

Instructor: Thomas Heyd, Ph.D.
Office: Clearihue B 309
Class meetings: 10:30-11:20
Classroom: CLE C112
Office Hours: Tues and Fri 13.40-14.20
Tel.: (250) 853 3767
e-mail: heydt@uvic.ca

Caryatids, supporting the roof of the false south porch of the Erechtheion
(constructed between 421 and 406 BCE) on the Acropolis, Athens

This course introduces central topics of the European philosophical tradition, as first discussed in Ancient Greece and Rome. We explore methods for reflecting on the basic make-up of our world, on what constitutes knowledge, and on the good life. Class discussion centred on course topics is highly encouraged. Students from all faculties are welcome.

- To learn to about the earliest conceptions of our physical world and of ourselves, as developed in Ancient Greece, and how some of those insights may still shape present thinking.
- To acquire an understanding of the first debates on ethics and theory of knowledge, as presented by Plato, Aristotle, their predecessors and those who followed them.
- To sharpen your ability to work with arguments by learning to assess their strengths and weaknesses.

Required text: Reeve, Miller and Gerson (eds.), _____ (Hackett). Highly recommended optional: Catherine Osborne, _____ (OUP, 2004), and Julia Annas _____ (OUP, 2000). Some additional texts, to be downloaded through the website, may be assigned throughout the course. Please be attentive to announcements in class and via e-mail

To facilitate class discussion, assigned weekly readings are to be read _____. Attendance during class periods, constructive participation and tolerance of the views of others are expected. Students are responsible for materials covered if classes are missed and are expected to ask classmates about any announcements while absent. Everyone is encouraged to be self-reflective about his or her own beliefs, and to constructively contribute to class discussion.

1. Do readings do weekly assignments ahead of class periods.
2. Come to class and participate in class discussion with constructive points.
3. Speak to the instructor if failing to understand the material.

1. Participation, including weekly assignments	10%
2. Short paper and group presentation	20%
3. Mid-term test	30%
4. A final take-home exam	40%

Earned by work that indicates minimal command of the course materials and/or minimal participation in class activities that is worthy of course credit toward the degree.

Work that is not worthy of course credit toward the degree.

Interpretation of these grade definitions is up to the discretion of the instructor. If you receive a grade during the course that you believe is unfair, please begin by discussing the matter with the instructor (or TA) in a respectful, open-minded manner. Rest assured that if you still believe the grade you received is unfair you can appeal the matter to the chair of the department. For additional information regarding grades, please see pp. 51-53 of the most recent edition of the .

All evaluations of tests and assignments will be calculated according to . Letter grades and grade

Week 11
12-18 Nov

Tentative readings: Metaphysics and Physics (selected sections TBA), and Epicurus, Lucretius, Greek Stoics