

This instructor is SACS qualified to teach this course regularly at his/her TBR Institution

This syllabus was approved by TnCIS and TBR for Summer 2009

Summer Program in Greece: Philosophy in the Ancient World

Syllabus:

PHIL 1030: Introduction to Philosophy

May 11-30, 2010

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Course Description:

PHIL 1030 is an investigation of the fundamental questions pertaining to reality, truth, freedom, the nature of humankind, the existence of God and social/political theory.

Course Goals:

Students (who have traveled to the birthplace of western philosophy) will (also) be able to:

1. demonstrate a basic understanding of philosophy;
2. demonstrate a basic understanding of the various branches of philosophy;
3. demonstrate knowledge of the lives of a number of the most famous western philosophers;
4. demonstrate some understanding of the questions/problems that have occupied philosophers during the last twenty-five centuries;
5. demonstrate an enhanced ability to think critically about these philosophical questions/problems;
6. demonstrate an enhanced ability to think critically about various other philosophical issues;
7. demonstrate an enhanced ability to articulate ideas about philosophical issues in general;
8. and demonstrate an understanding of the virtues inherent in a life driven by a genuine "love of wisdom."

Text & Other Required Materials:

Note: The required text & articles will be given to you after we arrive in Greece.

Plato (1992). *The Trial and Death of Socrates*. Dover Publications, Inc. New York.

Additional Articles (selected from Penguin Custom Editions: *The Western World: Core Readings in Phil 1030: Pellissippi State Technical Community College*):

- “The Simile of the Cave” by Plato
- “On the Existence of God” by David Hume
- “Why God Allows Evil” by Richard Swinburne
- “Where am I?” by Daniel Dennett
- “Existentialism is a Humanism” by J-P Sartre
- “Law, Happiness, and the Ideal State” by Aristotle
- “The Myth of Sisyphus” by Albert Camus
- “The Value of Philosophy” by Bertrand Russell

Evaluation:

The course grade will be an average of three grades.

1. Being a “good traveler” and an active participant on all required field trips.
2. A mid-term essay exam (covering Socrates/Plato)
3. A final essay exam (covering six of the seven supplementary articles)

Week	Topic
1	Philosophy & the Pre-Socratic Philosophers Socrates
2	The Philosophy of Plato David Hume, Richard Swinburne, Daniel Dennett J.P. Sartre
3	Aristotle, Albert Camus, Bertrand Russell

E. Grading Scale:

92-100	= A
89-91	= B+
82-88	= B
79-81	= C+
72-78	= C

65-71 = D
Below 65 F

Academic Dishonesty:

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. (My hope of course is that this could “go without saying.” After all, we are going to travel all of the way to Greece before we even begin this Introduction to Philosophy!)

Accommodations:

A. Attendance Policy:

Attendance is of utmost importance in study abroad courses. There are no unexcused absences permitted. Unexcused absences are grounds for removal from the program. Being in class on time is also very important. Frequent tardiness will be considered an absence and appropriate action will be taken. Absences due to illness must be reported immediately to the program director.

This class will consist of 24 formal classroom hours and an additional 15 hours of instructional time while on required program excursions for a total of 39 hours.

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Note:

It is almost certain (given the reality of international travel) that this schedule will change somewhat

Day 1– Fly to Athens, Greece

Tolon

Day 2– Arrive in Athens & Travel to Tolon

Day 3– Class at Hotel (Topic: Greek Gods & Heroes and the Birth of Democracy & Philosophy)

Day 4– Travel Day: Mycaena & Epidaurus

Day 5– Class at Hotel (Topic: Philosophy & the Pre-Socratic Philosophers)

Day 6– Class at Hotel (Topic: Socrates)

Day 7– Travel Day: Visit Olympia

Day 8– Class at Hotel (Topic: Socrates & Plato Day # 1)

Day 9– Class at Hotel (Plato Day # 2) & Boat Ride/Picnic

Day 10– Class at Hotel (Topic: Plato Day # 3)

Day 11– Travel Day: Saronic Gulf Cruise

Day 12– Class at Hotel (Topic: Subsequent Philosophy) & Last Night in Tolon

Delphi

Day 13– Reading Day & Travel to Delphi & Spend Night @ Delphi

Athens

Day 14– Visit Ancient Delphi & Travel to Athens

Day 15– Class at Hotel (Topic: Subsequent Philosophy Continued) & Orientation Walking Tour

Day 16– Visit Acropolis & Ancient Agora & Socrates' Prison & More!

Day 17/– Class at Hotel (Topic: Subsequent Philosophy Continued) & National Archeological Museum

Day 18– Class at Hotel (Philosophy Continued/Final Exam) & Graduation Lunch & Trip to Sounion

Day 19 /– Free Day in Athens

Day 20– Fly Home to Tennessee