

**PHIL 310**  
**FROM SOCRATES TO AQUINAS**  
**Fall 2022**

**Instructor:** Brennan McDavid  
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**Office:** Wilkinson 207  
**Office Hours:**

**General Information**

**Meeting room**     Wilkinson Hall 220

**Meeting times**     Monday and Wednesday, 9:30am – 10:45am

**Required Texts**

- Aristotle. *Nicomachean Ethics*. Trans. C.D.C. Reeve. Hackett, 2014.
- Augustine. *Confessions*. Trans F.D. Sheed and ed. Michael Foley. Hackett, 2007.
- Plato. *Plato: Complete Works*. Eds. John Cooper and D.S. Hutchinson. Hackett, 1997.

**Overview**

This course is an introduction to ancient and medieval philosophy. We will consider methods, important philosophical positions, and the interactions of ideas that shaped these two periods. Plato and Aristotle are the focus of the class, but we will begin with some pre-Socratics and end with late antique (Augustine) and high middle ages (Aquinas) responses to Plato and Aristotle.

**Philosophy Program Learning Outcomes**

- Ability to state and support a thesis, apply knowledge of critical reasoning, accurately interpret philosophic sources, and clearly communicate a balanced account in writing.
- Ability to construct and analyze complex arguments, and distinguish good reasoning from bad.

- Ability to demonstrate a deep understanding of central figures, texts, and ideas from the Modern or Ancient and Medieval periods of the history of philosophy.

### General Education Learning Outcomes

- Employs theories of how people frame and analyze social and/or historical phenomena.
- Articulates how values and ethics inform human understanding, structures, and behavior

### Evaluation

	<u>Letter Grade Numerical Scale</u>	
Class Participation (30%)	A	94-100
Mid-semester examination 1 (20%)	A-	90-93
Mid-semester examination 2 (20%)	B+	87-89
Final examination (30%)	B	84-86
	B-	80-83
	C+	77-79
	C	74-76
	C-	70-73
	D	60-69
	F	0-59

- **Class Participation (30%)**

The model of class participation in this course is probably different from what you are used to... You will be responsible for making substantial contributions to classroom discussion 3 times during the semester. Each of these instances comprises two components:

1. A 250 word (maximum) write-up delving into an aspect of the day's text that interests you. This write-up must explicitly engage directly with the text itself, meaning that you should cite the text. These write-ups are to be submitted no later than 11:59pm on the night before the class to which they pertain (e.g. if you are writing for a class on September 17, you should submit no later than 11:59pm on September 16).
2. Preparedness for being called-on during the given class session to discuss the text and, in particular, the aspect that was the focus of your write-up.

If you do not meet one or both of these expectations on your contribution days, then your class participation grade will reflect this.

- **Examinations (70% total)**

The two mid-semester examinations and the final examination all have the same basic format: they are take-home exams that you will have seven days (one full week) to complete. Each comprises a set of questions pertaining to the material covered during the period of the semester leading up to the exam, but not overlapping with material

covered by a previous exam. Answering the exam questions requires working with the primary texts in the class in order to find argumentative support and textual evidence (i.e. passages you can cite!) that strengthen your answers.

- o **Mid-semester examination 1 (20%):** covers material from Weeks 1 – 5 of the course. There will be four questions on this exam, with word counts provided to set the maximum number of words you can use for answering each question. The total word count will be 1,500 words. The examination will be made available on Blackboard on Friday 1 October and will be due Friday 8 October by 11:59pm.
- o **Mid-semester examination 2 (20%):** covers material from Weeks 6 – 10 of the course. There will be four questions on this exam, with word counts established the same as with the first mid-semester exam, also totaling 1,500 words. The examination will be made available on Blackboard on Friday 5 November and will be due Friday 12 November by 11:59pm.
- o **Final examination (30%):** covers material from Weeks 11 – 14 of the course. There will be only two questions on this exam with the word count totaling 1,000 words. The examination will be made available on Blackboard on Friday 10 December and will be due Friday 17 December by 11:59pm.

**Submission of examinations:** Examinations are to be submitted in electronic form using Canvas. I do not have any preferences regarding formatting of your examination or even the citation style that you opt to use, but only PDF and Word files will be accepted.

## **Students with Disabilities**

Disability Services serves as the clearing house for all requested accommodations. It is the responsibility of the student requesting accommodations to make these needs known in a timely fashion and to provide proper documentation and medical evaluations as required ([www.chapman.edu/disabilities](http://www.chapman.edu/disabilities)). Summaries and references to these policies are provided in the University's application and admissions materials and its student handbook. Individuals can also obtain information about these policies, services, documentation requirements, etc. from Disability Services at (714) 516-4520. It is recommended that the student provide these materials prior to the beginning of the academic year or semester so that the University may better serve the student's needs and the student may avoid any irreversible academic consequences. Once notification has been made the University will engage in an interactive process in order to identify our obligation to provide reasonable accommodations. Services provided will be based on the individual needs of the student and may include extended test time, notetakers, etc. **The granting of any accommodation will not be retroactive and cannot jeopardize the academic standards or integrity of the course.**

## **Chapman University Academic Integrity Policy**

Chapman University is a community of scholars that emphasizes the mutual responsibility of all members to seek knowledge honestly and in good faith. Students are responsible for doing their own work, and academic dishonesty of any kind will be subject to sanction by the instructor/administrator and referral to the University's Academic Integrity Committee, which may impose additional sanctions up to and including expulsion. Please see the full description of Chapman University's policy on Academic Integrity at [www.chapman.edu/academics/academic-integrity](http://www.chapman.edu/academics/academic-integrity).

