



The Berkeley Plato:
c. 125 AD Herm after a
c. 360 BC original

HISTORY OF ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY

UCSD PHILOSOPHY 110

Fall 2015 MW 6-7:20pm
WLH 2208

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Course Description

What is knowledge? How do we know that those who profess to have knowledge actually do have it? How can one inquire into anything one does not know? Is knowledge the same as the arts and sciences? How does knowledge relate to perception, belief, and truth? What kinds of account can we expect from someone who has knowledge? Is there any formal way to represent and criticize scientific reasoning and explanations? How do general principles of scientific knowledge relate to specific sciences, such as mathematics, physics, and psychology? We will examine these fundamental epistemological issues as they arise for the first time in the writings of Plato and Aristotle. We will begin by reading three aporetic dialogues of Plato concerned with knowledge: *Euthyphro*, *Meno*, and *Theaetetus*. We will then read fragments from a popular dialogue by Aristotle and selections from his *Organon*, followed by an in-depth examination of two of his most influential works: *Physics II* and *On the Soul II-III*.

Objectives

- Learn to interpret and criticize, both in discussion and in writing, primary works of Greek philosophy in English translation, including dialogues and treatises.
- Understand the techniques used to scrutinize ancient sources and reconstruct the insights and arguments of historical philosophers.
- Survey major topics and problems of ancient science, epistemology and logic, and the range of philosophical approaches to exploring and resolving them.
- Encounter active professional research in the field of Greek philosophy.
- Devise and execute an original research project on ancient philosophy using primary and secondary articles and commentaries.

Required Texts (available at UCSD bookstore)

- *Plato: Complete Works*, edited by J. Cooper and D. S. Hutchinson (Indianapolis and Cambridge: Hackett Publishing Company, 1997). ISBN#0872203492.
- *The Basic Works of Aristotle*, edited by R. McKeon (New York: Modern Library, 2001). ISBN#978037575799.

1. September 28: Greetings; Introduction.
2. Sep. 30: What is piety? Plato, *Euthyphro* (the whole dialogue).
3. October 5: What is virtue? Plato, *Meno* 70a-80e.
4. Oct. 7: An example of learning. Plato, *Meno* 81a-86d.
5. Oct. 12: Can virtue be taught? Plato, *Meno* 86d-100b.
6. Oct. 14: What is knowledge? Plato, *Theaetetus* 142a-151e.
SCHOLAR ASSIGNMENT DUE
7. Oct. 19: Is knowledge perception? Plato, *Theaetetus* 151e-186e.
8. Oct. 21: Is knowledge true belief? Plato, *Theaetetus* 187a-201c.
9. Oct. 26: Is knowledge true belief with an account? Plato, *Theaetetus* 201c-210d.
10. Oct. 28: Aristotle: Introduction and exhortation. Aristotle, *Protrepticus* (handout) RESEARCH PROSPECTUS DUE
11. Nov. 2: Categories and judgment. Aristotle, *Categories* 1a21-2b21; 3b10-4a21; *On Interpretation* 16a3-17b23
12. Nov. 4: Forms of reasoning. Aristotle: *Topics* 100a18-102b26; *Prior Analytics* 24a16-25a13; 25b32-7; 26b34-27a3; 28a10-17; 68b9-69a19.
13. Nov. 9: Scientific reasoning. Aristotle: *Posterior Analytics* 71a1-72b25; 76a16-b5; 87b28-88a2; 99b17-100b17; *Metaphysics* 980a21-983a32.
14. Nov. 11: Veterans Day Holiday-- NO CLASS
15. Nov. 16: Causality and nature. Aristotle: *Metaphysics* 1013a24-1014a25; *Physics* 192b8-193b22.
16. Nov. 18: Causality, spontaneity, and luck. *Physics* 194b16-198b9.
RESEARCH ROUGH DRAFT DUE
17. Nov. 23: Causality, teleology, and necessity. Aristotle: *Physics* 198b10-200b10.
18. Nov. 25: Definition of the soul. Aristotle: *On the Soul* 412a3-415a13.
19. Nov. 30: Vegetation, sensation, and motion: Aristotle: *On the Soul* 415a14-b28; 416b32-418a26; 424a17-b3
20. Dec. 2: Thinking, reason, science, and wisdom: Aristotle: *On the Soul* 427a16-431b19; *Nicomachean Ethics* 1138b35-1141b23.
RESEARCH FINAL DRAFT DUE
21. Dec. 7: (7-10pm) FINAL EXAM: FINAL TAKE-HOME EXAM DUE