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BFSU SUMMERSCHOOL COURSE 2020

Course Title:

INTRODUCTION TO ANCIENT GREEK PHILOSOPHY

Course Language: ENGLISH

Level of students: ALL (**no** prerequisites)

Course Description:

This course aims at introducing undergraduate students to one of the main pillars of humanities in the west throughout the ages: Ancient Greek Philosophy.

The objective will be to cover the essential ideas, theories, arguments as well as socio-economic settings behind the rise of Greek Philosophy from the earliest times to its final periods.

The course will consist mainly of Lectures.

Student assessment: written essay submitted after the end of the course.

Reading and in-depth studying of each lecture's topics on the part of the students is an essential aspect of the course.

SYLLABUS

INTRODUCTION TO ANCIENT GREEK PHILOSOPHY

Name of the instructor: Professor Byron KALDIS

Type of Class Arrangement (Time of the course): E

Course Description including Objectives:

The Course will cover the following periods and philosophers or philosophy schools of antiquity:

- The Dawn of Philosophy (and scientific thinking): From Mythos to Logos
- The Earlier Times: The Presocratics, the earliest scientists, medicine, lyric poetry and drama, the Sophists
- The Classical Period: SOCRATES, PLATO, ARISTOTLE
- The Hellenistic Schools: EPICURANS, STOICS, SCEPTICS
- The Late Greek/Roman Philosophy: PLOTINUS

Topics for each session:

In each lecture we will be covering the philosophical thinking of each of the philosophers/schools mentioned above tracing historically their philosophical development while at the same time focusing on specific topics for in-depth presentation and discussion along the following lines:

- 📖 **Metaphysics :** what is reality?
- 📖 **Epistemology:** what can we know?
- 📖 **Ethics:** what is Virtue? What is the Good Life?
- 📖 **Social and Political Thought:** what is the good society?
- 📖 **Art and Aesthetics:** what is beauty?

These topics will be covered recurrently in each of the lectures devoted to a specific philosopher or philosophical school while paying attention to more specific or individual characteristics pertaining to some cases rather than others: e.g. underlining the study of friendship and virtue in Aristotle or his economic thought, while paying less attention to ethics in the case of the sceptics and more on their theory of knowledge.

The course will highlight the overall importance of Ancient Greek Philosophy for the rise of western Civilization and humanities, tracing influences and connections with the modern times.

At the same time, the course will pay special attention to parallels or differences between traditional Chinese philosophical thinking and ancient Greek thought.

Teaching methods: Lectures

Student Assessment:

FINAL WRITTEN ESSAY 2.500 words (90%)
& Class Attendance (10%)

Required and/or recommended readings:

The Course will recommend the following bibliographical aids as introductory texts but will also stress the importance of reading original texts as much as possible throughout the course of lectures.

Selected readings and excerpts from the following books:

The Presocratics (Kerferd ed. Et al)

Plato, *The Republic*

Aristotle, *Nichomachean Ethics & Politics*

Epicurus, *Principal Doctrines*

Stoic *Philosophy Readings*

Plotinus, *Enneads* (excerpts)

Student Guides:

D. Sedley (ed.) *Companion to Greek and Roman Philosophy*, Cambridge 2004

C. Shields (ed.), *The Blackwell Guide to Ancient Philosophy*, Oxford 2003

Principal Course Textbook:

C. Shields, *Ancient Philosophy: a contemporary introduction*, Routledge, 2012