



蘇州大學
Soochow University

PHL 120 History of Ancient Philosophy

Winter 2024

Course Credits: 4

Contact Hours: 56 hours

Instructor: TBA

Email: TBA

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course provides an overview of significant philosophical developments throughout history. Through analysis of key texts from ancient, early modern, and 19th-century periods, students engage with foundational philosophical ideas. Emphasis is on identifying and analyzing concepts, laying groundwork for specialized courses.

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

1. Introduce students to key episodes in the history of philosophy.
2. Examine three pivotal philosophical texts from ancient, early modern, and 19th-century periods in detail.
3. Encourage students to identify and analyze significant ideas expressed in the selected texts.
4. Establish a foundation of knowledge for students to pursue more specialized philosophy courses.
5. Develop students' skills in researching, planning, and writing well-argued philosophy essays.
6. Facilitate reflection on personal and academic growth, self-assessment of performance, and goal-setting for future development.

PREREQUISITES

N/A

GRADING

Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the



maximum, as follows:

ITEM	POINTS
2 Quizzes	20 Points
2 Short Essays	20 Points
Final Presentation	10 Points
Midterm	20 Points
Final Exam	30 Points
Total	100 Points

Late submissions will be graded at the end of the course. Grades will be assigned according to the following rule:

$A \geq 90 > B \geq 80 > C \geq 70 > D \geq 60 > F$.

We reserve the right to make adjustments to the overall grading policy.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Texts: Bertrand Russell, *A History of Western Philosophy*, Unabridged, Naxos AudioBooks, 2013

Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:

None

COURSE TOPICS

MODULE	TASKS
Module 1	Topics: Topic 1: Introduction to Ancient Philosophy Topic 2: Pre-Socratic Philosophy: The Milesian School Topic 3: Socrates: The Socratic Method and the Examined Life Topic 4: Plato: Theory of Forms and the Allegory of the Cave Assessments: Quiz#1



Module 2	<p>Topics: Topic 5: Aristotle: Ethics, Politics, and Metaphysics Topic 6: Hellenistic Philosophy: Stoicism, Epicureanism, and Skepticism Topic 7: Medieval Philosophy: Augustine and Aquinas Topic 8: Renaissance Philosophy: Humanism and the Rediscovery of Ancient Texts</p> <p>Assessments: Short Essay#1</p>
Module 3	<p>Topics: Topic 9: Early Modern Philosophy: Descartes and Rationalism Topic 10: Empiricism: Locke, Berkeley, and Hume Topic 11: Enlightenment Philosophy: Kant and the Critique of Pure Reason Topic 12: German Idealism: Hegel and the Dialectic Method</p> <p>Assessments: Midterm</p>
Module 4	<p>Topics: Topic 13: Utilitarianism: Bentham and Mill Topic 14: Existentialism: Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, and Sartre Topic 15: Pragmatism: Peirce, James, and Dewey Topic 16: Phenomenology: Husserl and Heidegger</p> <p>Assessments: Quiz#2 Short Essay#2</p>
Module 5	<p>Topics: Topic 17: Analytic Philosophy: Russell and Wittgenstein Topic 18: Post-Structuralism: Foucault and Derrida Topic 19: Feminist Philosophy: Beauvoir and Irigaray Topic 20: Conclusion: Reflecting on the Evolution of Philosophical Thought</p> <p>Assessments: Final Presentation Final Exam</p>

ATTENDANCE

1) Class attendance is required. Missing classes without permission will lead to decrease in overall grade.

Missing less than two classes: no penalty.

Missing more than two classes: 7% will be taken off from the overall grade.

If the instructor reports a student's frequent missing of class to the Soochow University Academic Administration Office, the student might get a written warning



and might be prohibited from attending final exam.

2) Participants in this course are expected to arrive in class promptly and adequately prepared. The primary objective of this course is to critically engage with the readings and the subject matter. Therefore, course participants are expected to have completed the reading prior to class and prepare thoughtful reflections/commentaries to share with fellow colleagues.

LEARNING REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Late assignments are not acceptable and are subjected to grade deductions.
- 2) Assignments submitted in the wrong format will be counted as not submitted.
- 3) Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.
- 4) Make-up for midterm and final exams only with valid excuses, as defined by the University.
- 5) In order to earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must thoughtfully complete all assignments by stated deadlines and earn an average quiz score of 50% or greater.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY

The use of electronic devices in class is distracting, both for the user and for the rest of the class. Only non-programmable calculators can be used in the tests and exam. Any attempts to use cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be seemed as cheating. Laptops are discouraged, unless you use them for activities DIRECTLY related to the course (eg., note taking, reading course documents).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Soochow University highly values the academic integrity and aims to promote the academic fairness, honesty and responsibility. Any academic dishonesty behaviors and any attempts to cheats and plagiarism will be reported to the university administration office. A written warning and the relevant penalties will be imposed. The record might be shown on the official university transcript.



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DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

Soochow University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at Soochow University. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome.

Note:

Please contact the University Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material.