

Birkbeck College: School of Philosophy
Course Schedule for GREEK PHILOSOPHY
Academic year: 2001/2

Lectures

Day: Wednesdays and Fridays Time: 6-7 p.m.

(Term 3: Wednesdays, 7.15-8.30)

Place: Room 6, 6 Bedford Square (Wednesdays, Term 1); Clore Building, Birkbeck College (Fridays, Term 1); Wednesdays, Term 3 to be announced.

Convenor: Ursula Coope

Aims of Course:

To enable the student to understand and evaluate certain central works of ancient Greek philosophy. This provides the student with an appreciation of the roots of philosophy, and with a new perspective from which to think about his/her own views. The course covers ancient Greek metaphysics and epistemology. (Ancient ethics, politics, and aesthetics are covered in different courses.)

Objectives:

Students are trained to expound and assess some of the central metaphysical and epistemological views of Plato, Aristotle and the Presocratic philosophers, through the following modes of teaching: lectures, classes, and tutorials (for which they write essays). Attention to relevant texts is guided by teaching, and secondary reading.

There will be 24 lectures and 10 backup classes. Each student should write at least 2 essays for the course, and arrange a tutorial for each with the lecturer for the relevant part of the course.

Intended Audience:

BA Philosophy students, 3rd-year (Term 3) or 4th-year (Term 1).

Term 1 Lecturer: Anthony Price (Weeks 1-5); Ursula Coope (Weeks 6 –10)

Weeks 1-5: Plato

Weeks 6-10: Aristotle

NB: (1) There is no lecture on Friday, Week 6, the 16th November, because of the Cumberland Lodge weekend.

(2) Students will need to present their ID cards in order to enter 6 Bedford Square.

Back-up Classes

Time: 7.15 – 8.30 p.m. Wednesdays, Room 6, 6 Bedford Square.

Place: Room 6, 6 Bedford Square

Class Teacher: Anthony Price (Weeks 1-5); Ursula Coope (Weeks 6-10)

Term 3 Lecturer: Ursula Coope

Weeks 1-5: Presocratics

These lectures are for 3rd-years, so they should already have been attended by those who take the Plato and Aristotle courses in Term 1 of their 4th year.

Assessment:

Students are required to sit a degree examination in this subject at the end of their final year (for the intercollegiate Philosophy BA). The paper is divided into two parts: Part A, Presocratics; Part B, Plato and Aristotle. Candidates must answer 3 questions, including at least 2 from Part B. Students can pre-submit three essays of up to 2,500 words each in place of the final exam. (Students can pre-submit in up to four papers, including the dissertation.)