

CLST 212 = PHIL 212A
GREEK PHILOSOPHY II
MWF 1-2PM — LASR 102

Is it possible to be sure that we are living a good human life, come what may? What would it be like to “succeed at” being a human being, at being ourselves? In the period under consideration in this course (c. 399 BCE–c. 529 CE), the nascent traditions of Greek logic, science, and ethics were turned to the exploration of these fundamental questions. Athenian philosophy spread across the Mediterranean world in the wake of Alexander the Great and the Roman Empire, laying the groundwork for the subsequent development of Western intellectual history. Over this term, we will study the great Hellenistic schools of ancient Athens (Stoics, Epicureans, and Skeptics) and the later ancient synthesis of Greek philosophy under the banner of Plato (Neoplatonism), and their influence on subsequent thought.

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. *PW* = Cooper, *Pursuits of Wisdom* • UBC BOOKSTORE
2. *HP* = Inwood & Gerson, *Hellenistic Philosophy* • UBC BOOKSTORE
3. *Ricken* = F. Ricken, *Philosophy of the Ancients* • ONLINE
4. **Posted readings** • ONLINE

👂 Focus on passages discussed in class.

INSTRUCTOR

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 Office Hour: **Fri 2pm**

COURSE WEBPAGE socrates.arts.ubc.ca/212

TAs Breanna Simpson
 Jelena Todorovic

Please read the required text before each lecture, and bring the text with you to class.
 Students must adhere to the University’s standards for academic integrity.
 (See <http://learningcommons.ubc.ca/resource-guides/avoid-plagiarism/> for the policy and support).
 Students with special needs are encouraged to contact the instructor as soon as possible.

EVALUATION
 See “Evaluation Structure”, below.

2 Question Papers (Connect, Open-Book)	30%
Essay 1	25%
Essay 2	25%
Philosophical Journal	10%
Ethical case study (e-portfolio)	10%

There is no final examination for CLST/PHIL 212.

A message from your AMS: The UBC AMS Speakeasy

Speakeasy is a free, confidential student service offering one-on-one peer support, information and referrals to the UBC community, in a non-judgmental safe space. No issue is too big or too small, and the service operates on a drop-in basis.

Mon-Fri 9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. – AMS Nest 1314 or speak@ams.ubc.ca or 604.822.9246

Links to slides, resources, & assignments posted on course webpage: socrates.arts.ubc.ca/212.
 Question Papers due on connect.ubc.ca; Essays are due on turnitin.com.

	Date	Topic	Readings
Introduction			
1	Jan Wed 4	Introductory discussion. Handout: Syllabus. Online download: “Bird’s Eye View.”	
2	Fri 6	<i>Eudaimonia</i> : Ancient Philosophy as a Way of Life	PW ch. 1
Socrates and the Socratics			
3	Mon 9	Ancient Philosophies and their goals Introducing Socrates	Socrates reader • ONLINE Ricken pars. 54-60 PW pp. 24-42 (42-69 optional)
4	Wed 11	Socrates	
5	Fri 13	Early Socratics: Plato, Aristotle, Cynics	Ricken pars. 209–211 Plato & Aristotle reader • ONLINE PW ch. 3 (optional reading)
The Stoics			
6	Mon 16	Zeno of Citium and the Stoa	PW pp. 144-150
7	Wed 18	E-Portfolio Support Visit Reading: Epictetus Stoic Eudaimonism	Epictetus reader • ONLINE PW pp. 150–58
8	Fri 20	Stoic Logic: How do we know?	Ricken pars. 215-220
9	Mon 23	Reading: Stoic Logic	HP pp. 111-124
10	Wed 25	Stoic Physics: What is there?	Ricken pars. 221-227
11	Fri 27	Reading: Stoic Physics	HP pp. 132-178
12	Mon 30	Stoic Ethics: Moral Psychology	PW pp. 158-66 Ricken pars. 228-36
January 30: Question Paper 1 Due [connect.ubc.ca]			
13	Feb Wed 1	Stoic Ethics: Virtue	PW pp. 166-84
14	Fri 3	Stoic Ethics: Theory of Value	PW pp. 184-203
15	Mon 6	Stoic Ethics: Emotion and Peace of Mind	PW pp. 203-225 Sorabji, <i>Emotions...</i> • ONLINE
16	Wed 8	Reading: Stoic Ethics, Choice, and Fate	HP pp. 179-203
Feb 10: Preliminary plan for E-Portfolio assignment due [course webpage]			
17	Fri 10	Stoic Philosophical Exercises & Mindfulness	Marcus reader • ONLINE

