

PHIL 3000-02
History of Ancient Philosophy
University of Colorado Boulder
Fall Semester 2021

M/W/F, 11:30 am – 12:20 pm (HLMS 229)

Instructor: Dr. Tristan J. Rogers, Visiting Assistant Professor

Email: tristan.rogers@colorado.edu

Office Location: Kitt Central N211A

Office Hours: M/W, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm (or by appointment)

Website: <http://www.tristanjrogers.com>

There is renewed interest among the general public in ancient philosophy as a guide to the good life. Books in this genre are as likely to be found in the self-help section of your local bookstore as the philosophy section. This is partly because we tend to think that the question of the best way to live is personal, a matter of subjective preference, rather than of moral, political, or even spiritual significance. Such an assumption would have seemed odd in the ancient world, where giving a plausible account of the good life and the regime in which it flourishes best was understood to be the central task of ethical and political philosophy. In this course, we will study three of the most important works in ancient philosophy. First, we will read Plato's *Republic*, which explores many philosophical topics, including the nature of justice, the philosophy of education, the criteria for knowledge, and whether the virtuous life is also the happy life. Second, we will read Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*, which further investigates the nature of happiness, the moral and intellectual virtues, and friendship. Finally, we will read Cicero's *On Moral Ends*, a dialogical study of Hellenistic ethics from a Roman point of view, covering the major schools of Epicureanism, Stoicism, as well as the later followers of Plato and Aristotle.

Catalogue Description: Surveys developments in metaphysics, ethics, logic, and philosophy of mind from the Pre-Socratics through Hellenistic philosophy, focusing primarily on the arguments of the philosophers. Topics may include: Zeno's paradoxes of time and motion; Democritean atomism; Plato on knowledge, reality, ethics, and politics; Aristotle on logic and natural philosophy; Epicurus on pleasure and friendship; Epicurean atomism; the Stoics on materialism, determinism, and vagueness; and the coherence and practicality of global skepticism. Recommended prerequisite: 6 hours of philosophy coursework.

Required Texts:

Plato, *The Republic*, 3rd ed., trans. Allan Bloom (Basic Books)

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, 3rd ed., trans. Terence Irwin (Hackett)

Cicero, *On Moral Ends*, ed. Julia Annas (Cambridge)

Course Goals:

1. Develop competence in philosophical language and literature in the history of ancient philosophy.
2. Develop written and oral communication skills as those are associated with argumentative writing and public speaking.
3. Develop close-reading and critical thinking skills in the study of ancient philosophical texts.

Assessment:

15% - Weekly Review Questions

40% - Two Short Papers

40% - Final Paper

5% - Participation

Late Work and Attendance Policy: Generally speaking, work will not be accepted late unless merited by the circumstances. You may make a written petition in advance (preferably) if you believe an exception is warranted, and given the circumstances, most reasonable petitions will be granted and alternative arrangements made. Attendance will not be taken for lectures, but attendance and engagement in the course will be informally observed for the purposes of the course participation grade.

University Policy Statements:

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

Both students and faculty are responsible for maintaining an appropriate learning environment in all instructional settings, whether in person, remote or online. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. For more information, see the policies on [classroom behavior](#) and the [Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution policies](#).

REQUIREMENTS FOR COVID-19

As a matter of public health and safety due to the pandemic, all members of the CU Boulder community and all visitors to campus must follow university, department and building requirements and all public health orders in place to reduce the risk of spreading infectious disease. Students who fail to adhere to these requirements will be asked to leave class, and students who do not leave class when asked or who refuse to comply with these requirements will be referred to [Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution](#). For more information, see the policy on [classroom behavior](#) and the [Student Code of Conduct](#). If you require accommodation because a disability prevents you from fulfilling these safety

measures, please follow the steps in the “Accommodation for Disabilities” statement on this syllabus.

As of Aug. 13, 2021, CU Boulder has returned to requiring masks in classrooms and laboratories regardless of vaccination status. This requirement is a temporary precaution during the delta surge to supplement CU Boulder’s COVID-19 vaccine requirement. Exemptions include individuals who cannot medically tolerate a face covering, as well as those who are hearing-impaired or otherwise disabled or who are communicating with someone who is hearing-impaired or otherwise disabled and where the ability to see the mouth is essential to communication. If you qualify for a mask-related accommodation, please follow the steps in the “Accommodation for Disabilities” statement on this syllabus. In addition, vaccinated instructional faculty who are engaged in an indoor instructional activity and are separated by at least 6 feet from the nearest person are exempt from wearing masks if they so choose.

