



**Ancient Greek Philosophy, PHIL 2106, Section S10
Spring 2026**

In-person on Surrey Campus, Maple building, Room 2820, Mondays from 10am to 12:50pm

Instructor: **Dr. Marc Champagne** Office Room: **Fir 309 (but staying in our class is fine)**
Email: **marc.champagne@kpu.ca** Office Hours: **Right after class** (no appointment needed)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

There are giants in every field. If you were studying physics, you would study the ideas of Newton and Einstein. In this philosophy course, you will study the ideas of Plato and Aristotle. Putting aside history and focusing solely on *arguments* that hold in any era, the course will survey the full philosophical systems of both thinkers, by looking at their respective metaphysics (theory of what exists), epistemologies (theory of how we know), ethics (theory of how we should act), politics (theory of the best society), and aesthetics (theory of art and beauty). The hope is that, by studying these ideas, students will improve their ability to think critically about the most fundamental questions faced by all humans.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

A student who successfully completes the course will have reliably demonstrated the ability to:

- Explain the importance of Socrates, Plato and Aristotle for the development of Western intellectual traditions, and their influence on selected medieval or modern philosophers or movements
- Explain and evaluate the ideas of Socrates, Plato, or Aristotle on the fundamental nature of reality
- Explain and evaluate the ideas of Socrates, Plato, or Aristotle on the nature and extent of human knowledge
- Explain and evaluate the ideas of Socrates, Plato or Aristotle on the ideal state, or on what human excellence or flourishing means

ZERO TEXTBOOK COST

This course does not require that you purchase any textbook, since all readings will be made directly available to students. You must, however, *bring a pencil and eraser to every class*.

ZERO AI

This course is explicitly designed to teach you AI-free skills and knowledge. As a result, all student work will be done *in person, offline, and on paper*. Individuals who successfully

complete the course will have the option of receiving public recognition for their effort on <https://certifiedaifreeskillsandknowledge.org/>

EVALUATION SCHEME

Type of Assignment	Weighting	Date Due/Held
In-class comprehension question for Plato readings	25% (5x5%)	One week after the relevant topic, at the start of class, for 15 minutes.
Mid-term exam on Plato*	25% (five questions)	March 2 (from 10am to 1pm)
In-class comprehension question for Aristotle readings	25% (5x5%)	One week after the relevant topic, at the start of class, for 15 minutes.
Final exam on Aristotle**	25% (five questions)	April 20 (starts at 8:30am, <i>not</i> 10am)

* Mid-Term Exam

The mid-term exam (on Plato's philosophy) will be held during regular class time. The exam will be handwritten, so *bring a pencil and eraser*. The exam will last a maximum of three hours (you can leave whenever you are done, but then cannot re-enter the room). Go to the washroom beforehand, not during. You will need to turn off your phone and put it away. Standard invigilation rules will apply, so cheating in any way results in getting 0% and being expelled.

** Final Exam

The final exam (on Aristotle's philosophy) will be held in person on April 20th at 8:30am (*not* our usual start time), at Surrey campus, Maple building, room 2820. *You must bring your KPU I.D. and place it face-up on the corner of your table* (failure to do so results in an immediate 0%). Other identification (driver's license, etc.) is unacceptable. People who arrive late will be turned away. The exam will be handwritten, so *bring a pencil and eraser*. The exam will last a maximum of three hours (you can leave whenever you are done, but then cannot re-enter the room). Go to the washroom beforehand, not during. You will need to turn off your phone and put it away. Standard invigilation rules will apply, so cheating in any way results in getting 0% and being expelled.

WITHDRAWAL DEADLINES (see <https://www.kpu.ca/registration/dates>)

January 6, 2025	Last day to drop (with no financial penalty)
January 20, 2025	Add/drop deadline (30% penalty)
January 27, 2025	Fee payment deadline
April 14, 2025	Last day to withdraw (no refund)

IMPORTANT DATES (see <https://www.kpu.ca/registration/dates>)

February 16, 2025	Family Day (university closed)
April 3, 2025	Good Friday (university closed)
April 6, 2025	Easter Monday (university closed)
April 14, 2025	Last Day of Classes

GRADING SCALE

Grade	Grade Points	Conversion Scale (%)	Definition
A+	4.33	90 - 100	Exceptional Achievement
A	4.00	85 - 89	Outstanding Achievement
A-	3.67	80 - 84	Excellent Achievement
B+	3.33	76 - 79	Very Good Achievement
B	3.00	72 - 75	Good Achievement
B-	2.67	68 - 71	Good Achievement
C+	2.33	64 - 67	Satisfactory Achievement
C	2.00	60 - 63	Satisfactory Achievement
C-	1.67	56 - 59	Marginal Achievement (This grade does not permit student to pursue another course for which the graded course was a prerequisite.)
D	1.00	50 - 55	Minimal achievement (This grade does not permit student to pursue another course for which the graded course was a prerequisite.)
F	0.00	0 - 49	Unsatisfactory achievement. Student did not meet minimum course requirements.

