories, Physics, On the Soul (commonly referred to by its Latin title, De Anima), and Nicomachean Ethics.

Required Texts:


**Course Requirements:**

Students will write two 8-10 page papers during the quarter. Their due dates are listed below, in the schedule of readings and assignments. Paper topics will be distributed at least two weeks before the papers are due. There will also be a cumulative final during the regular exam period. (Students will be given short-answer questions to prepare in advance, and a selection of these will appear on the final.) Each paper is worth 30% of a student’s final grade. The exam will count for 25% of a student’s final grade. Participation in class and (especially) section will count for the remaining 15% of a student’s final grade.

**Students with disabilities:**

Students who have a disability which may necessitate an academic accommodation or the use of auxiliary aids and services in a class must initiate the request with the Office of Accessible Education (OAE). The OAE will evaluate the request with required documentation, recommend appropriate accommodations, and prepare a verification letter dated in the current academic term in which the request is being made. Please contact the OAE as soon as possible: timely notice is needed to arrange for appropriate accommodations. The OAE is located at 563 Salvatierra Walk (phone 723-1066; TTY 723-1067). Its web address is:

http://studentaffairs.stanford.edu/oae

**Honor Code & Plagiarism:**

Students are not merely bound by Stanford University’s Honor Code. It is also their responsibility to know what the Honor Code states. Students unfamiliar with the Honor Code should consult the following site:

http://www.stanford.edu/dept/vpsa/judicialaffairs/guiding/honorcode.htm

(Read this page and download the PDF.) Students are also responsible for knowing what constitutes plagiarism. If you are unsure about what counts as plagiarism, ask the instructor.

**For those who want to join the course late:**

A student who has not attended Phil 100 during the first week of the quarter, or who has missed more than the first week of classes, must get permission from the instructor before enrolling in this course. The instructor reserves the right not to admit a prospective student of Phil 100 if he judges that the student has missed too much course material to merit credit for the course.
SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Note: For each of the reading assignments that appear below, you will find a set of reading notes in the “materials” section of Phil 100’s Coursework site. Students are required to read these notes in tandem with the readings, so that, on Thursday, Jan. 6th (for example) students should come to class having read both the Euthyphro and the reading notes on it. The notes are meant to help you with the primary readings.

January:

1. Tues.  6   Introduction: A few words on the Presocratics and the Sophists
2. Thurs. 8   Plato, Euthyphro
3. Tues. 13   Plato, Apology & Crito
4. Thurs. 15  Plato, Laches
5. Tues. 20   Plato, Charmides
6. Thurs. 22  Plato, Meno (to be read in its entirety)
7. Tues. 27   Plato, Meno
8. Thurs. 29  Plato, Phaedo, 57a-84b

February:

9. Tues.  3   Plato, Phaedo, 84c-end
10. Thurs. 5   Finishing up Plato

First paper due, February 6, by 5:00 pm

11. Tues. 10  Aristotle, Categories 1-5
12. Thurs. 12  Aristotle, Physics I.1, 7-8, and Physics II.1-2
13. Tues. 17  Aristotle, On the Soul, I.1, II.1-6
14. Thurs. 19  Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics I.1-10, 13
15. Tues. 24  Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics II.1-7
16. Thurs. 26  Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics III.1-5

March:

17. Tues.  3   Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics VI.1-2, 5, 8, 12-13
18. Thurs.  5   Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics VII.1-3 & VIII.1-3
19. Tues. 10   Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics X.6-9

Second paper due, March 11, by 5:00 pm

20. Thurs. 12  Finishing up Aristotle

Final Exam: TBA