

HISTORY OF ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY

**Bachelor in Philosophy, Politics, Law and Economics PPLE
SEP-2023 HAMP-PP.1.S.A**

Area Humanities

Number of sessions: 15

Academic year: 23-24

Degree course: FIRST

Number of credits: 3.0

Semester: 2^o

Category: COMPULSORY

Language: English

Professor: **JAVIER ALONSO LOPEZ**

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Javier holds a degree in Philology and a doctorate degree in Ancient History, both from Complutense University, Madrid, as well as a Complutense University Master in Languages and Cultures of the Ancient Near East. He teaches Spanish as Foreign Language from 1993, first in Germany and, from 1996 to present day at IE Business School.

For more than 25 years, his fields of study are Greco-Roman antiquity, Jewish world and early Christianity. To his training in History, he adds knowledge of classical languages (Greek, Latin and Hebrew) and archaeological field experience at sites in Israel and Spain.

In addition to teaching, he has established himself professionally as senior consultant in Creativity, Emotional Intelligence, Mobbing, Time Management, a.s.o., and as a translator, having translated published books, articles and films from English, French and German into Spanish. He works as well as writer, with more than 10 complete books, in addition to articles in magazines and collaborations on shared books, all of them on Religion and Ancient History.

Office Hours

Office hours will be on request. Please contact at:

jal@faculty.ie.edu

SUBJECT DESCRIPTION

In this course we will treat some of the major philosophical and religious issues, figures and schools of thought in ancient and medieval philosophy: This course will be not only an historical survey of philosophy, but also a conceptual one, in order to understand the grounds of our contemporary philosophical disciplines and debates. At the same time, it might work also as a kind of introduction to “Classics”, i.e. to the literature, history and general culture of the ancient world. We will pay particular attention to the transition towards Christian era, to the crisis of the Roman Empire but also to the intellectual exchange with other cultures and how ancient thought administered cultural conflicts (mythology vs. rational discourse; theory vs. practice, opinion vs. science, the existence of God, faith vs. reason, paganism vs. monotheism etc.).

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Objectives:

- To offer a basic knowledge of the Ancient and Medieval Philosophy through the exposition of **main issues, concepts, authors and schools of Antiquity**.
- To develop a **critical attitude** regarding the fundamental philosophical problems (Truth, Beauty, Good/Justice, Divine, etc.).
- To acquire a basic knowledge of **Ancient and Medieval Culture**, beyond Philosophy.

Skills:

- Learn to **read** and **interpret** texts of ancient and medieval philosophy.
- Become familiar with classic philosophical literature, Greek and Latin **terminology**.
- Develop abilities in listening, reading and writing, with the purpose to **expose** and **defend** an argument.
- Recognize the presence of ancient problems in **modern** and **contemporary** culture.
- Analyze them critically and be able to **formulate proposals** or set **new questions**.
- Learn to criticize the **arguments** and not the **persons** that formulate them.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

IE University teaching method is defined by its collaborative, active, and applied nature. Students actively participate in the whole process to build their knowledge and sharpen their skills. Professor’s main role is to lead and guide students to achieve the learning objectives of the course. This is done by engaging in a diverse range of teaching techniques and different types of learning activities such as the following:

Learning Activity	Weighting	Estimated time a student should dedicate to prepare for and participate in
Lectures	26.67 %	20.0 hours
Discussions	6.67 %	5.0 hours
Exercises in class, Asynchronous sessions, Field Work	13.33 %	10.0 hours
Group work	13.33 %	10.0 hours
Individual studying	40.0 %	30.0 hours
TOTAL	100.0 %	75.0 hours

PROGRAM

SESSION 1 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

What is Philosophy? Do we need it? Why?
Ancient Greece: the land where Philosophy was born.
Mythos & Logos

Book Chapters: Hesiod's Theogony (Extracts) (Perseus Project)

Book Chapters: Homer's Odyssey (Perseus Project)

SESSION 2 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Pre-Socratics. Nature and Matter

Book Chapters: A Presocratics reader (Fragments of presocratics) (See Bibliography)

SESSION 3 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Socrates. Apology

Book Chapters: Apology (Perseus Project)

SESSION 4 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

The society according to Plato. Republic

Book Chapters: Plato's Republic (Book 1, section 3) (Perseus Project)

SESSION 5 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Aristotle on Virtue, Friendship and good Life

Book Chapters: Nicomachean Ethics (Fragments of Aristotle) (Perseus Project)

SESSION 6 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Aristotle on Politics. The Politics

Other / Complementary Documentation: Film: Alexander: Dir. Oliver Stone, 2004

SESSION 7 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

The Globalized World:
Hellenistic and Roman Schools

SESSION 8 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

The discovery of the inner freedom: Stoicism and Epicureism.
Neoplatonism

SESSION 9 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Judaism and Jesus of Nazareth.

Book Chapters: The Sermon on the Mount (Gospel of Mark, chapters 5-7)

SESSION 10 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Where Hellenism and Judaism meet. Jewish mysticism and Kabbalah

SESSION 11 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

From Jesus of Nazareth to Jesus Christ with the help of mythical thought and Philosophy
Book Chapters: The City of God (Fragments, Volume I) (Project Gutenberg)

SESSION 12 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

St. Augustine on Divine Providence and the Christian Conception of History

SESSION 13 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Thomas Aquinas on Human Nature, Ethics and the Law.
Book Chapters: Summa Theologica (Fragments) (CCEL)

SESSION 14 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

The workshop of lost ideas
Other / Complementary Documentation: Film: The Name of the Rose. Dir: J. J. Arnaud, 1986

SESSION 15 (LIVE IN-PERSON)

Final Exam

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Participation

Your participation grade in the course will be evaluated in a number of ways. You are expected to come to class ready to discuss the readings and to take a position on the perspectives they represent.

Individual assignments

All students must complete an individual assignment in which, as if it were a small philosophy dictionary, they will present the main Greek, Latin and Hebrew terms seen during the course, offering a translation and a brief explanation of them.

Group assignments

In sessions 6 & 14, students will form groups to present works related to the two films included in the syllabus.

Final exam

FINAL EXAM will take place on Session 15 (all language exams are taken via Blackboard in the scheduled classroom on campus, in a live-in person session).

criteria	percentage	Learning Objectives	Comments
Examen Final	30 %		
Individual Work	20 %		
Class Participation	30 %		
Group Work	20 %		

RE-SIT / RE-TAKE POLICY

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Recommended

- Patricia Curd. (1996). *A Presocratics reader*. Hackett Pub Co. ISBN 0872203263
(Digital)

BEHAVIOR RULES

Please, check the University's Code of Conduct [here](#). The Program Director may provide further indications.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Please, check the University's Attendance Policy [here](#). The Program Director may provide further indications.

ETHICAL POLICY

Please, check the University's Ethics Code [here](#). The Program Director may provide further indications.

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