



Framingham

State University

PHIL 201 History of Ancient Philosophy

COURSE INFORMATION:

Semester : May 30, 2022 – July 1, 2022
Credit : 4
Teaching Hours : 50 Hours
Location : Online
Professor : TBA
Email : TBA

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

The study of the development of philosophical thought in the three major traditions within the ancient world. Attention is given to the pre-Socratics and their influence on Plato. Then we will focus on Plato and Aristotle. After this we will examine philosophy as it evolved in the Indian subcontinent: Vedas, Upanisads, the Buddha, Nagasena, Vaisesikas, and the Naiyayikas. Lastly, we will examine philosophy as it developed in China: Mo Tzu, the School of Names, Zhung Tzu, and Lao Tzu.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- Norman Melchert, The Great Conversation, Volume I, Eighth Edition, New York: Oxford University Press, 2019.
- Other resources will be posted on Blackboard

GRADING:

There will be 5 graded assignments in this class. Two exams, two papers, and class participation. A midterm exam is scheduled for June 16 and will cover the work we will have done from the Pre-Socratics through Aristotle. Two papers, (3-5 pages, typewritten, double-spaced) will be due on June 10 (Paper One), and June 24 (Paper Two). Your papers will investigate concepts in the philosophical work of Plato, and India/China. The exact topics for the papers are attached to this syllabus and will be discussed in full as the due date approaches. The final exam June 30 will cover philosophy done inside India and inside China. Graded work will be handed back 96 hours after being submitted.

Mid-term Exam	20%
Paper one	20%
Paper Two	20%
Final Exam	20%
Participation	20%
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Total	100%



WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:

Paper 1: In the *Apology* Socrates tells the jurors that their killing him will harm them more than it will harm him. He also says that "a good man cannot be harmed either in life or in death." Using information from the *Apology* and the lecture notes, explain these striking remarks. Do you agree with Socrates? What criticisms do you have for his speech? (3-5 pages: pre-writing exercise – June 16, paper due – June 18.)

Paper 2: Pick two philosophical traditions (Greek, Indian, or Chinese) and compare the two traditions. What are they looking at? How do they communicate their philosophy (dialogue, poem/sutra, narrative, etc.)? What is similar/different in the questions they ask? What is similar/different in the answers they arrive at? These are JUST examples of what you might look at. Use citations to support your claims. (3-5 pages: pre-writing exercise – June 29, paper due – July 1.)

These are not easy assignments. Good papers will require much thought. Don't leave the work until the last minute. Late papers lose a full grade for each day past the due date. Re-writes will not be accepted past the due date.

EVALUATION FOR WRITTEN WORK

Central idea: The paper will be rated on the degree to which it is focused on a clear and distinct subject. Is the purpose of the paper clear to the reader?

Support: The paper will be rated on the degree to which its generalization (thesis) is supported. Are there adequate details to support each of the paper's points?

Unity: The paper will be rated on the degree to which it proceeds smoothly and logically from point to point. Are transitions between paragraphs clear? Are paragraphs coherent and logical?

Introduction: The paper will be rated on the degree to which the introduction gets the reader's attention and prepares the reader for what is coming. Is there a hook?

Conclusion: The paper will be rated on the degree to which the conclusion draws a paper to a close, summarizes the main points, and reemphasizes the paper's purpose.

Style: The paper will be rated on the degree to which its sentences reflect a variety of syntactic structures and an appropriate usage of vocabulary. Does the word choice reflect a concern for the audience and the purpose of the paper?

Usage: The paper will be rated on its employment of capitalization, spelling, and grammar.

Punctuation: The paper will be rated on its employment of punctuation.



COURSE SCHEDULE:

- 5/30 1st Class: Introduction/Pre-Socratics (Zoom)
5/31 Allegory of the Cave Reading Due (on Blackboard) Blackboard Discussion
6/1 Pre-Socratics Reading Due p. 1-34 in textbook and Blackboard Discussion
6/2 Blackboard Discussion
6/3 Sophists p. 55-74 in textbook Blackboard Discussion
- 6/6 2nd Class: Socrates/Plato (Zoom)
6/7 Socrates Reading Due p. 91-101, Apology p. 116-134 in textbook and Blackboard Discussion
6/8 Paper One Pre Writing Exercise (Blackboard)
6/9 Plato Reading Due p. 148-181 and Blackboard Discussion
6/10 1st Paper Due
- 6/13 3rd Class: Aristotle (Zoom)
6/14 Aristotle Reading Due p. 182-219 and Blackboard Discussion
6/15 Aristotle's Ethics Reading Due (on Blackboard) and Blackboard Discussion
6/16 Midterm Exam
6/17 Optional Zoom Meeting (to discuss texts/assignments) Blackboard Discussion
- 6/20 4th Class: Philosophy in India (Zoom)
6/21 Paper Two Pre Writing Exercise (Blackboard)
6/22 Philosophy in India Reading Due p. 35-53 in textbook and Blackboard Discussion
6/23 Bhagavad Gita Reading Due (on Blackboard) and Blackboard Discussion
6/24 Optional Zoom Meeting (to discuss texts/assignments) 2nd Paper Due
- 6/27 5th Class: Philosophy in China (Zoom)
6/28 Philosophy in China Reading Due p. 75-90 in textbook and Blackboard Discussion
6/29 Philosophy in China Reading Pt. 2 Due p. 220-233 in textbook and Blackboard Discussion
6/30 6th Class: Philosophy Going Forward/Exam Prep. (Zoom)
7/1 Final Exam

