

Fall 2020, University of Victoria  
Department of Philosophy  
Course websites: <https://bright.uvic.ca/d2l/home/65974> (PHIL)  
<https://bright.uvic.ca/d2l/home/65925> (GRS)

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Office hours: Mon-Tue-Wed 3-4pm (or by appt.; sign-up is required)  
Office: CLE B318

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This course surveys the ideas of a group of ancient Greek thinkers who inaugurated a new method of investigating and explaining the natural world. Ranging geographically in the Mediterranean from Turkey to Sicily and historically from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> centuries BCE, they were united by the Greek language and a shared methodology of rationally explaining the world by means of its own inherent natural principles. These thinkers, sometimes misleadingly called 'Presocratics' (some were contemporaries of Socrates), were the first recognizable natural scientists and philosophers in the Western tradition. By originating naturalistic, rational and explanatory accounts of the world, these thinkers shaped the kinds of questions, answers and methods employed in subsequent philosophical and scientific inquiry up to and including the present day. Among the thinkers whose views we will examine are: Thales, Anaximander, Anaximenes, Xenophanes, Parmenides, Zeno, Pythagoras, Heraclitus, Democritus and Leucippus, Anaxagoras, and Empedocles. Our focus will be on their physical and metaphysical views and our goal will be the articulation of a clear and precise account of their views and their methods of argument and inquiry.

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[PB] \_\_\_\_\_, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., ed. by Richard D. McKirahan (Hackett, 2010)

15% per assignment, 3 assignments (total value = 45%)

700 words (per assignment)

Students will be assigned several passages from the text, of which they must pick one and submit their explanation of the passage online. The assignment will be made available 1-2 weeks before the due date.

25%

1500 words

Students will be assigned several essays questions, of which they must pick one and submit an essay on it online. The assignment will be made available 3-4 weeks before the due date.

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A+	9	90-100	An A+, A, or A
A	8	85-89	
A-	7	80-84	

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Academic integrity is intellectual honesty and responsibility for academic work that the student submits, whether individual or group work. It involves commitment to the values of honesty, trust, and responsibility. It is expected that students will respect these ethical values in all activities related to learning, teaching, research, and service. Therefore, plagiarism and other acts against academic integrity are serious academic offences.

Instructors and academic units have the responsibility to ensure that standards of academic honesty are met. By doing so, the institution recognizes students for their hard work and assures them that other students do not have an unfair advantage through cheating on essays, exams, and projects.

Plagiarism sometimes occurs due to a misunderstanding regarding the rules of academic integrity, but it is the responsibility of the student to know them. If the student is unsure about the standards for citations or for referencing sources, the instructor should be consulted. Depending on the severity of the case, penalties include a warning, a failing grade, a record on the student's transcript, or a suspension.

It is the student's responsibility to read and understand the University's policy on academic integrity. For the policy, see the September 2020 edition of the academic calendar (online here: [University of Victoria Statement on Academic Integrity](#)).

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Please note that all assignments for this course and all materials posted to the LMS website are the intellectual property of myself and the University of Victoria. Do not circulate this material or post it to note-sharing sites without the instructor's permission. Posting course materials to note-sharing sites or otherwise circulating course materials without the permission of your instructor violates the Policy on Academic Integrity (link above). Any evidence that you are circulating materials without permission will be referred to the Chair of the Philosophy Department for investigation.

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\_\_\_\_\_, all assignments submitted or the specified due dates will be adjudicated and returned with written comments.

to discuss your concerns with me. If you have a disability or chronic health condition, or think you may have a disability, you may also want to meet with an advisor at the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL). For more information about CAL, see: <https://www.uvic.ca/services/cal/>

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Many, if not most, students experience some difficulties with their mental health during their years as undergraduate students. Make sure you are familiar with the university's (<https://www.uvic.ca/services/counselling/>) which is an excellent resource you have at your disposal on campus. It is hard to shake the stigma associated with problems like depression and anxiety, but if at any point you can benefit from help with mental health issues, please contact

<u>Week 5:</u> Oct 5-11	Readings: [PB] pp. 112-145
<u>Week 7-8:</u> Oct 19-Nov 1	Readings: [PB] pp. 145-173
<u>Week 9:</u> Nov 2-8	Readings: [PB] pp.174-192, 293-303
<u>Week 10:</u> Nov 9-15	Readings: [PB] pp. 193-229
<u>Week 11:</u> Nov 16-22	Readings: [PB] pp. 230-293
<u>Week 12:</u> Nov 23-29	Readings: [PB] pp. 303-342
<u>Week 13:</u> Nov 30-Dec 6	Readings: [PB] pp. 365-404