

# Philosophy 3A: History of Ancient Philosophy

## Instructor Information

Dr. Elizabeth Rard  
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Office Hours:  
M 1:00-2:30  
T 10:30-11:30  
W 9:00-10:30  
Th 10:30-11:30  
Or by appointment!

## Course Information

Ancient Philosophy  
PHIL-3A-59389  
Spring 2021

Delivery: 100% Online  
Asynchronous Lectures

## Description

This course introduces students to the history of ancient western philosophy, specifically the writings and ideas of the Pre-Socratics, Plato, Aristotle, and the philosophers of the Hellenistic period. Topics may include the sources and limits of knowledge, the nature of reality, the nature of virtue and right action, and theories of the good life. Readings will include selections drawn from the primary texts of Plato and Aristotle as well as other primary and secondary sources on the ancient philosophers.

## Required Text

There is no required text for this course. All assigned readings will be available from free online sources and will be posted on Canvas.

## Grading

Weekly Posts	12%	(12 @ 1%)
Reading Reports	12%	(2 @ 6%)
Paper Outline	5%	(1 @ 5%)
Argumentative Paper	20%	(1 @ 20%)
Quizzes	12%	(12 @ 1%)
Midterm Exams:	24%	(2 @ 12%)
Final Exam:	15%	(1 @ 15%)

## Final Grade Breakdown:

<u>Percent of total points</u>	<u>Grade</u>
90-100	A
80-89.99	B
70-79.99	C
60-69.99	D
50-59.99	F

## Course Policies

### Course Communication policy

Keeping in contact with your instructor is key to your success in any course. Here is some important information about how we'll keep in touch throughout the semester.

### Where to find everything:

- **Canvas:** All course materials, instructions, assignments, etc. will be posted on Canvas. New course content will be released every Monday between 12:00-1:00. Course content will be organized in weekly modules.

### How you can contact me:

- **Email:** You can contact me by sending an email to me at [elizabeth.rard@reedleycollege.edu](mailto:elizabeth.rard@reedleycollege.edu), or by messaging me through Canvas. When contacting me please include your **full name and class number** in the subject line of your message, and observe professional email etiquette. If emailing me directly please use only your official SCCCD email account. I am available Monday-Friday between the hours of 9am and 5pm and will respond to your email within 24 hours.
- **Office Hours:** During my office hours I am available via either of the above methods. In addition, I will be available through Zoom for live one-on-one video and audio drop in office hours. Please see the **Office Hours Page** of the **Introduction Module** for my up-to-date office hour schedule, and for more information about how to join office hours using Zoom.

### How I will contact you:

- **Class Announcements:** I will post weekly class announcements on Canvas that will include reminders about upcoming assignments, any changes to our plan, or any other important information that I need to share with the class. Students are expected to check class announcements regularly on our course page.
- **Individual Messages:** If I need to get in contact with you specifically I will send a message through the Canvas inbox. Students are expected to check their SCCCD email regularly to monitor for any important communications.

### Attendance and Drop Policy

Students are expected to participate consistently and regularly in all parts of this course throughout the semester.

- **Week One Drop:** During the first week of class students must post an introduction message or video in the **Introduction Discussion**. Any student who does not post by **2 pm on Friday of the first week of class** will be dropped as a no show.
- **Attendance:** Each week students are expected to post to a weekly discussion board, and complete a quiz on the weekly material. Attendance will be recorded based on completion of these two assignments. Failure to complete either will count as an absence (up to **two absences per week**). If a student has **more than four absences** prior to the end of Week 9 they may be **dropped from the class**. Please contact your instructor immediately in case of any emergency situation that results in more than four absences. **During exam weeks** completion of the exam will count as your attendance for the week.

### Late Work Policy

Staying on top of course work is crucial to a smooth and successful semester. The late penalties outlined below are designed to help you stay on track and not fall behind. That being said I realize that sometimes life gets in the way. Always communicate with your instructor (me!) in a timely fashion if events occur that will prevent your timely completion of class assignments.

