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Proposals (check all that apply)

Course  Course Prefix Change  Course Deletion  New

Number and Article

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**PHIL 324 ANCIENT GREEK PHILOSOPHY**  
**[Currently: ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY]**  
**Proposed Syllabus of Record and Designation as Liberal Studies Elective (Global  
Citizenship)**

**1. Summary of proposed revisions:**

1. The title has been revised.

2. The course outcomes and objectives have been updated to align with the Expected

**Current Course Title:**

**PHIL 324 Ancient Philosophy**

**3c-01-3sh**

**PHIL 324 Ancient Greek Philosophy**

**3c-01-3sh**

**Rationale:** The word "Greek" has been added to the title to clarify that the focus of the course is

## 2. New Syllabus of Record

PHIL 324 Ancient Greek Philosophy

### **PHIL 324 Ancient Greek Philosophy**

**3c-01-3cr**

Explores the foundations of Western Philosophy through examination of important philosophers of the Ancient period, such as the Pre-Socratic philosophers, Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. Topics may include the nature of the physical universe, Plato's theory of Forms, the nature of happiness, and the possibility of morality.

### **II. Course Outcomes (Expected Undergraduate Student Learning Outcomes – EUSLOs):**

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

#### **Objective 1:**

Identify key figures, concepts, and developments in Ancient Greek Philosophy.

#### **Expected Undergraduate Learning Outcome 1:**

Informed Learners

#### **Rationale:**

The course is designed as a survey course of Ancient Greek Philosophy. Assignments, such as

about right/wrong, Plato's account of the ideal city and his critiques of democracy, and Aristotle's "Virtue Ethics").

Students will be given an opportunity for civic engagement by exploring contemporary political controversies in the US (such as the significance of ballot-initiatives and debates over the limits

example of how such civic engagement may be accomplished. Philosophical reflection on issues

Week Two- Three: *The Pre-Socratic Philosophers: Material Monists* (6 hours/9)  
i. The Search for a Single Kind of Underlying Substance  
ii. The Milesians (Thales, Anaximander, Anaximenes)  
iii. Heraclitus and the World of Flux  
iv. Pythagoras and a World of Numbers

Week Four: *Pre-Socratic Philosophers, II: The Challenge of Parmenides* (3 hours/12)  
i. A World without Change, Multiplicity, or Generation  
ii. The Connection Between Thinking and Being  
iii. How to Think about "What is not"

Week Five: *Socrates, Plato and the Golden Age of Athens* (3 hours/15)

Culminating Activity

(2 hours)

**IV. Evaluation Methods**

of *Global Citizenship* will be met. Sample assignment 2, below, is an example of how the requirement for *civic engagement* may be satisfied.

2. **Short Weekly Writing Assignments:** (20%) These short (1-2 page papers) will be due every

## VII. Required Text and Readings

Cohen, P. and G. Reeve (eds.), 2011, *Readings in Ancient Greek Philosophy*. Ash

edition. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Co.

Okin, Susan M. 1977, "Philosopher Queens and Private Wives: Plato on Women and the

Example of Supplemental Reading:

Barnes, Jonathan, 1983, *The Presocratic Philosophers*, London: Routledge Press.

## VIII. Special Resource Requirements

None.

## IX. Bibliography

Ackrill J. I. 1963 *Aristotle: Categories and De Interpretatione*. Oxford: Clarendon Press





**SAMPLE ASSIGNMENT ONE (ESSAY) FOR LIBERAL STUDIES COURSE: PHIL 324**

For this writing assignment you are to address the following issue:

It is commonly said that three of the last PreSocratic philosophers, Empedocles, Anaxagoras, and Democritus are all responding to the challenges and arguments set by Parmenides. Pick one of those three thinkers and explore to what extent that philosopher's

views are embracing and/or rejecting Parmenides' (Eleatic) views. To the extent that that philosopher is arguing *against* Parmenides, how successful is their rejection? Make sure to explain how your selected philosopher's view is influenced by his particular philosophical school/background (e.g. Milesean, Ionian, Atomism).

For this paper, I am primarily interested in a careful and detailed examination of your chosen

- Clearly explains the selected second philosopher's views, and how those beliefs in one way or another rely on "what is not" in the ontology.
- Accurately explain how Parmenides' views this use of "what is not" as problematic and how Parmenides' arguments are intended to rebut various uses of "what is not" from a range of earlier philosophers.
- Is able to critically evaluate the merits of Parmenides' arguments against the selected second philosopher.
- Shows an understanding of the larger themes and issues at stake in the debate between the two philosophers.

*B papers* generally meet the following criteria:

- Demonstrate a solid understanding of Parmenides' views

- Demonstrates some understanding of the reasons for Parmenides' radical conclusions.
- Demonstrate an understanding of a second philosopher's views and why Parmenides objects to that philosophy.
- Are generally well-written, with only a few writing mistakes.

*C papers* generally:

- Are not clearly organized.
- Do not show a clear understanding of Parmenides' views and/or the second philosopher discussed.
- Do show at least a general understanding of what is at stake in the debate with

*D papers* generally:

- Are poorly written.
- Demonstrate minimal understanding of Parmenides and the PreSocratic philosophers' goals and objectives.

*F papers* generally:

- Make use of material found online that is simply cut/pasted into the document, without

**SAMPLE ASSIGNMENT TWO: CIVIC ENGAGEMENT: PHIL 324**

For this writing assignment you are to address the following issue:

American democracy is founded on several principles, including the maximization of individual freedom, respect for individual rights, and a commitment to equal opportunity. These principles, however, are to varying degrees quite alien to Plato's understanding of what makes for a just and well-functioning society. For this paper you are to select a contemporary political debate and outline the principles which are driving the conflict. Having done that, the second step is to assess the debate from a Platonic perspective, one which demonstrates your

## Answers to Liberal Studies Questions

1. This course will typically be offered once every three semester. At least two faculty members are qualified to teach it. By relying on the syllabus of record, as well as through regular meetings and discussions about the goals of upper-level, Liberal Studies courses, we will be able to ensure that a similar range of topics are being taught, and that all who teach this class will share in the same objectives and learning outcomes.

2. Care will be taken to include, whenever appropriate, discussions and arguments concerning issues related to women and minorities. In the sample course content provided above, the role of women in Plato's Republic is highlighted. Further, some of the most important recent

scholarship on Ancient Greek philosophy has come from women scholars, and their work will