To form a realistic picture, averages in philosophy courses tend to hover around 68%, plus or minus 2% (naturally, the statistic does not imply that you will get this numerical result). In this course, apart from group assignments, the grades earned by a student are reflective solely of that student's individual performance, and are not doctored into any kind of collective curve.

OFFICIAL POLICIES

Late Assignments and Missed Exams

In this course, due dates are firm. Missing due dates is a very serious thing, not at all a casual event. *When you miss an evaluation, you get 0% for that evaluation.* So, adopt a professional mindset by foreseeing and preventing unfortunate events. Should something truly serious (e.g., injury, court date, etc.) force you to miss a component of the course, then in order to qualify for a make-up, you must notify the instructor beforehand and provide legitimate documentation online. All documentation will be verified, and faking documentation is a criminal offense. Vacations and booked plane tickets are not a permissible excuse. Usually, only one make-up is held, at the end of the term.

Language Competence

In this course, mastery of English is required and expected. If English is your second or third language, or if you have serious gaps in your reading and writing skills, it might be wise to address those lacunas either before or in tandem with the course (various resources for student success are listed later in this document). The instructor cannot be expected to teach English in addition to the course content.

Email etiquette

While I am happy to answer focused questions, *I do not teach nor give grades by email. Also, under no circumstances will any work be accepted by email.* If you have to write me a message, make sure to:

- Send your message from your KPU email account
(for security and legal reasons, this is mandatory)
- Give your message an informative title
- I teach many courses, so mention our course (Ancient Philosophy)
- Be polite (e.g., begin with “Dear Prof. Champagne...” and end with “Sincerely, Full Name”)
- Break your message into paragraphs, skipping a line whenever you change topic
- Include your full name and university I.D.

When waiting for my reply, assume a delay of two working days (I check my messages only once a day, usually in the afternoon and never right before class). Please do not send any follow-ups.

Cheating Not Tolerated

From KPU policy ST2: “The University ascribes to the highest standards of academic integrity. Adhering to these standards of academic integrity means observing the values on which good academic work must be founded: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with these values. These standards of academic integrity require Students to not engage in or tolerate Integrity Violations, including falsification, misrepresentation or deception, as such acts violate the fundamental ethical principles of the University community and compromise the worth of work completed by others.” Academic Integrity Violations include acts such as plagiarizing, cheating, or forging documents like a doctor’s note. Since in university we are dealing with ideas, plagiarism is the equivalent of theft. Intellectual property rights are involved, so it has potential legal repercussions. Also, the university has a social responsibility of making sure that only qualified candidates graduate. We are teaching you to eventually take your place in a greater community of intellectual workers, so part of your education consists in learning what practices, methods, and standards bind that community. Hence, no level or form of plagiarism will be tolerated. Plagiarism and AI-detection software will be used and offenders will be expelled. The idea is to groom you for the real-world workplace, and in that milieu, cheating does not go unpunished. Academic Integrity Violations will be addressed according to Procedures attached to Policy ST2. A Plagiarism Tutorial can be found at: <https://courses.kpu.ca/enrol/index.php?id=19070>

Early Alert System

During the course of the semester, if I am concerned about your progress, I may use the Early Alert Response System (EARS) to connect you with student services who will work with you to find additional resources or supports that may increase your chances of success. Such assistance may include putting you in touch with an academic advisor, a tutor, financial aid, a counselor or another faculty member. Please be advised that the information is shared with those on a need to know basis and is sent because I care about your progress and success in this course. For more information, check the website at <http://www.kpu.ca/earlyalert>

KPU Policies (all policies can be found at: www.kpu.ca/policies)

ST2 Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedures

ST7 Student Conduct (Non-Academic) Policy and Procedure
 ST11 Attendance and Performance in Semester and Other Term Based Courses Policy
 HR15 Diversity and Inclusiveness Policy and Procedures
 SR14 Sexual Violence and Misconduct Policy and Procedures
 AC4 Student Evaluation and Grading Policy
 AC8 Principles of Academic Freedom and Responsibility Policy
 AR4 Criminal Record Review Policy
 AC9 Essential Skills Policy

