

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT. THE OFFICIAL COURSE SYLLABUS WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE FIRST CLASS.

TITLE: EARLY WESTERN PHILOSOPHY**TERM:** Fall 2018 (20189): Sept–Dec**PROFESSOR:** Dr. Pamela J. Reeve**SCHEDULE:** Thursday, 2–4 pm
First class: 13 September 2018**REGISTRATION:** Limited to 20 students**LOCATION:** Muzzo Family Alumni Hall
121 St. Joseph Street, Toronto
Classroom AH 206**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

An introductory survey of Greek and Roman philosophy from the pre-Socratics to neo-Platonism. The course will take a combined historical and thematic approach, focusing on philosophical ideas and problems in the areas of metaphysics (the nature of reality), epistemology (theory of knowledge), human nature (philosophical anthropology), and the purpose of human life individually and collectively (ethics and political philosophy).

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Through the study of primary sources, students will develop a critical understanding of some of the main thought-forms in ancient Greek and Roman philosophy that influenced Christian theology. Skill in analyzing and articulating reasoned views in the above philosophical areas will be developed and demonstrated. Students will be encouraged to consider the relevance of ancient philosophical perspectives to issues and problems in contemporary life.

PREREQUISITES: None**REQUIRED TEXT:** *Introductory Readings in Ancient Greek and Roman Philosophy*, **2nd edition**.

Edited by C.D.C. Reeve and Patrick Lee Miller (Indianapolis, IN: Hackett, 2015). The text is on order at the University of Toronto Bookstore, 214 College Street (416-640-5840). Note that the 2nd edition is required for this course.

Recommended text: Frederick Copleston, SJ. *A History of Philosophy*. Volume 1: *Greece and Rome: From the Pre-Socratics to Plotinus* (New York: Image Doubleday, 1946/1993).**POSSIBLE ASSIGNMENTS/TESTS:**

- 1 analytic essay outline (approx. 1,250 words): 15%
- 1 short essay (approx. 2,500 words): 35%
- 4 short written responses (approx. 750 words) to weekly questions: 10% each = 40% total
- Class participation: 10%

ABRIDGED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Aristotle. *The Complete Works of Aristotle*, 2 vols. Revised Oxford translation. Edited by Jonathan Barnes. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1984.

Cicero, Marcus Tullius. *Selected Works*. Trans. Michael Grant. Harmondsworth, UK: Penguin, 1960.

Graham, Daniel W., ed. & trans. *The Texts of Early Greek Philosophy: The Complete Fragments and Selected Testimonies of the Major Presocratics*. Vols. 1-2. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

Inwood, Brad, ed. *Hellenistic Philosophy: Introductory Readings*. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett Publishing, 1997.

Kenny, Anthony. *Ancient Philosophy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004.

Kirk, G.S., Raven, J.E., and Schofield, M., eds. *The Presocratic Philosophers*, 2nd edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1983

Lindberg, David C. *The Beginnings of Western Science*. 2nd edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007.

Long, A.A. *Hellenistic Philosophy: Stoics, Epicureans, Sceptics*. 2nd ed. London: Duckworth, 1986.

Marcus Aurelius. *Meditations*. Trans. Martin Hammond. London: Penguin Books, 2006.

McKirahan, Richard D. *Philosophy Before Socrates: An Introduction with Texts and Commentary*, 2nd edition. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett, 2010.

Plato. *The Collected Dialogues of Plato*. Edited by Edith Hamilton and Huntington Cairns. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1961.

Plato. *The Republic*. Translated by G.M.A. Grube, revised by C.D. C. Reeve. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett Publishing Company, 1992.

Plotinus. *The Essential Plotinus*. Selected and translated by Elmer J. O'Brien. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett Publishing Company, 1978.

Proclus. *The Elements of Theology*, 2nd ed. Translation, introduction, and commentary by E. R. Dodds. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1963.

Pseudo-Dionysius, the Aeropagite. *Pseudo-Dionysius: The Complete Works*. Trans. Colm Luibheid. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1987.

Sedley, D. N. *The Cambridge Companion to Greek and Roman Philosophy*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2006.

Seneca, Lucius Annaeus. *Letters from a Stoic*. Trans. Robin Campbell. Harmondsworth, UK: Penguin, 1969.

Warren, James and Frisbee Sheffield. *The Routledge Companion to Ancient Philosophy*. New York and London: Routledge/Taylor & Francis Group, 2014.