- **Quizzes and discussion posts:** These assignments are given weekly and are time sensitive. Both will become available at **noon on Monday** of the week they are given, and will close at **2 pm on Monday of the following week**. Once these assignments have closed they cannot be made up. Note: These assignments also count as your attendance for the week. The two lowest scores for each will be dropped.
- **Exams:** Make-up exams will only be given with documented proof of a valid excuse (such as hospitalization). If you know in advance that you will need to miss an exam contact your instructor immediately to discuss your options. Exams will be timed by may be completed any time during the exam week. Midterm exams will be posted at **noon on Monday** and will close at **2 pm on Monday of the following week**. The Final Exam will post on Wednesday of the last week of class, and will be due at **2 pm on the Wednesday of Finals Week**.
- **All other assignments:** All other assignments (such as essays, problem sets, writing assignments etc.) can be submitted past the due date. If an assignment is not **submitted by the deadline** it will receive a 10% penalty. If an assignment is more than **24 hours late** the penalty will increase to 20%. No additional penalties will be added. **No late work will be accepted after Friday at 2:00 pm of Week 17** (the last week of regular class).

## Coursework

### Reading Assignments

Students are expected to complete readings during the week that they are posted. Reading assignments will relate to the class lectures and discussions occurring during the week that they are posted.

## Discussion Board Posts

Students are required to post to a weekly discussion board, and to reply to at least two fellow classmates per week. Specific directions will be provided each week. Students need to make their **initial post** by **2:00 pm on Friday** of the week they are due, and must post **responses** to other students by **2 pm on the following Monday**. Please follow academic etiquette when interacting on discussion boards. It's fine (and even encouraged) to question or disagree with someone's post, but always do so in a way that is respectful and has a goal of fostering communication and intellectual exploration.

## Reading Reports

Students will write two reading reports. Further directions for this assignment will be posted on Canvas

## Argumentative Paper

Students will write one main argumentative paper in which they must demonstrate an understanding of one major issue in the history of philosophy. Students will be required to construct original arguments supporting a thesis that takes a side on the issue, as well as give a critical evaluation of some of the classic arguments surrounding the issue. Further instructions for this assignment will be provided in class or on Canvas. There will be a corresponding outline assignment.

## Quizzes

During non-exam weeks students will be expected to complete short, multiple-choice quizzes. The quizzes will contain approximately 5 questions and you will have 20 minutes to complete the quiz.

## Examinations

There will be **three** exams in this course (two midterms and a final). They will be cumulative but will emphasize the material covered since the last exam. Anything in the readings or discussed in class is fair game for the exams. The exams will be open book/open note and will focus on explanation and analysis of the views we have discussed, rather than just memorization.

## Where to find your grade

Grades will be available on Canvas. Assignment/exam scores will be posted to Canvas.. **IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT TO BRING ANY MISSING/WRONG SCORES TO THE ATTENTION OF THE INSTRUCTOR ASAP.** All problems must be reported to the instructor within 24 hours of the final exam. After that scores will not be changed. Any student with a question about their current grade in the course should feel encouraged to contact the instructor.

## Special Needs Requests

If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (i.e., Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact your instructor as soon as possible.

## Academic Dishonesty

Students at Reedley College are entitled to the best education that the college can make available to them, and they, their instructors, and their fellow students share the responsibility to ensure that this education is honestly attained. Because cheating, plagiarism, and collusion in dishonest activities erode the integrity of the college, each student is expected to exert an entirely honest effort in all academic endeavors. Academic dishonesty in any form is a very serious offense and will incur serious consequences.

