

KINGSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
of The City University of New York

Philosophy 71: History of Philosophy: The Classical Philosophers
3 hours, 3 credits

Professor Barnhart
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Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

Philosophical thought and its influence on modern man with an emphasis on classical Greece, India, and China. The course focuses on the work of such philosophers as Plato, Confucius, and Laozi. We will read major texts from all three of the major cultural traditions in the ancient world.

Student Learning Outcomes

Philosophy is both critical and conceptual. It focuses not only on what someone thinks but most importantly on the reasons that support those views. In terms of CUNY Pathways requirements, this course falls under "Individual and Society." We will be examining those ideas that exercised the greatest impact on humanity's understanding of its place in the world and capacity for ethical judgment.

Students should be able to:

- Gather, interpret, and assess information from a variety of sources and points of view
- Construct critical arguments, provide evidence, and examine underlying premises
- Show understanding of theories exploring the nature of ethical reasoning
- Demonstrate critical perspective on ethical debates over the place of the individual in society and the world
- Write clearly and critically

Required Materials

G.M.A. Grube's or C.D.C. Reeve's translation of *Plato: Republic* (Hackett)
Barbara Stoller Miller's translation of the *Bhagavad Gita* (Bantam Books)
Edward Slingerland's translation of *Confucius, The Analects* (Hackett)

Grade Requirements

There will be two papers (one 3-4 pages, the other 5-6 pages, typed and double space) and a final examination, specific due dates to be confirmed in class. Topics for essays will be provided well in advance. The final examination will include at least one essay question.

Essays require the student to critically analyze issues such as knowledge and human flourishing in light of various perspectives and arguments. Students research and read at least two additional passages from the class primary sources for each of the papers.

In addition, since this is a philosophy course, class attendance and participation in discussion is also emphasized. Grades are determined on the basis of three weighted factors: performance on the two written essays, the two examinations, and participation in class discussion:

Essay I (3-4 pages) on Plato's Republic (25% of grade)

Essay II (5-6 pages) on Bhagavad Gita and comparison with Plato (35% of grade)

Final Examination (Essay question(s) 50% of exam grade) (30% of grade)

Participation in class discussion (10% of grade)

Attendance and class etiquette

Attendance is generally required. At Kingsborough, students who miss more than 15% of class meetings are considered excessively absent and may receive a "WU" at the instructor's discretion. Additionally, lateness may be taken into account when assessing your class participation grade.

All electronic devices should be turned off. Once in the room, please do not leave the room. Generally, try to avoid any behavior that may be disruptive and therefore unfair to your classmates.

Academic Integrity Statement

Please, visit the following link:

http://www.kbcc.cuny.edu/studentaffairs/student_conduct/Pages/academic_integrity.aspx

Accessibility Statement

Access-Ability Services (AAS) serves as a liaison and resource to the KCC community regarding disability issues, promotes equal access to all KCC programs and activities, and makes every reasonable effort to provide appropriate accommodations and assistance to students with disabilities. Your instructor will make the accommodations you need once you provide documentation for the Access-Ability office (D-205). Please contact AAS for assistance.

Topical Course Outline

Week 1 & 2: Introduction; Greek Thought, What is justice? Plato, *Republic*, Book 1, 2, 4

Week 3 & 4: Justice and the value of Wisdom, *Republic*, Books 6, 7

PAPER DUE (on Plato's *Republic*)

Week 5 & 6: *Bhagavad Gita*, Intro. First Teaching; Dharma, Atman, Brahman, *Gita*, Teachings
1-9

Week 7 & 8: Knowledge, *Gita* 13, 14, 18; Comparison of concepts of Justice and Dharma

Week 9 & 10: Confucius, Goodness and the Gentleman, *Analects* (Books 3-7)

Week 11 & 12: Confucius, Virtue and the Way, *Analects* (Books 1, 2, 13-15); Ren, Dharma, and
Justice: Comparisons and Contrasts

CLASS REVIEW, FINAL PAPER DUE
FINAL EXAMINATION