

**PHL 200Y
2015-2016**

Instructor: L.P. Gerson (lloyd.gerson@utoronto.ca)
Classroom: **LM** 159
Office: JHB 423. 647 992 4880
Office Hours: **M12-1, W12-1** and by appointment
Course website: Blackboard: <https://portal.utoronto.ca/>
Time of Lectures: **MW** 1:00:2:00
Tutorials/Rooms: **F12:** UC 376
 F12: SS 621
 F12: SS 1080
 F1: UC 376
 F1: SS 621
 F1: SS 1080
 F2: UC 376
 F2: SS 621
 F2: SS 1080

Teaching Assistants: adam.dobkin@mail.utoronto.ca
 ian.drummond@mail.utoronto.ca
 danielwalshphilosophy@gmail.com

This course is an introduction to the ancient foundations of Western philosophy. We will begin with an examination of some of the principal themes in Plato's philosophy, including Plato's responses to his teacher Socrates. We will then consider some of the ideas of Plato's predecessors, the so-called Pre-Socratics. In the second term, we begin with the philosophy of Aristotle, Plato's greatest pupil. We then turn to an examination of some of the traditions of post-Aristotelian philosophy, particularly Stoicism, Epicureanism, Skepticism, and Neoplatonism.

The problems and questions that will unify our work are mainly metaphysical and ethical, because these constitute the core of ancient thought. We will examine different views on the nature of reality, human happiness, and knowledge. Our perspective will be primarily historical, but considerable attention will be paid to philosophical problems viewed systematically and practically.

Required text: *Introductory Readings in Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy*. Edited by C.D.C. Reeve and Patrick Miller (Hackett, 2006).

Recommended reading: *The Cambridge Companion to Greek and Roman Philosophy*. Edited by D. Sedley (Cambridge, 2003).

Requirements: two term tests, each 20%; final exam, 40%; tutorial participation, 20%. Make-up term tests are possible only if a written medical certificate is provided.

First Semester

Week 1

Sept.14 Introduction to ancient philosophy
Sept.16 Plato *Euthyphro* (IRAGRP, 52-62)

No Tutorials

Week 2

Sept.21 Plato *Euthyphro* (continued)
Sept.23 Plato *Apology* (IRAGRP, 62-78)

Tutorials #1

Week 3

Sept.28 Plato *Crito* (IRAGRP, 78-85)
Sept.30 Plato *Protagoras* (IRAGRP, 86-91)

Tutorials #2

Week 4

Oct 5 Plato *Symposium* (IRAGRP, 143-152)
Oct.7 Plato *Symposium* (continued)

Tutorials #3

Week 5

Oct.12 **Thanksgiving Day - No Classes**
Oct.14 Plato *Phaedo* (IRAGRP, 112-143)

Tutorials #4

Week 6

Oct.19 Plato *Phaedo* (continued)
Oct.21 Plato *Phaedo* (continued)

Tutorials #5

Week 7

Oct.26 Plato *Phaedo* (continued)
Oct.28 Plato *Republic* (IRAGRP, selections)

Tutorials #6

Week 8

Nov.2 Plato *Republic* (continued)
Nov.4 Plato *Republic* (continued)

Tutorials #7

Week 9

Nov.9 **Fall Break - No Classes**
Nov. 11 Plato *Republic* (continued)

Tutorials #8

Week 10

Nov.16 Plato *Republic* (continued)
Nov.18 Plato *Parmenides* Part 1

Tutorials #9

Week 11

Nov.23 Plato *Parmenides* (cont.)
Nov.25 Plato *Timaeus* (IRAGRP, 238-44)

Tutorials #10

Week 12

Nov.30 Plato *Timaeus* (continued)
Dec 2 **In Class Test**

Tutorials #11

Week 13

Dec.7 Plato's Predecessors (*IRAGRP*, 1-14)
Dec 9 Plato's Predecessors (*IRAGRP*, 14-34)

No Tutorials

Second Semester

Week 1

Jan.11 Aristotle *Physics* (*IRAGRP*, 271-81)
Jan.13 Aristotle *Physics* (continued)

Tutorials #1

Week 2

Jan.18 Aristotle *Physics* (continued)
Jan.20 Aristotle *Categories* (*IRAGRP*, 255-59)

Tutorials #2

Week 3

Jan.25 Aristotle *Categories* (continued)
Jan.27 Aristotle *On Interpretation*
(*IRAGRP*, 259-63)

Tutorials #3

Week 4

Feb.1 Aristotle *On the Soul* (*IRAGRP*, 281-91)
Feb.3 Aristotle *On the Soul* (continued)

Tutorials #4

Week 5

Feb.8 Aristotle *Metaphysics* (*IRAGRP*, 291-309)
Feb.10 Aristotle *Metaphysics* (continued)

Tutorials #5

Week 6

Feb.15 Family Day - No Classes
Feb.15-19 Reading Week

Week # 7

Feb.22 Aristotle *Metaphysics* (continued)
Feb.24 Aristotle *Nicomachean Ethics*
(*IRAGRP*, 310-44)

Tutorial #6

Week 8

Feb.29 Aristotle *Nicomachean Ethics*
(continued)
Mar.2 Aristotle *Nicomachean Ethics*
(continued)

Tutorials #7

Week 9

Mar.7 In Class Test
Mar.9 Epicurus (*IRAGRP*, 357-370)

Tutorials #8

Week 10

Mar.14 Epicurus (continued)
Mar.16 Stoics (*IRAGRP*, 365-75; 444-53)

Tutorials #9

Week 11

Mar.21 Stoics (continued)

Mar.23 Skeptics (*IRAGRP*, 464-79)

Tutorials #10

Week 12

Mar.28 Skeptics (continued)

Mar.30 Neoplatonism (*IRAGRP*, 480-502)

Tutorials #11

Week 13

Mar.31 Neoplatonism (continued)

Apr.4 Neoplatonism (continued)

No Tutorials

Final Examination Faculty Scheduled