### Cheating

Cheating is the act or attempted act of taking an examination or performing an assigned, evaluated task in a fraudulent or deceptive manner, such as having improper access to answers, in an attempt to gain an unearned academic advantage. Cheating may include, but is not limited to, copying from another's work, supplying one's work to another, giving or receiving copies of examinations without an instructor's permission, using or playing notes or devices inappropriate to the conditions of the examination, allowing someone other than the officially enrolled student to represent the student, or failing to disclose research results completely.

### Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a specific form of cheating: the use of another's words or ideas without identifying them as such or giving credit to the source. Plagiarism may include, but is not limited to, failing to provide complete citations and references for all work that draws on the ideas, words, or work of others, failing to identify the contributors to work done in collaboration, submitting duplicate work to be evaluated in different courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors involved, or failing to observe computer security systems and software copyrights.

Incidents of cheating and plagiarism may result in any of a variety of sanctions and penalties, which may range from a failing grade on a particular examination, paper, project, or assignment in question to a failing grade in the course, at the discretion of the instructor and depending on the severity and frequency of the incidents.

## Student Learning Outcomes

*Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:*

1. Apply standards for argument assessment in evaluating the arguments of the great ancient philosophers and the arguments that the students themselves create.
2. Articulate metaphysical, epistemological, and ethical themes in the works of Plato, Aristotle, as well as some representative Pre-Socratic and Hellenistic philosophers.

## Objectives

*In the process of completing this course, students will:*

1. Achieve a familiarity with and appreciation of the philosophic endeavor of the ancient Greek philosophers (i.e., its scope, concerns, purpose, methods, and evolution), the specific endeavors of

a number of well-known philosophers from this time, including Plato and Aristotle, and the relevance of philosophical inquiry to their own lives.

2. Demonstrate that familiarity and appreciation through discussion and writing.
3. Recognize, describe, and distinguish between metaphysical, epistemological, and value-theoretic issues in a variety of texts.
4. Develop skills pertaining to the recognition, clarification, and evaluation of arguments, which they can apply both to the arguments of others and to those of their own making.

## Advisories

### ENGL 1A or ENGL 1AH Reading and Composition

The following course schedule is **tentative**. The amount of time we spend on any given paper/topic will be partly determined by the energy of the discussion and the level of participation. Material will be removed from the schedule to allow for more in depth discussion when required. Any changes to the schedule will be announced in class ahead of time.

Week	Plan
Week 1 1/11 - 1/15	<p><b><u>Content</u></b></p> <p>Introduction to the course</p> <p>What is philosophy</p> <p>Introduction to Presocratic Philosophy</p> <p><b><u>Assignments</u></b></p> <p>Welcome Discussion Post: Due at <b>2 pm</b> on 1/15. Failure to post will result in being dropped as a no-show.</p> <p>Quiz Week 1</p>
Week 2 1/18 -1/22	<p><b><u>Content</u></b></p> <p>The Milesians, Xenophanes</p> <p><b><u>Assignments</u></b></p> <p>Discussion Post Week 2</p> <p>Quiz Week 2</p> <p><b><u>Important Dates:</u></b></p> <p>1/18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Campus Holiday)</p>
Week 3 1/25 – 1/29	<p><b><u>Content</u></b></p> <p>Pythagoras, Heraclitus</p> <p><b><u>Assignments</u></b></p> <p>Discussion Post Week 3</p> <p>Quiz Week 3</p> <p>Reading Report 1 Due 1/29</p>

