

## ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY:

PHI 254

Professor: Dr. Larry J. Waggle

Section: 1:00 MWF: 209 Turner

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This course is a critical and historical survey of ancient Greek philosophy and its impact on subsequent theories. The course begins with a discussion of pre-philosophical explanations and the origins of western philosophical thought in the ideas of pre-Socratic schools. The philosophical views of Plato and Aristotle are emphasized, given their continuing importance in western thought. The course continues with the ideas of the Stoics and Epicureans, and finishes by discussing the impact of Greek philosophy on medieval Christianity.

This is a short version of my syllabus. The syllabus that will be enforced throughout the semester can be found on my website. There is also a wealth of information on my website concerning grades, email, overrides, etc. During the first week of the semester, you should read the complete version of the syllabus on my website, [www.philosophy.ilstu.edu/ljwaggl](http://www.philosophy.ilstu.edu/ljwaggl). All university policies will be enforced. The following additional policies apply in my classes.

Attendance	You are expected to be in class, prepared to work, every scheduled class period. Excessive absences will dramatically affect your performance in this class. Should you want an absence excused, I will need written documentation from your program (a letter informing me what the activity is and the dates and times you will be unable to attend class) or a letter from the Office of Student Affairs. <b><i>I will not orally waive attendance.</i></b>
Homework	You are expected to have all of the assigned readings done prior to the class period in which we discuss them. Do not fall behind in your readings. You will not be able to take full advantage of the lectures or the discussions if you are not prepared. This includes checking the class website and WebCt for changes to the schedule, additional materials you are expected to utilize, as well as any and all online quizzes.
Student Learning	You are to set aside at least two hours of out of class time for every hour you are in class per week. That means, you are expected to devote no fewer than 6 hours per week to this class.
Class Participation	You are expected to participate in class discussions. 100 points of your overall grade is based on class participation.
Grading Policy	I use a 10% gradation scale for evaluating all of your work. Your grade is

based on the total number of *points* you have earned, not the letters assigned to the work. The online, secure grade book on my website is available 24 hours a day. *Do not rely on the gradebook in WebCt.*

Office hours	Office hours are not replacement class periods. It is impossible to “reteach” extensive portions of this class. If we cannot find a mutual time for an appointment communicate with me via email. Some matters will require office visits and cannot be done by email. It is illegal to discuss grades by email or by phone. Set an appointment with me should you wish to inquire about these matters.
Incompletes	A grade of incomplete may be granted only when justified by extreme circumstances where there is a reasonable expectation of completing the course.
Extra Credit	Should circumstances merit extra credit, you should be prepared to discuss the matter extensively with me in my office. Extra credit is <i>not</i> available after the last two weeks of class. I very rarely offer extra credit.
Late Work	Any assignment, without an extension, and not turned in on time on paper, will receive a zero.
Cellular Phones	Cellular phones, and other such devices, are to be turned off in the class room. Period. Please do not test my patience with this.
Professional Conduct	Success in this course depends on consistent attendance and active participation, both in and out of the class room. Students are expected to attend class regularly, since there is no practical way to make up for missed class discussions, group work, or in-class activities. Coming to class unprepared seriously distracts from the group effort. Mere attendance in class is not enough. Students are expected to prepare for class by completing the assignments prior to class. Active participation includes informed and constructive contributions to classroom discussions, positive contributions to collaborative learning projects, active listening, taking notes, etc. Some of the material and topics we will be discussing may be of a sensitive nature. You are expected to conduct yourself with maturity. Be respectful other’s views and others will be respectful of your’s.

You are expected to use standard English grammar and spelling on all written work for this class. If you need assistance with this, please consult University Center for Learning Assistance (UCLA) at Stevenson 133

The University policies on cheating on exams, plagiarism of written work or disruption of class will be enforced. The penalties range from censure to expulsion. Please familiarize yourself

with these policies. They can be found on pages 7 and 8 of the Student Handbook. I take a dim view on these behaviors. I tend to ask for expulsion when this occurs.

Your degree of success in this class depends on your willingness to explore these topics with an open mind, being respectful of one another's views, and the intensity of work you put into this class. I am committed to your learning and these policies are designed to create a positive learning environment.

Check, prior to class, [www.philosophy.ilstu.edu](http://www.philosophy.ilstu.edu) for information concerning class cancellations.

