

PH/HS 4410 Hellenistic and Roman Philosophy

Fall, 2018

DSPT 2

Instructor: Professor Eugene M. Ludwig, O.F.M. Cap.

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Office Hours: By appointment.

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This course meets on Fridays 2:10-5:00, DSPT 2

This syllabus and related documents are posted at <http://moodle.gtu.edu>. Your user name and password for Moodle are the same as your username and password for Web Advisor. If you have questions about these you should consult the registrar's office of your school.

THIS IS NOT THE FINAL SYLLABUS FOR THE COURSE. THIS IS AN OUTLINE WHICH WE WILL COMPLETE WHEN WE DETERMINE THE NEEDS AND INTERESTS OF THOSE IN THE CLASS. WE WILL FINALIZE THE SYLLABUS AND SCHEDULE AFTER THE FIRST CLASS MEETING.

Goals of the Course

1. To develop skill in working in a cross disciplinary way in both philosophy and history.
2. To understand the social and personal dimensions of the Hellenistic world and how various philosophies dealt with them.
3. To become acquainted with the sources for this period and their limitations.
4. To learn how Hellenistic philosophy and Hellenistic religion, including Hellenistic Judaism and Hellenistic Christianity, interacted in this period.
5. To develop research skills through an in depth project and its presentation in class.

I. An Introduction to the Hellenistic and Roman Periods

1. History
2. The shift in the "civic community"
3. Individualism
4. Philosophy and Religion
5. Greek Philosophy at Rome

II. Philosophic Responses to the Hellenistic World

1. The Way of Personal Withdrawal--Epicureanism
 - Revisionist Hedonism
 - Epicurus
 - T. Lucretius Caro
2. The Way of Personal Inner Control--Cynicism and Stoicism
 - Relations between Cynicism and Stoicism
 - Early Stoicism
 - The Middle Stoa

The Later and Roman Stoa

Cicero
 Epictetus
 Justin Martyr
 Clement of Alexandria

3. The Way of Personal Indifference—Pyrrhonian Skepticism

4. The Way of Personal Interiority--Revisionist Platonism

The Skeptical Academy
 Neopythagoreanism
 Middle Platonism
 Philo Judaeus
 Origen
 Neo-Platonism
 Plotinius
 Proclus
 Iamblichus
 Porphyry

IV. Particular Issues--according to individual interests, such as:

1. The relation of St. Paul to contemporary philosophy
2. The problem of individuals and the concept of person
3. Attempts at Christianizing Greek Philosophy

Required texts:

1. Brad Inwood and Lloyd P. Gerson, *Hellenistic Philosophy: Introductory Readings*, Second Edition Hackett, ISBN 0-87220-378-6 Price (Amazon) \$17.10 (Other formats also available)
2. John Dillon and Lloyd P. Gerson, *Neoplatonic Philosophy* Hackett, ISBN 0-87220-707-2 Price (Amazon) \$20.00 (Other formats also available)
3. Antonia Tripolitis, *Religions of the Hellenistic-Roman Age* Eerdman's, 0-8028-4913-X Price (Amazon) 14.98 (Other formats also available)

What other authors all of us will read and what authors some of us will read and report on will be worked out as the course progresses.

Coursework:

Readings and Discussions: Everyone is expected to do the assigned readings and participate in class discussion. Additional readings and class presentations will be assigned after the first meeting.

Research Paper: Everyone will produce a research paper of about twenty pages and give a half-hour presentation of it in class.

Grading Criteria

Grading in this class is based on three criteria. Work should be:

1. Complete
2. Correct
3. Clearly and effectively presented

A Work is complete. Errors or miscomprehensions, if any, are few and minor. Clear and effective presentation. Work shows a significant depth and breadth of critical understanding.

A- Slightly less than the above

B+ Work is complete. Errors or miscomprehensions, if any, are few and minor. Clear and effective presentation.

B Work is complete or nearly so and with some minor errors or miscomprehensions. Minor lapses in clear and effective presentation.

B- Some gaps in completeness. Errors or miscomprehensions are few but significant. Lapses in clear and effective presentation. (Marginally acceptable as graduate/professional quality work.)

C+ Work is incomplete. Errors or miscomprehensions are numerous and/or significant. Presentation lacks clarity and effectiveness.

C Work is significantly incomplete. Errors or miscomprehensions are numerous and/or substantial. Presentation lacks clarity and effectiveness.

C- Work is significantly incomplete. Quantity and quality of errors or miscomprehensions suggest a serious lack of understanding. Presentation lacks clarity and effectiveness.

D Work is minimal and indicates little understanding of the material. Presentation is sloppy and ineffective.

F Less than minimal work done.

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