Students who have tested positive for COVID-19, have symptoms of COVID-19, or have had close contact with someone who has tested positive for or had symptoms of COVID-19 must stay home.

ACCOMMODATION FOR DISABILITIES

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the [Disability Services website](#). Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or dsinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) on the Disability Services website.

HONOR CODE

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code academic integrity policy. Violations of the Honor Code may include, but are not limited to: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code (honor@colorado.edu); 303-492-5550). Students found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found on the [Honor Code website](#).

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT, DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT AND/OR RELATED RETALIATION

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering an inclusive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct (harassment, exploitation, and assault), intimate partner violence (dating or domestic violence), stalking, or protected-class discrimination or harassment by or against members of our community. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct or retaliatory actions for reporting a concern should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or email cureport@colorado.edu. Information about OIEC, university policies, [reporting options](#), and the campus resources can be found on the [OIEC website](#).

Please know that faculty and graduate instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when made aware of incidents of sexual misconduct, dating and domestic violence, stalking, discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation, to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about their rights, support resources, and reporting options.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details.

Course Schedule

[all page numbers refer to the text editions specified above]

PART ONE - Plato

Week 1 – *Republic* I

Monday, August 23

Topic: Introduction to the Course, Plato and the *Republic*

Reading: N/A

Wednesday, August 25

Topic: What is Justice? Cephalus and Polemarchus' Traditional Views

Reading: Book I, 327a-336a (pp. 3-13)

Friday, August 27

Topic: Is Justice Profitable? Thrasymachus Argues with Socrates

Reading: Book I, 336b-354c (pp. 13-34)

Week 2 – *Republic II*

Monday, August 30

Topic: Glaucon's Speech and the Ring of Gyges

Reading: Book II, 357a-368c (pp. 35-45)

Wednesday, September 1

Topic: Building the Just City

Reading: Book II, 368d-373a (pp. 45-50)

Friday, September 3

Topic: Growing the City, Educating its Guardians

Reading: Book II, 373b-383c (pp. 50-61)

Week 3 – *Republic III*

Monday, September 6

[Labor Day, NO CLASS]

Wednesday, September 8

Topic: Political Controls on Poetry, The Noble Lie

Reading: Book III, 386a-398b (pp. 63-76)

Friday, September 10

Topic: Education in Music and Gymnastics

Reading: Book III, 398b -417b (pp. 76-96)

Week 4 – *Republic IV & V*

Monday, September 13

Topic: Justice in the City, Justice in the Soul

Reading: Book IV, all (pp. 97-125)

First Short Paper Topics Posted

Wednesday, September 15

Topic: The Equality of Women and the Communal Family

Reading: Book V, 449a-471b (pp. 127-151)

Friday, September 17

Topic: Is the Just City Possible? The Philosopher Kings

Reading: Book V, 471c-480a (pp. 151-161)

Week 5 – *Republic* VII, VIII, IX

Monday, September 20

Topic: The Theory of Forms and The Allegory of the Cave

Reading: Book VII, 514a-521b (pp. 193-200)

Wednesday, September 22

Topic: The Cycle of Imperfect Regimes, Critique of Democracy

Reading: Book VIII, 543a-550d, 557a-562a (pp. 221-227, 235-240)

Friday, September 24

Topic: The Just Soul Triumphs

Reading: Book IX, 571a-580c, 591a-592b (pp. 251-261, 273-275)

First Short Paper Due

PART TWO: Aristotle

Week 6 – *Nicomachean Ethics* I

Monday, September 27

Topic: Introduction to Aristotle and the *Ethics*: What is Happiness?