## **Equity and Diversity**

Chapman University is committed to providing an environment which is free from any form of harassment and discrimination based upon an individual's race, color, religion, sex, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, national origin, ancestry, citizenship status, age, marital status, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, sexual orientation, military or veteran status, genetic information or any other characteristic protected by applicable state or federal law, so that all members of the community are treated at all times with dignity and respect. It is the University's policy, therefore, to prohibit all forms of such harassment or discrimination among University faculty, students, staff, and administrators.

View a copy of the entire policy at ([Harassment and Discrimination, https://www.chapman.edu/faculty-staff/human-resources/files/harassment-and-discrimination-policy.pdf](https://www.chapman.edu/faculty-staff/human-resources/files/harassment-and-discrimination-policy.pdf)) In keeping with its policies, Chapman University not only fully complies with all local, state, and federal laws concerning harassment and discrimination, but also provided a means to assure fair treatment to any student, employee or member of the University community who believes the policy prohibiting harassment, and discrimination has been violated. For further information, concerning Chapman University's Harassment and Discrimination Policy ([Harassment and Discrimination, https://www.chapman.edu/faculty-staff/human-resources/files/harassment-and-discrimination-policy.pdf](https://www.chapman.edu/faculty-staff/human-resources/files/harassment-and-discrimination-policy.pdf)), please contact the University's Equal Opportunity and Diversity Officer at (714) 997-6847.

## **Syllabus**

### **Week 1 – Introduction to Ancient Greece**

29 August – Selections from Hesiod (distributed in class)

31 August – Barnes on Thales (under “Readings” on Canvas)

### **Week 2 – Early Natural Philosophy**

5 September – No class Barnes on Anaximander and Anaximenes (under “Readings” on Canvas)

7 September – Barnes on Anaximander and Anaximenes (under “Readings” on Canvas)

### **Week 3 – Parmenides**

12 September – Part 1 of Parmenides’ *On Nature* (under “Readings” on Canvas)

14 September – Part 2 of Parmenides’ *On Nature* (under “Readings” on Canvas)

### **Week 4 – The Socratic Method**

19 September – Plato’s *Apology*

21 September – Plato’s *Euthyphro*

### **Week 5 – What is Virtue?**

26 September – Part 1 of Plato’s *Meno* (up to 80d)

28 September – Part 2 of Plato’s *Meno* (from 80d)

### **Week 6 – What is Justice?**

3 October – Book 1 of Plato’s *Republic*

5 October – Book 2 of Plato’s *Republic*

**\*\*\*\*Mid-Semester Examination 1 due Friday 7 October by 11:59PM\*\*\*\***

### **Week 7 – Plato’s Tripartite Soul**

10 October – Book 4 of Plato’s *Republic*

12 October – Book 4 of Plato’s *Republic*

### **Week 8 – Platonic Theory of the Forms**

17 October – Book 5 of Plato’s *Republic*

19 October – Books 6 and 7 of Plato’s *Republic*

### **Week 9 – Aristotle’s Greatest Good**

24 October – Book 1, chapters 1 – 6 of Aristotle’s *Nicomachean Ethics*

26 October – Book 1, chapters 7 – 13 of Aristotle’s *Nicomachean Ethics*

**Week 10 – Aristotle’s theory of Character Virtue**

31 October – *NE* 2.1 – 4

2 November – *NE* 2.5 – 8

**Week 11 – Choosing and Doing Good**

7 November – *NE* 3.1 – 4

9 November – *NE* 10

**\*\*\*\*Mid-Semester Examination 2 due Friday 11 November by 11:59PM\*\*\*\***

**Week 12 – Augustine**

14 November – Book 1 of *Confessions*

16 November – Book 2 of *Confessions*

**Week 13 – Christian Metaphysics**

28 November – Book 7 of *Confessions*

30 November – Aquinas’ *Five Ways* (under “Readings” on Canvas)

**Week 14 – Aquinas**

5 December – Question 5 (Goodness), Articles 1 – 3 of Aquinas’ *Summa Theologica*

7 December – Question 5 (Goodness), Articles 4 – 6 of Aquinas’ *Summa Theologica*

**\*\*\*\*Final Examination due Friday 16 December by 11:59PM\*\*\*\***