

Ancient & Medieval Philosophy

Christopher Newport University, Spring 2018

MEETING Dr. Chris Tweedt Philosophy 201, sec. 3
INFO 202 McMurrin Hall MWF, 10-10:50
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TEXTBOOK *Introductory Readings in Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy*, 2nd ed. by Reeve & Miller.

OVERVIEW This class is divided into **two sections**: ancient philosophy and medieval philosophy. After I give a brief overview of the history of philosophy, we will discuss western philosophy—both ancient and medieval—and eastern philosophy on three main questions:

1. What kind of thing are we?
2. What is the point of being here?
3. What should we be doing?

This is not just a history class. We will engage the ideas of the thinkers presented, representing their thoughts and arguments, offering objections, and entering into the mindset of these thinkers as best as possible.

SCHEDULE Jan 8-12 **Intro: a brief history of ancient & medieval philosophy**

Ancient Western Philosophy

Jan 15-19 **Presocratics**: arguing for first principles

Parmenides, Zeno (Reeve pp. 15-17, 20-22)

Heraclitus, Sophists (Reeve pp. 9-14, 35)

Apology, the whole thing (Optional!—Reeve pp. 62-78)

Jan 22-26 **Socrates**: what we are, why it matters, what he is after

Phaedo 63e3–84c, 116a–the end (Reeve)

Euthyphro, the whole thing (Reeve pp. 52-61)

Jan 29-Feb 2 **Socrates**: how we can know what we should be doing

Meno 70a–71c, 80d–87c (Reeve)

Theaetetus 151e, 161c–168b, 170c–171e (Reeve)

Feb 5-9 **Socrates**: what we should be doing

Republic, selections (Reeve)

What Socrates will prove: 354c–361d

Forming a city: 368e–369a, 419b

Finding justice in the city: 427d–433e

Finding justice in individuals: 441c–444a

Sun, line, cave: 506c–519a

Constitutions of cities and individuals: 543c–544e

Feb 12-16 **Aristotle**: who we are and what we should be doing

Kinds of explanation: *Metaphysics* 5.2

Change: *Physics* 2.3,7 (Reeve)

Human nature: *De Anima* 2.1-2 (Reeve)

Virtue: *Nicomachean Ethics* I.1-5, 7-10; II, the whole thing (Reeve)

Feb 19-23 **Stoics, Epicureans, Skeptics**: responses to the fatalism argument

Friendship, pleasure, and happiness: *Nicomachean Ethics* XIII.1-4, X.4-5, 6-8 (Reeve)

Stoics

Epictetus: Enchiridion (“Handbook”) 1–21 (Reeve)
Marcus Aurelius: Meditations 2.11,16,17, 4.3, 10.3,11,16 (Reeve)
Epicurus: Letter to Menoecus (Reeve pp. 365-367)
Sextus Empiricus: Outlines of Pyrrhonism I.1-12 (Reeve)

Feb 26-Mar 2 **Summary, Test #1, Review**

Mar 5-9 **Spring Break**

Medieval Western Philosophy

Mar 12-16 **Augustine, Boethius**: Our problems and God as a solution

Augustine

Who we are: City of God XII.25-XIII.1, Confessions II

Why we are here: City of God XIII.8

God’s role: Confessions XIII

Boethius,

Why we are here: Consolation of Philosophy III.1-10

Why good people have bad fortune: Consolation of Philosophy IV.1-5

Mar 19-23 **Anselm, Aquinas**: Thinking and talking about God

Anselm Proslogion chs. 2-3

Aquinas

God’s existence: Summa Theologica I.2.3

Talking about God: Summa Theologica I.13.4

Mar 26-30 **Aquinas**: Created by God, returning to God

Human nature: Summa Theologica I.75.1-3, 6-7

Why we are here: Summa Contra Gentiles III, ch. 2, 3, 25–37

What we should be doing: Summa Theologia I-II.5.5, 19.10, 109.2,5

Eastern Philosophy

Apr 2-6 **Hinduism**

Apr 9-13 **Buddhism, Confucianism**

Apr 16-20 **Confucianism, Review, Test #2**

Rough draft of paper due by Apr. 18, 4 pm

Apr 23 **Final** Final draft due by Apr 23, 7 pm

EVALUATION 100 points **5 unannounced quizzes**

5 questions each quiz, 4 points for each question
Short answer questions covering that day's readings and last class
Given at the beginning of class, picked up 10 minutes later
You can make up a quiz only if you have a really good excuse.
You only have 2 calendar days to make up missed quizzes.
There are no retakes.