If you have special needs, please either contact Student Services and/or discuss the matter with me, and bring your special needs documentation with you. Any arrangements for alternative testing must be pre-arranged through me and Student Services. **No Exceptions.**

**Grades:** The work in this class will consist of 4 or so WebCt exams, 4 take home assignments (essays), in class participation and on-going reading assignments. Each of the WebCt exams are weighed differently by points (approximately 100 points or so per exam). These exams will cover specific information gleaned from lecture, lecture notes, and from the readings. These exams cover **factual** information about these philosophers. The take home assignments will consist of several prompts, a portion of which you will choose to write on. These assignments will be both **factual and interpretive** in nature. What I expect with these is to gauge your understanding of the systems and the implications of those systems on specific topics. These take home assignments will be worth 100 points each. Some assignments may be posted on my website, e.g., the take home assignments. If you miss class for any reason and miss an assignment, check there first before asking me about this. **WebCt quizzes cannot be taken after the class period in which we discuss them for any reason.** The purpose of these quizzes is to verify that you are reading the materials and staying current in the class. **If you are absent for any reason, you are expected to take these quizzes prior to the date in which we discuss them in class.** Since these quizzes are online, you do not have to be physically present at ISU in order to take them. Access to any computer with internet capabilities will enable you to access the quizzes. It is your responsibility to check WebCt one day prior to class to verify whether there will be or will not be a quiz. These are announced in class and on WebCt under the quiz link. These quizzes are not listed on the reading assignment sheet.

Class participation - attendance will be worth 100 points. I also reserve the right to issue pop-quizzes should the need arise. Overall total available points this semester is 900. **Group discussion and participation, likewise, cannot be made up if you are absent for any reason.** These discussions are in class activities which require your presence in order to engage in them. If, for some reason, you are not able to attend a particular discussion day, then there frankly is nothing that can be done about this.

**Expectations:** You are expected to read all of the assignments *prior* to the class in which we discuss them. You are expected to take notes in class, and use the notes from my website. Ideally, you would print the online notes, and bring them to class for annotation and addition. You are expected to bring the texts with you to class. Bring the book we are using in accordance

with the reading assignment schedule. You are expected to ask questions. You are expected to work with others, in the unlikely event that you are not in class and need notes. You are expected to help your study partner in the event that she or he requests it. You are expected to take the WebCt exams on the date in which they are assigned. You are expected to turn in on paper the take home assignments when they are due. You are expected to check the class website and the class WebCt site prior to each class. You are expected to check your university email and the WebCt mail. This is the means by which I will make you aware of upcoming events, dates, postings, etc. Should you decide not to check your e-mail or WebCt mail, then the onus is on you. You are expected to try to understand the readings even if you do not get it the first time. Trying and not succeeding is as important as trying and succeeding.

Any and all email communications from and to you are made part of the official record of the class. Please take note of the formatting requests on my website concerning email. You should think of email as regular mail for the purposes of this class. I print and file all emails sent to me by students, and hence this is taken as part of the official class record. Keep this in mind when you email me.

**For Majors and Minors:** Since this class is one of your core courses (one of which you must have a passing grade), I expect that you will take the lead in this class and set an example for the non-majors. What I mean by this is: ask questions, engage in discussions, make connections with this material and other course materials. In a very real sense, this class is for you, so please take the time to get the most out of it that you can. I take a dim view of those majors or minors who do not step up to the plate in this course. Slacking off, missing deadlines, never using office hours, never introducing yourself to the instructor, skipping class are all signs of disrespect. A tremendous amount of time has been invested in this course to make it accessible, interesting, challenging, and content-filled for your benefit. Failure to make use and full advantage of this effort will only limit you in the future.

For returning philosophy majors and minors, as you are aware, we are in exile for the next 18 months in Turner Hall. We all miss Stevenson, and are adjusting to the new surroundings. Some of us have been here all summer and have discovered some of the hidden resources Turner has. Ask us about where the main office is located, where the copy services are, where the pop machine is located, and where the faculty offices are located. For the first time in a long while, most of the faculty are all located in the same building and on the same floor. There are a very few faculty who are not here with us: either because they retired or are located in other buildings. Iris and Donna have worked really hard all summer long to get things up and running for us. Please be patient if they have to find some form you may need. Chances are that those things are still in boxes. You may even discover that you might like some of the features Turner has to offer. I, for one, like the fact that I can step out of my car and practically be in my office.