

**College of San Mateo**  
**Official Course Outline**

1. **COURSE ID:** PHIL 160    **TITLE:** History of Ancient Philosophy    **C-ID:** PHIL 130  
**Units:** 3.0 units    **Hours/Semester:** 48.0-54.0 Lecture hours; and 96.0-108.0 Homework hours  
**Method of Grading:** Letter Grade Only  
**Recommended Preparation:**  
    ENGL 100 or ENGL 105
  
2. **COURSE DESIGNATION:**  
**Degree Credit**  
**Transfer credit:** CSU; UC  
**AA/AS Degree Requirements:**  
    CSM - GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS: E2c. Communication and Analytical Thinking  
    CSM - GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS: E5c. Humanities  
**CSU GE:**  
    CSU GE Area C: ARTS AND HUMANITIES: C2 - Humanities (Literature, Philosophy, Languages Other than English)  
**IGETC:**  
    IGETC Area 3: ARTS AND HUMANITIES: B: Humanities
  
3. **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:**  
**Catalog Description:**  
    This course addresses ancient philosophy with emphasis on the development of Greek philosophy from the Pre-Socratics through Aristotle and may also include Hellenistic, Roman, medieval or non-western thinkers.
  
4. **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOME(S) (SLO'S):**  
    Upon successful completion of this course, a student will meet the following outcomes:
  1. Evaluate the fundamental tenets of the philosophical theories and the epistemological, ethical, and metaphysical positions of the Roman world and the Renaissance.
  2. Evaluate the fundamental tenets of the philosophical theories of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle and their respective epistemological, ethical, and metaphysical positions.
  3. Explain the basic philosophical ideas of the various pre-Socratic philosophers.
  
5. **SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONAL OBJECTIVES:**  
    Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:
  1. Employ critical philosophical skills
  2. Explicate philosophical texts of the ancient past
  3. Analyze primary theories and standpoints with special emphasis on Plato's and Aristotle
  4. Critically analyze and evaluate arguments, assumptions, principles, and methods of the philosophers under consideration
  
6. **COURSE CONTENT:**  
**Lecture Content:**
  1. The characteristics and interests in early pre-Socratic philosophers
    - A. A departure from the traditional mythological perspective of the universe to a more relational and experimental view of nature
      - a. The Milesians
      - b. Thales
      - c. Anaximander
      - d. Anaximenes
  2. The development of the early cosmological, metaphysical, mathematical conception of reality.
    - A. Socratic philosophy of man and good
    - B. Plato's philosophical positions on the knowledge of Form, man and society
    - C. Aristotle's view of the universe (the Unmoved Mover) and teleological concepts of ethics
  3. Philosophical Achievements from Milesians to Pythagoras, Heraclitus, the Eleatics - Anaxagoras and Democritus.
  4. The maturity of Ancient philosophical development of the Sophists and Socratic philosophies of man.
  5. Plato - philosopher of the Idea/Form; Aristotle - philosopher of the Actual.

6. Explain Greek philosophy after Aristotle
  - A. Stoicism
  - B. Epicurus
  - C. Plotinus to early philosophy in Christian era
7. Early main Christian philosophy/theology of Augustine and Islam to scholastic philosophy of Anselm and the revival of Aristotelian of Bonaventura and Aquinas
8. The evolvement of Hellenistic philosophy
9. The evolvement of Roman philosophy of ethics
10. The evolvement of the Stoics, Epicureans, and Skeptics.
11. The emergence of Christianity and the absorption and adoption of Greek and Hellenistic philosophical tradition into their own religions or theological teachings
  - A. Neo-Platonism of Plotinus
  - B. Renaissance philosophers

**7. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:**

Typical methods of instruction may include:

- A. Lecture
- B. Discussion
- C. Guest Speakers

**8. REPRESENTATIVE ASSIGNMENTS**

Representative assignments in this course may include, but are not limited to the following:

**Writing Assignments:**

- 2-3 essays approximately 3-8 pages each.
- essay for research paper, approximately 5-10 pages in length.
- summary for oral report

**Reading Assignments:**

- 10- 20 pages of textbook reading per chapter per week
- outside independent reading for research term paper (approximately 10-20 pages every two weeks)
- outside independent reading for oral report (approximately 50 pages throughout the course)

**Other Outside Assignments:**

- research for term paper (approximately 10 pages in length)
- research for oral report (approximately 10 pages in length)

**9. REPRESENTATIVE METHODS OF EVALUATION**

Representative methods of evaluation may include:

- A. Class Participation
- B. Exams/Tests
- C. Group Projects
- D. Homework
- E. Papers
- F. Projects
- G. Research Projects
- H. Written examination

**10. REPRESENTATIVE TEXT(S):**

Possible textbooks include:

- A. Pojman, L. P., & Vaughn, L.. *Classics of Philosophy*, ed. Oxford University Press, 2010
- B. Melchert, N.. *The Great Conversation: A historical introduction to philosophy*, ed. Oxford University Press, 2014
- C. Plato. *The Complete Works*, ed. e-artnow, 2015
- D. Aristotle. *Complete Works, Historical Background, and Modern Interpretation of Aristotle's Ideas* , ed. Annotated Classics, 2014
- E. Warren, James. *Presocratics (Ancient Philosophies)* , ed. Routledge, 2014

**Origination Date:** October 2015

**Curriculum Committee Approval Date:** January 2016

**Effective Term:** Fall 2016

**Course Originator:** Jeremy Ball