	Date	Topic	Readings
18	Mon 13	Family Day: No Class	
Challenges to the Stoa: Skeptics & Epicureans			
19	Wed 15	E-Portfolio Exercises	
20	Fri 17	Epicurus and the Epicurean Way of Life Epicurean canonic	HP pp. 3-5 Ricken pp. 209-12 PW ch. 5, 229-276 Opt'l: HP 40-42, 63-64, 66-71
February 17: Essay 1 Due [turnitin.com]			
February 20–24: Midterm Break: No Class			
21	Mon 27	Epicurean physics	Ricken pp. 212-14 Opt'l: HP pp. 5-19
22	Mar Wed 1	Epicurean ethics	Ricken pp. 215-18 Opt'l: HP pp. 28-36
23	Fri 3	Introducing Skepticism	Cooper ch. 5, 276-304 HP pp. 261-62, 285-97 Ricken pp. 219-26
24	Mon 6	The Modes of Skepticism Review of Platonic principles	HP pp. 285-97
The Inner City: Plotinus and Platonism			
25	Wed 8	Middle Platonism	Ricken pars. 261-64
26	Fri 10	Introducing Plotinus	Cooper ch. 6 Ricken pars. 261-82
27	Mon 13	The Neo-Platonist way of life	
March 13: Question Paper 2 Due [connect.ubc.ca]			
28	Wed 15	Selections from Plotinus, <i>Enneads</i>	Plotinus reader • ONLINE
29	Fri 17		
30	Mon 20		
31	Wed 22		
32	Fri 24		

	Date	Topic	Readings
33	Mon 27	Selections from Plotinus, <i>Enneads</i> (cont'd)	Plotinus reader • ONLINE
34	Wed 29		
35	Fri 31		
36	Apr Mon 3	Review & Discussion	
	Wed 5		
April 5: Essay 2 Due [turnitin.com]			
April 7: Journals and E-Portfolio Assignments Due [see course webpage for instructions]			

Evaluation Structure

☞ **2 Question Papers.** Take-home open-book tests; mostly multiple-choice. [15% each] [30% total]

Due via UBC Connect: Jan 30 • Mar 7

STRUCTURE

25 factual questions (25 points, multiple choice)

Example: According to Socrates, who does wrong intentionally?

(a) Everyone (b) No one (c) Only morally bad people (d) None of the above

1 paragraph question (5 points, 300-500 words)

Example: Briefly describe Aristotle's account of four causes, or kinds of explanation. Do you think that this account is accurate and comprehensive? Why, or why not?

☞ **2 Essays.** Thesis-based writing assignments, approximately 1500 words. [25% each] [50% total]

Due via TurnItIn.com: Feb 17 • Apr 5

Suggested topics and guidelines will be posted online; you may also select your own topic.

STRUCTURE

Articulate and argue for a creative *thesis* in answer to a *question*. Your question should relate to the course material. Your question may be drawn from the topics posted in the official guidelines, or you may formulate your own question; if you're in any doubt, feel free to contact the instructor. You should directly reference and engage with primary (ancient) philosophical texts. You are also encouraged to research and engage with modern scholarship in the area.

Example *question*: Could Socrates fall in love?

Example *thesis*: Socrates could fall in love, provided that "love" is understood as an emotion fully beneficial to the lover and beloved.

☞ **Philosophical Journal** [10% total]

Enter in online spreadsheet (course webpage), and submit in person or by email: Apr 5 or Apr 7

- For this component of your participation, you're invited to develop and maintain a philosophical journal with weekly entries. **See the [course webpage](#) for details of this assignment.**

☞ **E-Portfolio Project** [10% total]

Submit e-portfolio web address via course webpage: Feb 10 and Apr 7

- In this project, you will write a philosophical response to an ethical case study drawn from a real-world situation, using your knowledge of values and ideas drawn from this course. You'll receive support from Arts ISIT and Arts Co-Op over the course of the term in preparing the project. **See the way for details of this assignment.**

If you anticipate difficulties in submitting any component of the coursework by the date listed, please contact the instructor by email; extensions can be discussed on a case-by-case basis.