

# THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY

## Course Outline

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Department of Philosophy, History & Politics  
Faculty of Arts

**PHIL 210**  
**Ancient Philosophy**  
**FALL, 2009**

Course Meeting Times: M,W,F 11:30-12:20

Course Location: IB 1007

Instructor: Dr. Geoff Bowe

Phone/Voice Mail: 377-6098

Office: AE 377

E-Mail: [gbowe@tru.ca](mailto:gbowe@tru.ca)

Office Hours: M,W 13:30-15:30

**Required Text:**

*Voices of Ancient Philosophy: An Introductory Reader*. Edited by Julia Annas, Oxford, 2000.

**Description:**

This course is an introduction to some key ideas in Greek Philosophy, a philosophical tradition that spans almost 1000 years. The course is divided into four sections, A. "Fate and Freedom"; B. "Knowledge Belief and Skepticism"; C. "Metaphysical Questions"; and D. "Ethics and Politics". The Sections are indicated in the Schedule of readings. Students are expected to keep up with the readings and lectures. Read before you come and help us think through these texts. It's fun, and you'll get a lot more out of it if you prep it!

I teach this course in one of two ways, chronological or thematic. The chronological version of the course starts with the earliest Greek philosophers and follows a straight time line over the 800 year history of ancient philosophy. This version of the course (the one you are presently sitting in and are about to have happen to you, in you, through you, for you and of you) covers much of the same material, but it focuses on various themes as they were discussed at different times in that 800 year period. In short this version's approach conceives of ancient philosophy as a dialogue of voices across those 800 years, but it is not presented chronologically. This version tends to be more popular, but hey you tell me when we're done ☺

**GRADING:**

Paper 1: 30%

Paper 2: 30%

Final Exam: 40%

**Schedule of Readings:**

PART	STARTS	PGS.	READINGS
<b>A. FATE AND FREEDOM</b>			
I	SEP 9	--	my lovely face and classroom manner – look ☺ <b>*No class Sep 11</b>
II	SEP 14	1-19	<i>Iliad</i> 16, 512-48; Lucian (excerpt); <i>Nichomachean Ethics</i> III,5; Stoics on Fate; Alexander of Aphrodisias, <i>On Fate</i> 22; Stoics on Moral Responsibility; Cicero <i>On Fate</i> 40-3
III	SEP 21	20-34	Attic Nights 7,2, 6-13; Alexander of Aphrodisias, <i>On Fate</i> 11-14; Epicurus <i>On Nature</i> , 34, 26-30; Diogenes of Oenoanda, <i>Epicurean Inscription</i> Frag. 54; Lucretius, <i>On the Nature of Things</i> 2, 251-293
<b>B. KNOWLEDGE, BELIEF AND SKEPTICISM</b>			
IV	SEP 28	34-56	Plato <i>Republic</i> X (Myth of Er); Alcinous, <i>Didaskalikos</i> 26; Alexander of Aphrodisias, <i>On Fate</i> 30-1; Boethius <i>Consolation</i> , 5
V	OCT 5	131-56	Plato: <i>Laches</i> 189d-201c; <i>Meno</i> 80a-86d, 96b-99e; <i>Theaetetus</i> 200d-201c
VI	OCT 12	166-187	Plato <i>Republic</i> selections <b>*No class Oct 12 or Oct 16</b>
	OCT 19	166-187	Plato <i>Republic</i> selections continued <b>*No class Oct 19</b>
VII	OCT 26	187-200	Aristotle: <i>Posterior Analytics</i> I, 1-3, II,19; <i>Metaphysics</i> I,1-3; II,1; <i>Parts of Animals</i> , 1,5
<b>C. METAPHYSICAL QUESTIONS</b>			
VIII	NOV 2	200-224	Epicurus on Knowledge; Stoics on Knowledge; <i>Theaetetus</i> 148c-15d; Sextus Empiricus, <i>Outlines of Pyrrhonism</i> I, 1-30, I,100-117, III, 1-12
IX	NOV 9	227-246	Parmenides of Elea, Frag. 1-8; Zeno of Elea, <i>Arguments Against Motion</i> , Plato: <i>Phaedo</i> 63c-76e, 78c-79a; <i>Symposium</i> 209e-212a; <i>Republic</i> 596a-597e; <i>Parmenides</i> 128e-135c <b>*No Class Nov 11</b>
<b>D. ETHICS AND POLITICS</b>			
X	NOV 16	246-259	Diogenes of Sinope, <i>Lives of the Philosophers</i> , VI, 53; Stoics on Plato's Forms; Aristotle, <i>On Forms</i>
XI	NOV 23	259-280	Hippocratic Writings ( <i>Sacred Disease</i> ); <i>Phaedo</i> 96a-101e; Aristotle: <i>On Coming to be and Passing Away</i> II,9; <i>Physics</i> II, 3, 7-9; Plutarch, <i>Pericles</i> 6; Epicureans against Teleology
XII	NOV 30	297-319, 373-377	Plato: <i>Gorgias</i> 482e-484c; <i>Crito</i> 50a-54e; <i>Republic</i> 358c-360d; Aristotle, <i>Politics</i> I,2, III,9