

AP2720P/ AP2729P / AP3720P/ AP3729P  
Greek Sources of Western Thought

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Semester 1: Classroom-based (AP2720P, AP3720P)

Online: (AP2729P, AP3729P)

### Description

Western philosophy, as it provides context for later theological developments, has its roots in the Greece of the sixth through fourth centuries BCE, becoming most definitively cast in the work of Plato and his successor Aristotle. These two thinkers tower over fourth-century BCE Athens. In tandem or in tension, they shape the schools which will later in significant part interact with Christian theology at the points of its origin and development. This unit gives detailed philosophical consideration to Plato and Aristotle in turn, not neglecting the pre-Socratic philosophers upon whom they build, and their respective contributions to the art of reasoning itself.

### Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that **Level 2** students will be able to:

1. Locate the thought of Plato and Aristotle in relation to that of pre-Socratic philosophers
2. Compare and contrast the approaches of the two philosophers to key questions of being, truth and ethics.
3. Outline and assess the arguments by which they respectively arrive at various philosophical definitions.
4. Identify basic ways in which their respective philosophies reflect theological stances.

Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that **Level 3** students will be able to:

1. Discuss the thought of Plato and Aristotle in relation to that of pre-Socratic philosophers
2. Show insight into the approaches of the two philosophers to key questions of being, truth and ethics.
3. Outline and thoughtfully assess the arguments by which they respectively arrive at various philosophical definitions.
4. Identify and discuss the ways in which their respective philosophies reflect basic theological stances.

### Assessment

Assessment Type	Weighting
<b>Level 2- Classroom –based</b>	
Essay (2000 words)	40%
Essay (2000 words)	40%
Reflection-Integration Exercise (500 words)	20%
<b>Level 2- Online</b>	
Essay (2000 words)	40%
Essay (2000 words)	40%
Online Participation (500 words)	20%
<b>Level 3- Classroom –based</b>	
Essay (2000 words)	40%
Essay (2000 words)	40%
Reflection-Integration Exercise (1000 words)	20%
<b>Level 3- Online</b>	
Essay (2000 words)	40%
Essay (2000 words)	40%
Online Participation (1000 words)	20%

**Pre-requisite:** For AP2720P: 15 points in Philosophy. For AP3720P: 15 points in Philosophy at Level 2

**Lecturer:** John Martis, SJ

### Recommended reading

\* = set texts recommended for purchase

Ackrill, A. *Aristotle the Philosopher*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1981.

Barnes, Jonathon, ed. *The Complete Works of Aristotle*. 2 Vols. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1984.

Barnes, Jonathon. *Early Greek Philosophy*. Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1987.

Biffle, Christopher. *A Guided Tour of Five Works by Plato*. 3rd ed. Mountain View, CA: Mayfield Publishing Co., 2001.

Herman, Arthur. *The Cave and the Light: Plato versus Aristotle and the Struggle for the Soul of Western Civilization*. Trade Paperback Edition. NewYork: Random House, 2014.

Kraut, Richard, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Plato*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992.

\*Melchert, Norman. *The Great Conversation: A Historical Introduction to Philosophy*. 4th ed. Boston: McGraw-Hill, 2001.

McKirahan, Richard D. *Philosophy Before Socrates: An Introduction with Texts and Commentary*. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett Publishing Co., 1994.

Plato. *The Collected Dialogues of Plato, including the Letters*. Ed. Edith Hamilton and Huntington Cairns. Bollingen Series 71. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1961.

Ring, Merrill. *Beginning with the Pre-Socratics*. 2nd ed. Mountain View: Mayfield, 2000.

\*Taylor, A. E. *Plato: The Man and His Work*. Dover Books on Western Philosophy. New York: Dover Books, 2011.

Taylor, C.C.W., R.M. Hare and Jonathon Barnes. *Socrates, Plato, Aristotle*. Past Masters. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999.

AP9720P/ AP9729P  
Greek Sources of Western Thought

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Semester 1: Classroom-based (AP9720P)

Online: (AP9729P)

### Description

Western philosophy, as it provides context for later theological developments, has its roots in the Greece of the sixth through fourth centuries BCE, becoming most definitively cast in the work of Plato and his successor Aristotle. These two thinkers tower over fourth-century BCE Athens. In tandem or in tension, they shape the schools which will later in significant part interact with Christian theology at the points of its origin and development. This unit gives detailed philosophical consideration to Plato and Aristotle in turn, not neglecting the pre-Socratic philosophers upon whom they build, and their respective contributions to the art of reasoning itself.

### Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that students will be able to:

1. Offer coherent reflection, after research, upon the thought of the pre-Socratic philosophers
2. Show insight into the approaches and arguments which Plato and Aristotle bring to key questions of being, truth and ethics.
3. Discuss Platonic and Aristotelian philosophy in their respective broad influences upon theological stances.
4. Reflect, with emphasis on particular philosophers, upon the legacy bequeathed by Greek philosophy to our own era.

### Assessment

Assessment Type	Weighting
<b>Classroom –based</b>	
Essay 1 (1800 words)	30%
Essay 2 (3000 words) *Seminar presentation of draft [clarity of presentation plus leadership of subsequent discussion to be assessed (40% of assessment for this essay)]; followed by submission of the written-up essay, assessed as a written piece of work (60%).	50%
Reflection-Integration Exercise (1200 words)	20%
<b>Online</b>	
Essay 1 (1800 words)	30%
Essay 2 (3000 words), following prior online posting and leadership of discussion of draft essay*. *Online posting of discussion-amenable draft, together with itemised, well-chosen, points of discussion, and leadership /stimulation of subsequent online discussion, to be assessed (40% of assessment for this essay); followed by submission of the written-up essay, assessed as a written piece of work (60%).	50%
Online Participation (1200 words)	20%

**Pre-requisite:** A previous unit of philosophy at any level

**Lecturer:** John Martis, SJ

### Recommended reading

\* = set texts recommended for purchase

Ackrill, A. *Aristotle the Philosopher*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1981.

Barnes, Jonathon, ed. *The Complete Works of Aristotle*. 2 Vols. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1984.

Barnes, Jonathon. *Early Greek Philosophy*. Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1987.

Biffle, Christopher. *A Guided Tour of Five Works by Plato*. 3rd ed. Mountain View, CA: Mayfield Publishing Co., 2001.

Kraut, Richard, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Plato*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992.

\*Melchert, Norman. *The Great Conversation: A Historical Introduction to Philosophy*. 4th ed. Boston: McGraw-Hill, 2001.

McKirahan, Richard D. *Philosophy Before Socrates: An Introduction with Texts and Commentary*. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett Publishing Co., 1994.

Mourelatos, Alexander P.D. *The Pre-Socratics: A Collection of Critical Essays*. Revised edition. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2014

Plato. *The Collected Dialogues of Plato, including the Letters*. Ed. Edith Hamilton and Huntington Cairns. Bollingen Series 71. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1961.

Ring, Merrill. *Beginning with the Pre-Socratics*. 2nd ed. Mountain View: Mayfield, 2000.

\*Taylor, A. E. *Plato: The Man and His Work*. Dover Books on Western Philosophy. New York: Dover Books, 2011.

Taylor, C.C.W., R.M. Hare and Jonathon Barnes. *Socrates, Plato, Aristotle*. Past Masters. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999.