

PHILOSOPHY 102: HELLENISTIC PHILOSOPHY

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The works of the Cynics, Epicureans, Stoics, and Sceptics have been lost, but their ideas survive in fragments quoted in later authors, and in extant works of Roman writers. We will read biographical accounts in Diogenes Laertius (III C.E.), and fragments of the Greek philosophers of the Hellenistic period from various sources, followed by a detailed study of some ethical and political writings of Cicero (106 - 43 B.C.E) and Seneca (4 B.C.E. - 65 C.E.). The aim of the readings is to get an idea of the range of Hellenistic ethical theories, as well as the different approaches to some more concrete ethical problems, such as the relationship between ethics and physics and logic, the relative value of pleasure and virtue, consolation and the control of emotion, and techniques of obtaining of tranquility and happiness.

OBJECTIVES

1. Learn how to read, interpret, discuss, cite, quote, and paraphrase the fundamental doctrines of the Epicureans, Stoics and Sceptics in English translation.
2. Learn the ways that Greek philosophy was transformed by Roman writers for their own purposes, and to appreciate Cicero and Seneca as literary archetypes for later legal, ethical, and social-political discourse. Appreciate the enduring influence of Hellenistic philosophy on the history of philosophy and science.
3. Conduct original and detailed research on Hellenistic Philosophy in relation to your own interests. Learn to utilize both primary and secondary sources in representing and criticizing philosophical views.

REQUIRED TEXTS

(available at UC San Diego Bookstore-- please obtain in hard copy as soon as possible)

- *Hellenistic Philosophy: introductory readings* / translated with introduction and notes by Brad Inwood and L. P. Gerson. Second edition. Indianapolis, 1997.
- *Cicero: On Moral Ends*. Translated by R. Woolf. Cambridge, 2001.
- *Seneca: Dialogues and Essays*. Translated by J. Davie. Oxford, 2007.
- Supplemental Readings (distributed in PDF on the Canvas website under "Files" or "Modules")

MEETINGS

- Lectures and Discussion: MWF 10-10:50pm at RWAC 0426. (See attendance policy below.)
- Office Hours (Professor): W 11am-12pm at RWAC Building 1 Room 0451, or by appointment.
- Office Hours (Teaching Assistant): TBA.
- Final Exam: M June 10, 8-11am: TBA.

EVALUATION

Up to 100 points can be earned by completing the tasks described below (and in greater detail on the weekly modules and to-do lists).

To insure academic integrity, we reserve the right to orally examine (including during the final exam on the schedule of courses) any student about any written work submitted throughout the quarter, and to revise any grade based on oral explanations for submitted writings.

PARTICIPATION

- Attendance at all meetings is required. For each class meeting missed without a written excuse (from a doctor, coach, etc.), 3 points will be subtracted from the FINAL grade (after the second absence).
- Participation is graded (10 points) according to attendance, preparation (with textbooks ready at hand in class), and contribution to discussions online and in class.

BOOK REVIEW

- Assignment 1: Book Report Outline (5 points). **Due April 12.**
 - Assignment 2: Book Report Draft* (10 points). **Due April 26.**
 - Assignment 4: Book Report Revision* (5 points). **Due May 3.**

RESEARCH PROJECT

- Assignment 3: Research Outline (5 points). **Due April 19.**
 - Assignment 5: Research Essay Complete Draft* (10 points). **Due May 17.**
 - Assignment 6: Research Essay Revised Draft* (15 points). **Due June 7.**

DISCUSSION

- Weekly Discussion Board comments (10 points). **Due Monday 11:59 PDT each week.**
 - Weekly Discussion replies (10 points)*. **Due Tuesday 11:59 PDT each week.**
- Weekly Philosophical School Board comments (10 points). **Due Wednesday 11:59 PDT each week.**
 - Weekly Philosophical School Board replies (10 points)*. **Due Thursday 11:59 PDT each week.**

Assignments marked with an * can only be completed once the previous assignment has been completed (whether or not points are awarded).

GRADING SCHEME

- P or C: >60 points;
- B: >80;
- A: >90 points;
- All + and - modifiers at the discretion of the Professor.
- Note: all grading is done on the basis of accumulated *points*, not percentages earned on assignments.

POLICY ON LATE WORK

- Late contributions to Discussion (including comments and replies) will not be eligible for grade points, but may be taken into consideration for + and - discretionary scores. Extra-credit comments do not have due dates.
- Late submissions of Assignments will be penalized 2.5 points per 24-hour period of lateness. Late submissions may effect eligibility to submit subsequent drafts. Assignments marked with an * can only be completed once the previous assignment has been completed (whether or not for points).
- Assignments 1-5 must be completed in order to pass the course, regardless of accumulated points.