200 points **3 tests**

10 questions each test, 10 points for each question
Short answer questions covering that part of the semester
Test dates are on the schedule.

100 points **1 paper**

50 points for the draft, 50 points for the final paper
This is a thesis defense paper with a clear and concise argument.
1000 words at most for each draft
I'll show you how to write this paper in class.
The first draft is graded for its clarity, reasoning, and promise.
The final draft is graded for how well you respond to comments.
I'll comment on your draft within 72 hours of when you email it to me.
You get an automatic 0/100 if you plagiarize or turn in your draft late.
Due dates are on the schedule.

+/- **Participation**

If you participate in class discussion and you're really close to getting a higher grade, I'll give you the higher grade at the end of the term.

GRADING SCALE	400 > A > 369	359 > B+ > 352	319 > C+ > 312	279 > D+ > 272
	368 > A- > 360	351 > B > 329	311 > C > 289	271 > D > 249
	239 > F > 0	328 > B- > 320	288 > C- > 280	248 > D- > 240

OFFICE HOURS	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
	11-12 am	11-12 am	11-12 am
	1-2 pm	1-2 pm	1-2 pm

HONOR CODE By being enrolled in this class, each student is expected to read, understand, and abide by the CNU's honor code. CNU reserves the right to penalize any student whose academic conduct at any time is, in its judgment, detrimental to the University. This conduct includes plagiarism, collusion, cheating, giving or receiving or offering or soliciting information in examinations, or the use of previously prepared material in examinations or quizzes.

Class Policy: You'll receive an automatic F in the course if you share test or quiz questions with other students. The purpose of these tests is to, well, test your knowledge. If you allow other students to prepare, it undermines the testing process. If you discover someone sharing questions and report it to me, you will get free ice cream. Also, I'll report all seeming-plagiarism to CHECS and give you a 0 for the assignment. I won't argue with you whether you did it intentionally. We all know how that will go. You'll argue that you didn't mean to do it, just like people who do it intentionally argue. So I'm not even going to ask. Please be intentional about not doing it.

DISABILITY, ACCOMMODATION In order for a student to receive an accommodation for a disability, that disability must be on record in the Office of Student Affairs, 3rd Floor, David Student Union (DSU). If you believe that you have a disability, please contact Dr. Kevin Hughes, Vice President of Student Affairs (594-7160) to discuss your needs. Dr. Hughes will provide you with the necessary documentation to give to your professors. Students with documented disabilities are required to notify the instructor no later than the first day on which they require an accommodation (the first day of class is recommended), in private, if accommodation is needed. The instructor will provide students with disabilities with all reasonable accommodations, but students are not exempted from fulfilling the normal requirements of the course. Work completed before the student notifies the instructor of his/her disability may be counted toward the final grade at the sole discretion of the instructor.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT The Center for Academic Success (located in Christopher Newport Hall, first floor, room 123) offers free tutoring assistance for Christopher Newport students in several academic areas. Staff in the center offer individual assistance and/or workshops on various study strategies to help you perform your best in your courses. The center also houses the Alice F. Randall Writing Center. Writing consultants can help you at any stage of the writing process, from invention, to development of ideas, to polishing a final draft. The Center is not a proofreading service, but consultants can help you to recognize and find grammar and punctuation errors in your work as well as provide assistance with global tasks. You may visit the Center for Academic Success to request a tutor, meet with a writing consultant, pick up a schedule of workshops, or make an appointment to talk one-on-one with a University Fellow for Student Success. If I become concerned about your course performance, attendance, engagement, or well-being, I will speak with you first. I also may submit a referral through our Captains Care Program. The referral will be received by the Center for Academic Success as well as other departments when appropriate (Counseling Services, Office of Student Engagement). If you are an athlete, the Athletic Academic Support Coordinator will be notified. Someone will contact you to help determine what will help you succeed. Please remember that this is a means for me to support you and help foster your success at Christopher Newport.