Resources for Student Success

Learning Centre: <http://www.kpu.ca/learningcentres>

Student Rights and Responsibilities:

<https://www.kpu.ca/calendar/2017-18/academic-affairs/studentrightsresponsibilities.html>

Counseling: <http://www.kpu.ca/counselling>

Plagiarism Awareness Tutorial: <https://courses.kpu.ca/enrol/index.php?id=19070>

Crisis Centre of BC:

<https://crisiscentre.bc.ca/get-help/> or 1.800.784.2433 or online chat: <http://crisiscentrechat.ca/>

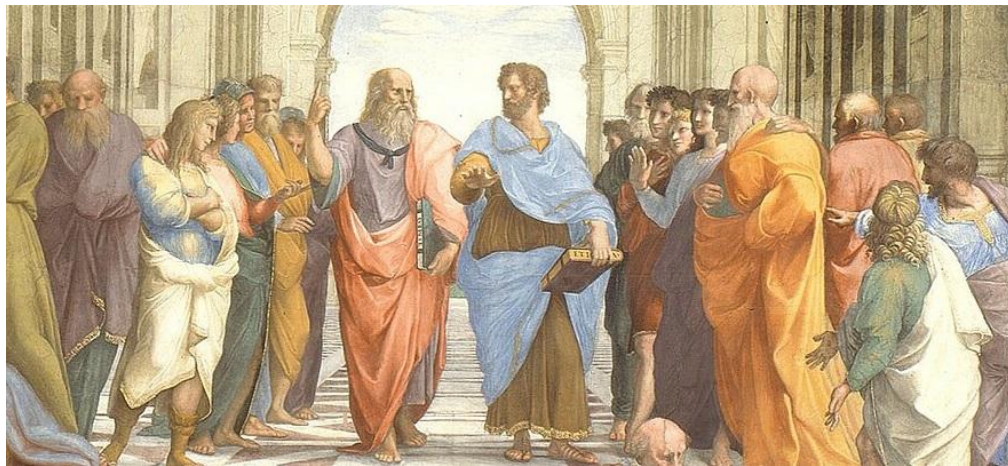
Services for Students with Disabilities: <http://www.kpu.ca/ssd>

SCHEDULE

Here and on the next page, you will find a week-by-week breakdown of everything we will do during the term. I might adjust this schedule and/or alter the content (if there are any schedule or content changes, I will say so in class and announce those changes on Moodle).

Week	Date	Topic	What to read
1	January 12	Introduction	Overview of course logistics and preview of content
2	January 19	Plato's metaphysics	Selections from <i>The Republic</i> and <i>Timaeus</i>
3	January 26	Plato's epistemology	Selections from <i>Theaetetus</i> and <i>Meno</i>
4	February 2	Plato's ethics	Selections from <i>Gorgias</i> , <i>Apology</i> , and <i>Crito</i>
5	February 9	Plato's politics	Selections from <i>The Republic</i> and <i>The Statesman</i>
6	February 16	--- READING BREAK: NO CLASS ---	
7	February 23	Plato's aesthetics	Selections from <i>Symposium</i>

8	March 2	MID-TERM 25% (on Plato)	
9	March 9	Aristotle's metaphysics	Selections from <i>Metaphysics</i> and <i>Categories</i>
10	March 16	Aristotle's epistemology	Selections from <i>Posterior Analytics</i>
11	March 23	Aristotle's ethics	Selections from <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i>
12	March 30	Aristotle's politics	Selections from <i>Politics</i>
13	April 6	--- EASTER MONDAY: NO CLASS ---	
14	April 13	Aristotle's aesthetics	Selections from <i>Poetics</i>
April 20, from <u>8:30am</u> to 11:30am		FINAL EXAM 25% (on Aristotle)	Held <i>in person</i> at Surrey's Maple building, room 2820. Bring your KPU I.D. (you get 0% without it) and arrive on campus early.



FRIENDLY ADVICE

Philosophy is a tough subject. So, *attend every class no matter what, and stay on top of your assignments throughout the term.* If you are lost, confused, or unsure about something, ask me for help *beforehand*, since after that nothing can be done. This is a unique opportunity to exercise your brain and grow as a person, so make the most of it. If you put in the work (which I cannot do for you), I promise that I will do my utmost to help you perform at your best.

Taking the course means that you are *aware of* and *agree with* all the terms and policies stated in this document.