<p>Week 4 2/1 – 2/5</p>	<p><b><u>Content</u></b> Parmenides, Melissus, and Zeno</p> <p><b><u>Assignments</u></b> Discussion Post Week 4 Quiz Week 4</p>
<p>Week 5 2/8 – 2/12</p>	<p><b><u>Content</u></b> Empedocles, Democritus, Leucippus</p> <p><b><u>Assignments</u></b> Discussion Post Week 5 Quiz Week 5</p> <p><b><u>Important Dates:</u></b> 2/12 Lincoln’s Birthday (Campus Holiday)</p>
<p>Week 6 2/15 – 2/19</p>	<p><b><u>Content</u></b> Exam Review Introduction to Socrates and Plato</p> <p><b><u>Assignments</u></b> <b>MIDTERM:</b> Released at noon on 2/15 Due at <b>2 pm</b> on 2/22</p> <p><b><u>Important Dates:</u></b> 2/15 Washington’s Birthday (Campus Holiday)</p>
<p>Week 7 2/22 – 2/26</p>	<p><b><u>Content</u></b> Socrates: Plato’s Euthyphro</p> <p><b><u>Assignments</u></b> Discussion Post Week 7 Quiz Week 7</p>
<p>Week 8 3/1 – 3/5</p>	<p><b><u>Content</u></b> Socrates: Plato’s Apology &amp; Crito</p> <p><b><u>Assignments</u></b> Discussion Post Week 8 Quiz Week 8 Reading Report 2 Due 3/5</p>
<p>Week 9 3/8 – 3/12</p>	<p><b><u>Content</u></b> Plato: Meno</p>

	<p><b><u>Assignments</u></b></p> <p>Discussion Post Week 9 Quiz Week 9</p> <p><b><u>Important Dates:</u></b></p> <p><b>3/12 Last day to drop a full-term class</b></p>
<p>Week 10 3/15 -3/19</p>	<p><b><u>Content</u></b></p> <p>Plato: Symposium</p> <p><b><u>Assignments</u></b></p> <p>Discussion Post Week 10 Quiz Week 10</p>
<p>Week 11 3/22 – 3/26</p>	<p><b><u>Content</u></b></p> <p>Plato: Republic</p> <p><b><u>Assignments</u></b></p> <p><b>Paper Outline Due 3/26</b></p> <p>Discussion Post Week 11 Quiz Week 11</p> <p><b><u>Important Dates:</u></b></p> <p>3/29-4/2 Spring Recess (Campus Holiday)</p>
<p>Week 12 4/5 – 4/9</p>	<p><b><u>Content</u></b></p> <p>Exam Review Plato: Republic Cont.</p> <p><b><u>Assignments</u></b></p> <p><b>MIDTERM:</b> Released at noon on 4/5 Due at <b>2 pm</b> on 4/12</p>
<p>Week 13 4/12 – 4/16</p>	<p><b><u>Content</u></b></p> <p>Intro to Aristotle Aristotle’s Criticisms of Plato Aristotle: Four Causes</p> <p><b><u>Assignments</u></b></p> <p>Discussion Post Week 13 Quiz Week 13</p>
<p>Week 14 4/19 – 4/23</p>	<p><b><u>Content</u></b></p> <p>Aristotle: Categories</p>

	<p><b><u>Assignments</u></b></p> <p>Discussion Post Week 14 Quiz Week 14</p>
<p>Week 15 4/26 – 4/30</p>	<p><b><u>Content</u></b></p> <p>Aristotle: Categories Cont. Aristotle: Nichomachean Ethics</p> <p><b><u>Assignments</u></b></p> <p>Discussion Post Week 15 Quiz Week 15</p>
<p>Week 16 5/3 – 5/7</p>	<p><b><u>Content</u></b></p> <p>Aristotle: Nichomachean Ethics cont.</p> <p><b><u>Assignments</u></b></p> <p><b>Final Paper Due 5/7 at 2:00 pm</b> Quiz Week 16</p>
<p>Week 17 5/10 – 5/14</p>	<p><b><u>Content</u></b></p> <p>Epicurus Final Exam Review</p> <p><b><u>Assignments</u></b></p> <p>Discussion Post Week 17 <b>All late work due by 2:00 pm on 5/14</b> <b>Final Exam posted by noon on 5/12</b></p>
<p>Week 18 5/17 – 5/21</p>	<p><b><u>Assignments</u></b></p> <p><b>Final Exam is Due by 2:00 pm on 5/19</b></p>