

**History of Western Philosophy: Ancient
PHIL 301-DL1
Fall 2023**

Tuesdays and Thursdays 3:00pm—4:15 pm ET
[Online Live Video Session](#)

Instructor: Nino Aduashvili, M.A. Philosophy, Phd Candidate

Email: naduashv@gmu.edu

Office Hours: remote office hours via appointment. Please contact me through email to schedule a meeting.

Course Description:

The course will introduce the students to ancient philosophy through the close study of selected works of “pre-socratic” philosophers, Plato and Aristotle. Together we will read, discuss, and write about the fundamental questions and ideas raised by these thinkers. The aim of this course is threefold: (1) to foster and discover a love of wisdom, (2) to uncover the great books, and (3) to foster a care for words and facility in employing them in the activities of reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

Course Objectives:

In this course the students will:

- Read and examine the original writings of ancient Greek philosophers
- Motivate genuine philosophic questions that are fundamental to all human beings
- Begin to articulate various responses to those questions in speech and in writing
- Identify strengths and weaknesses in different opinions
- Practice suspending their opinions while actively and seriously considering other views and claims

Required Materials

- 1) Plato. Five Dialogues: Euthyphro, Apology, Crito, Meno, Phaedo. 2nd edition.
Translated by G.M.A. Grube, Revised by John M. Cooper. Indianapolis: Hackett, 2002
ISBN-10: 0872206335
ISBN-13: 978-0872206335
- 2) The Basic Works of Aristotle. Edited by Richard McKeon. New York: Modern Library, 2001.
ISBN-10: 0375757996
ISBN-13: 978-0375757990
- 3) The course materials accessible on the course Blackboard site

Assignments, Grading and Course Expectations

Participation 15%

- a) *Come to each class on time and prepared* by reading all assigned works closely. Have the assigned reading and your notes in front of you (I strongly recommend that you have physical copies of the assigned reading and your notes)
- b) *Contribute regularly* to class discussion, listen carefully and build on ideas of others, work to engage others in discussion.
- c) Demonstrate respect for others and class etiquette: show interest in and respect for the views of others; acknowledge the contributions of others; have camera on, sit upright and in a professional manner during class (professional etiquette).

Reading Notes 25%

- a) You will turn in one typed page of notes on the reading for that day on the Blackboard by 3:00 pm before each class begins.
- b) The notes must be on the reading assigned for that day. Plagiarized work will receive a failing grade on the assignment and will result in a referral to the Honor Council.
- c) Notes will not be accepted late. The purpose of the notes is to present written evidence of your private grappling with the assigned text before the class.

Plato Presentation 10%

You will sign up for the Plato presentation on the first day of the class. I will provide detailed instructions and rubrics for the presentations. There is no make up for presentations. In cases of documented emergency we will agree on alternatives and a completion date.

Plato Paper 15% (Due October 12, 2023)

I will provide detailed instructions and rubrics for the paper and go over them in class.

Aristotle Presentation 15%

You will sign up for the Aristotle presentation on the first day of the class. I will provide detailed instructions and rubrics for the presentations. There is no make up for presentations. In cases of documented emergency we will agree on alternatives and a completion date.

Aristotle Paper 20% (Due Nov 30, 2023)

I will provide detailed instructions and rubrics for the paper and go over them in class.

Communication:

If I need to contact you, I will do so through your GMU email account. If you have a question or concern about anything, you can either ask me in class, email me, or make an appointment to meet. I will try to respond to emails within 48 hours except for weekends or holidays. This means you need to plan ahead - please do not leave questions about assignments or readings until the last minute!

Course Schedule and Bibliography

1	Aug 22,24	Introduction	Presocratics Hesiod, Parmenides, Heraclitus
2	Aug 29,31	Gorgias 447a-468e	Protagoras 309a-320e, 328e-338e
3	Sept 5,7	Meno 70a-86d	Meno 86d-100b
4	Sept 12,14	Republic I 327a-354c	Republic VII 514a-534c
5	Sept 19,21	Symposium 198b-212c	Phaedrus 227a-243e 243e-257b
6	Sept 26,28	Theaetetus 142a-151d	Apology
7	Oct 3,5	Crito	Phaedo 57a-77e
8	Oct 10,12	No Class, Monday Classes Meet	Phaedo 77e-91c, 96a-100a, 114d-118a Plato Paper Due
9	Oct 17,19	Parts of Animals: I.1,5; II.1 Generation of Animals: I.1, 21-23	On the Soul I.1; II.1-5, 12 III 3-5, 7-10
10	Oct 24,26	Physics I.1,7; II. 1-3, 4-7; III. 1-3	Physics IV.10-14, VIII.1, 3-6
11	Oct 31, Nov 2	Metaphysics I.1-2; II. 1-3, III. 1-2	Metaphysics VI; IX 1-2, 6-9
12	Nov 7,9	Metaphysics XI.1; XII.1-9	Ethics I.1,7; II. 1-6
13	Nov 14,16	Ethics III	Ethics VIII. 1-3, 8; IX.9; X. 6-7
14	Nov 21,23	Politics I. 1-2, III. 1-9	Thanksgiving Break
15	Nov 28-30	Politics III. 11-12	Politics VIII. 3,5 Aristotle Paper Due

