



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 401: A Classical Philosopher
Lec 01, Topic 01: "Aristotle"
Winter Term 2010

Course Outline

Instructor: Dennis McKerlie

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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 2:00-3:00

Course Description

The course will take a broad look at Aristotle's philosophy. We will read a number of Aristotle's works and consider his views about the natural world, the philosophy of mind, moral and political philosophy, and metaphysics. The emphasis is on reading Aristotle himself rather than the secondary literature. Particular topics to be discussed include: the nature of scientific explanation, the relationship between human nature and the best way for a person to live, dualism and materialism as views about the mind, and the distinctively Aristotelian concepts of substance, matter, form, and essence. The course will connect Aristotle's views with current philosophical work about these issues. Comment and questions in class are welcome.

Required Text

J. L. Ackrill, ed., *A New Aristotle Reader*.

Course Requirements

A midterm exam worth 25% of the final grade (date: Friday, February 26), a term paper worth 40% (due date: Friday April 9; recommended length 10 typed pages), and a Registrar-scheduled final exam worth 35%. The final exam will be written without study aids or open books. It is not necessary to complete or to pass all of the individual assignments in order to receive a passing grade for the course as a whole. There will be a penalty for late assignments unless an extension was arranged in advance. The system for converting number grades to letter grades will be:

A+ 95-100	A 85-94	A- 80-84	B+ 75-79	B 70-74	B- 65-69
C+ 60-64	C 55-59	C- 50-54	D+ 45-49	D 40-44	F 0-39

Students with disabilities who have registered with the Students Resources Centre should identify themselves to me so that we can discuss special accommodations that may be needed.

INTELLECTUAL HONESTY

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. As a result, cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as an extremely serious academic offence, the penalty for which may be an F on the assignment and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. The University Calendar states that plagiarism exists when:

- *the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test);*
- *parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;*
- *the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source; and/or*
- *a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.*

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Plagiarism is an extremely serious offence. Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

STUDENTS' UNION REPRESENTATIVE

The Humanities Representative is Britney Luimes, MSC 251, humanitiesrep@su.ucalgary.ca or 220-3913.