Reading: Book I, Ch. 1-5 (pp. 1-5)

Wednesday, September 29

Topic: Aristotle's View of Happiness

Reading: Book I, Ch. 6-8 (pp. 5-13)

Friday, October 1

Topic: Puzzles about Happiness

Reading: Book I, Ch. 9-13 (pp. 13-21)

Week 7 – *Nicomachean Ethics* II-III

Monday, October 4

Topic: How to Acquire a Virtuous Character

Reading: Book II, Ch. 1-5 (pp. 21-7)

Wednesday, October 6

Topic: The Doctrine of the Mean

Reading: Book II, Ch. 6-9 (pp. 27-35)

Friday, October 8
Topic: Virtue and Voluntary Choice
Reading: Book III, Ch. 1-5 (pp. 35-47)

Week 8 – *Nicomachean Ethics* III-IV

Monday, October 11
Topic: The Virtues of Character, Temperance and Bravery
Reading: Book III, Ch. 6-12 (pp. 47-57)

Wednesday, October 13
Topic: The Virtues of Character, Generosity and Magnanimity
Reading: Book IV, Ch. 1-4 (pp. 58-71)

Friday, October 15
Topic: The Virtues of Character, Friendliness and Truthfulness
Reading: Book IV, Ch. 5-9 (71-9)

Week 9 – *Nicomachean Ethics* V-VI

Monday, October 18
Topic: Justice: Distribution, Rectification, and Exchange
Reading: Book V, Ch. 1-5 (pp. 79-90)
Second Short Paper Topics Posted

Wednesday, October 20
Topic: Political and Natural Justice
Reading: Book V, Ch. 6-11 (pp. 90-101)

Friday, October 22
Topic: Intellectual Virtue, Practical Wisdom
Reading: Book VI, all (101-17)

Week 10 – *Nicomachean Ethics* VIII, IX, X

Monday, October 25
Topic: What is Friendship?
Reading: Book VIII, Ch. 1-6 (pp. 141-9)

Wednesday, October 27
Topic: Are Friends Necessary for Happiness?

Reading: Book IX, Ch. 9-12 (pp. 175-81)

Friday, October 29

Topic: Moral Education and Politics

Reading: Book X, Ch. 9 (pp. 198-203)

Second Short Paper Due

PART THREE: Cicero

Week 11 – *On Moral Ends*, Book I

Monday, November 1

Topic: Introduction to Cicero and *On Moral Ends*: the Question of the Highest Good

Reading: Book I, Sec. 1-12 (pp. 3-8)

Wednesday, November 3

Topic: Epicureanism

Reading: Book I, Sec. 13-36 (pp. 8-15)

Friday, November 5

Topic: Epicurus on Pleasure, Desire, and Friendship

Reading: Book I, Sec. 37-70 (pp. 15-25)

Week 12 - *On Moral Ends*, Book II

Monday, November 8

Topic: Critique of Epicureanism

Reading: Book II, Sec. 1-40 (pp. 26-40)

Wednesday, November 10

Topic: The Morality of Pleasure

Reading: Book II, Sec. 41-77 (pp. 40-52)

Friday, November 12

Topic: Happiness and the Evils of Pain

Reading: Book II, Sec. 78-119 (pp. 52-64)

Week 13 - *On Moral Ends*, Book III

Monday, November 15

Topic: Stoicism

Reading: Book III, Sec. 1-27 (pp. 65-74)

Wednesday, November 17

Topic: Stoic Happiness

Reading: Book III, Sec. 28-61 (pp. 74-84)

Friday, November 19

Topic: *Oikeiosis* and the Good of Others

Reading: Book III, Sec. 62-76 (pp. 84-89)

November 22-26

[FALL BREAK]

Week 14 - *On Moral Ends*, Book IV

Monday, November 29

Topic: Stoicism and Its Predecessors

Reading: Book IV, Sec. 1-13 (pp. 90-95)

Final Paper Topics Posted

Wednesday, December 1

Topic: Critique of the Supreme Good

Reading: Book IV, Sec. 14-43 (pp. 95-104)

Friday, December 3

Topic: Critique of Stoic Happiness

Reading: Book IV, Sec. 44-80 (pp. 104-116)

Week 15 - *On Moral Ends*, Book V

Monday, December 6

Topic: The Peripatetics & Carneades' Classification of Ethical Theories

Reading: Book V, Sec. 1-60 (pp. 117-138)

Wednesday, December 8

Topic: Antiochus' Reconciliation of Greek Ethics

Reading: Book V, Sec. 61-96 (pp. 138-150)

Wednesday, December 15

Final Paper Due