Blackboard Login Instructions

Access to [MyMason](#) and GMU email are required to participate successfully in this course. Please make sure to update your computer and prepare yourself to begin using the online format BEFORE the first day of class. Check [the IT Support Center](#) website. Navigate to [the Student Support page](#) for help and information about Blackboard. In the menu bar to the left you will find all the tools you need to become familiar with for this course. Take time to learn each. Make sure you run a system check a few days before class. Become familiar with the attributes of Blackboard and online learning.

Technical Help

If you have difficulty with accessing Blackboard, please contact the ITU Support Center at 703.993.8870 or support@gmu.edu

If you have trouble with using the features in Blackboard, email courses@gmu.edu

MasonLive/Email

Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account. [See <http://masonlive.gmu.edu/>].

Responsible Use of Computing

Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing. [See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible--use--of--computing/>].

Writing Center

The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing. [See <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu>]. You can now sign up for an Online Writing Lab (OWL) session just like you sign up for a face-to-face session in the Writing Center, which means YOU set the date and time of the appointment! Learn more about the [Online Writing Lab \(OWL\)](#). See (<http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/tutoring/email--tutoring>)

Counseling and Psychological Services

The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance [See <http://caps.gmu.edu>].

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), also known as the "Buckley Amendment," is a federal law that gives protection to student educational records and provides students with certain rights. [See <http://registrar.gmu.edu/privacy>].

Diversity/Religious Holidays

If there are any issues related to religious holidays, please inform the instructor the first week of class. See also <http://catalog.gmu.edu/content.php?catoid=5&navoid=104>

Diversity/Inclusion Statement

GMU strives to promote and maintain an equitable and just work and learning environment for individuals of all races, economic statuses, gender expressions and identities, sex, sexual orientations, ethnicities, national origins, first languages, religions, age, and ability status.

Notice of mandatory reporting of sexual assault, sexual harassment, interpersonal violence, and stalking:

As a faculty member, I am designated as a “Non-Confidential Employee,” and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, sexual harassment, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason’s Title IX Coordinator per University Policy 1202. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact one of Mason’s confidential resources, such as Student Support and Advocacy Center (SSAC) at 703-993-3686 or Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at 703-993-2380. You may also seek assistance or support measures from Mason’s Title IX Coordinator by calling 703-993-8730, or emailing titleix@gmu.edu.

Anti-Racism Statement

As a member of the George Mason University community, I will work to create an educational environment that is committed to anti-racism and inclusive excellence. An anti-racist approach to higher education acknowledges the ways that individual, interpersonal, institutional, and structural manifestations of racism against Black individuals, indigenous people, and other people of color contribute to inequality and injustice in our classrooms, on our campuses, and in our communities. Anti-racist work strives to provide our community members with resources to interrupt cycles of racism so as to cultivate a more equitable, inclusive, and just environment for all of our students, staff, faculty, alumni, and friends, regardless of racial background. I believe that the work of anti-racism starts with each individual; together students and faculty in this course will build knowledge and take actions rooted in principles of equity, inclusion, and justice that we will carry with us throughout our lives.

Academic Integrity

Students must be responsible for their own work, and students and faculty must take on the responsibility of dealing explicitly with violations. The tenet must be a foundation of our university culture. [See <http://oai.gmu.edu/>].

Honor Code

Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See <https://oai.gmu.edu/full-honor-code-document/>]. Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.

Accommodations

Disability Services implements and coordinates reasonable accommodations and disability-related services that afford equal access to university programs and activities. If you are seeking accommodations, please visit <http://ds.gmu.edu/> for detailed information about the Disability Services registration process.

The instructor reserves the right to revise this syllabus as required.