Any day that a reading is due is a day you should check the discussions section of Blackboard and answer whatever questions I have posted. I encourage all of you to engage in dialogue with one another during these discussions, and not just with me. You must write at least a paragraph response to get class participation. Your participation here, as well as in the synchronous class (6 in total), will make up your class participation grade (20% of your overall grade.) You should be checking blackboard everyday Monday-Friday. I will post articles, video links, and other material for you to view and comment on. I will post required assignments at 8 pm. EST the day BEFORE the assignments are due. You have 24 hours to post your comments



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for participation credit. Ex. Assignment is due on 6/8 that means it'll be posted on 6/7 at 8pm EST, and you have until 8pm EST 6/8 to complete the assignment.

It is normal to not understand this material, so your comments can certainly take the form of questions as well as thoughts and criticisms. You are expected to read the textbook and pay attention to the questions that the author has embedded in the text. A third to a half of the questions on the midterm exam and the final exam will be made up of questions that come from the questions in the text. The remainder of the questions on these exams will address content that comes from lectures and my posts.

I also encourage you to reach out to me via e-mail if you have questions or comments that you prefer not to share with the entire class. I will also be posting lots of non-required articles, reading suggestions, videos, and other helpful material. Anything I post will be clearly labeled as Required or Optional.

ATTENDANCE:

Understanding the content from the lectures is a critical component to your success in this course. It is important that you are present for the lectures, and I expect each student to make a commitment to be in class and to be on time. If you attend the lecture then you'll get class participation points by participating verbally or via the text feature within Zoom. If you cannot make a lecture, I will be posting them online. If unable to make the lecture make sure you send me a 200 word paper describing the material you read and about the material you heard in the lecture.

CELL PHONES:

All cell phones are to be shut off and put away during class.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS:

For our accreditation, it is essential that all Framingham State University credit courses follow that federal definition of credit hour: for every one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction, a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work is required. Since the summer courses meet for two contact hours daily (10 contact hours of classroom time weekly), the expectation is that students spend 20 hours per week doing out-of-class work. For the five week 4-credit course, this reflects 50 hours of classroom time and 100 hours of out-of-class time since the credit hour is defined as 50 minutes.



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ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:

Integrity is essential to academic life. Consequently, students who enroll at Framingham State University agree to maintain high standards of academic honesty and scholarly practice. You will be responsible for familiarizing yourself with the published policies and procedures regarding academic honesty. Infractions of the policy on academic honesty include, but are not limited to: (1) Plagiarism – Claiming as one’s own work the published or unpublished literal or paraphrased work of another. It should be recognized that plagiarism is not only academically dishonest but also illegal; (2) Cheating on exams, tests, quizzes, assignments, and papers, including the giving or acceptance of these materials and other sources of information without the permission of the instructor; (3) Unauthorized collaboration with other individuals in the preparation of course assignments; (4) Submitting without authorization the same assignment for credit in more than one course; (5) Use of dishonest procedures in computer, laboratory, studio, or field work; (6) Misuse of the university’s technical facilities (computer machinery, laboratories, media equipment, etc.), either maliciously or for personal gain; (7) Falsification of forms used to document the academic record and to conduct the academic business of the university.

ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT:

Framingham State University offers equal opportunities to all qualified students, including those with disabilities and impairments. The University is committed to making reasonable accommodations as are necessary to ensure that its programs and activities do not discriminate, or have the effect of discriminating, on the basis of disability. Academic Support serves students with learning and psychiatric disabilities as well as students with visual, mobility and hearing impairments. For further information about this, please visit the website at <http://www.framingham.edu/center-for-academic-support-and-advising/disability-services/index.html> or contact Ms. LaDonna Bridges, Director of Academic Support/Disability Services, in the Center for Academic Support and Advising (CASA) at 508-626-4906 or lbridges@framingham.edu.

FSU NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION AND DIVERSITY:

Framingham State University is committed to a policy of non-discrimination, equal opportunity, diversity, and affirmative action. The university is dedicated to providing educational, working, and living environments that value the diverse backgrounds of all people. Furthermore, the Massachusetts Civil Rights Act protects the rights of all residents of and visitors to Massachusetts to be free from bias-motivated threats, intimidation, and coercion that interfere with their civil rights. The Massachusetts Civil Rights Act protects the right to attend school, live peacefully, and enjoy other basic rights.