COURSE DETAIL

ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY
Country Netherlands
Host Institution Maastricht University – University College Maastricht
Program(s) University College Maastricht
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Philosophy
UCEAP Course Number 110
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY
UCEAP Transcript Title ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY
UCEAP Quarter Units 6.00
UCEAP Semester Units 4.00

Course Description

Full course description

Why would anyone choose to study philosophers who lived and wrote (more than) two millennia ago? One obvious answer is: to learn about one's roots; to better understand Western culture and heritage. Up to this day, the ancient Greeks and Romans constitute a major influence on our ideas about critical thinking, about the fundamental character of Reality, about Science, Ethics, and Art, and last not least: about what it is to be human and about what it means for humans to flourish, to live truly good lives. Ancient philosophy provides an inexhaustible source of inspiration for contemporary philosophy. "The European philosophical tradition", the philosopher Whitehead once remarked, "consists in a series of footnotes to Plato". Slightly overstated, but not untrue.

In this course we will return to the sources and study the texts that helped us become who we are today. We will study a range of canonical philosophical texts from Antiquity, ranging from the Ionian Philosophers of Nature to Aristotle. Although we will attempt to position these treatises in their historical and geographic contexts, our main concern will be: what have these ancient thinkers still to say to us today?

One warning: even if you have some prior knowledge of ancient Greek philosophy, that doesn't make this an easy course. Only choose this course if you are genuinely interested in reading ancient philosophical texts that do not always yield their secrets easily.

Course objectives

- To provide students with a basic introduction to ancient Greek philosophy;
- To teach students how to explore the meaning of philosophical texts by situating them in their historical contexts;
- To explore how our culture, and we as part of it, has been shaped by these ancient thinkers.

Prerequisites

None

Recommended

HUM1007 Introduction to Philosophy.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
HUM2008

Host Institution Course Title
ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY

Host Institution Course Details
https://www.maastrichtuniversity.nl/education/bachelor/university-college-maast...

Host Institution Campus
University College Maastricht

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department
Humanities

Course Last Reviewed
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