UT-TYLER COURSE SYLLABUS

PHIL 3301, 060: ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY

SPRING 2026

1) Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Dr. Griffin T. Nelson, Ph.D.

Email: griffinnelson@uttyler.edu (or through the Canvas inbox)

Supervisor: Dr. Greg Bock (gbock@uttyler.edu)

2) Office Hours

By appointment only and via Zoom.

3) TA Contact

None.

4) Course Overview

This course covers Western philosophy from the pre-Socratics to Aristotle.

5) Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

1) Articulate a basic understanding of the questions and importance of philosophy.
2) Explain Greek theories of reality, human nature, ethics and politics.
3) Summarize Plato's idea of an ideal society.
4) Discuss Aristotle's theory of virtue (*arete*).
5) Discuss Aristotle's theory of happiness (*eudaimonia*).
6) Critically evaluate philosophical arguments.

6) Required Texts

There are PDF copies of each required reading on the **READINGS** pages in informational modules (the READINGS page lists the readings for that part of the course).

If you prefer a paper version of the text, you are REQUIRED to obtain this version:

Readings in Ancient Greek Philosophy: From Thales to Aristotle. 5th edition. Edited by Cohen, Curd and Reeve. Cambridge: Hackett Publishing, 2016. ISBN: 9781624665332

7) Special Course Notes

None.

8) Assignments and Grading Scale

Assignments:

Assignment	Weight	Description
Midterm and Final Exam	25%	50 questions each, 25 true/false and 25 multiple choice.
Formatting and Citing Assignment	10%	An assignment designed to teach students the standards for citing and formatting papers.
Paper 1: Plato's *Symposium*	15%	A 4-5 page paper concerning Plato's notion of *Eros* or Love in the *Symposium*.
Research Paper: Prospectus	5%	A prospectus is a proposal of a research project developed to convince a reader that the research can be carried out and will yield worthwhile results.
Research Paper: Thesis Statement and Bibliography	5%	Provide a thesis statement to show what will be argued or proven in the research paper. Provide sources to be used for the project.
Paper 2: Research Paper	25%	An 8-10 page research paper on a topic in Ancient Philosophy that was covered during the course of the semester. The student cannot write on the same topic as Paper 1.
Attendance/Participation	15%	A weekly grade for attendance/participation, lowest score dropped. For in-person students you are required to both attend and participate. For online students you are required to watch videos that approximate a week's class time.

Grading Scale:

A=90-100%

B=80-89%

C=70-79%

D=60-69%

F=0-59%

Paper Information:

Information about papers will be distributed during the course of the semester and you will be asked to use academic sources for them. Your papers must include both **JSTOR articles** and **internet sources** (e.g. Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy or the Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy). The course text does not count toward the minimum sources but should be included in your bibliography. The paper should follow the Chicago style of citing. For information on citing your papers, please see the resources on the Start Here module.

Paper Formatting:

- Top Left of Your Paper: Your name, the course and section number, the date, professor name
- Double-spaced
- Page numbers
- No cover page
- Standard twelve-point font (e.g. Times New Roman)
- One-inch margins
- .doc, .docx, or .pdf file format

9) Late Work and Make-Up Exam Expectations

Late work is not accepted. There will be no make up of exams unless the professor approves.

10) Attendance Policy

This class is usually taught in both face-to-face and online format simultaneously. The total attendance/participation grade is 15% of your final grade. The grade will be based on weekly activity. There are 15 weeks and each week will be worth 10 points, or 1% of your grade. An announcement will be sent every Monday entitled **"Week X Schedule for Ancient Philosophy"** and will contain readings, assignments, and the videos with their time that are required for online students. Face-to-face students get their attendance/participation grade by attending class and participating. Online students get their attendance/participation grade by watching videos, and the amount is meant to approximate attending two classes per week (about 160 minutes per week, see the **Notes** below). Canvas has tools which allow me to see whether students have watched the videos and for how long (NOTE: if you skip or fast forward, Canvas will show that). I will be checking videos on Mondays, so you need to have completed this assignment by **SUNDAY** of every week.

Face-to-Face

To receive full credit for the week (10 points), you simply need to attend class each day and participate. For each unexcused absence, 5 points will be deducted from your weekly grade. For example, if you miss one class in a specific week, the most you can get for that week is 5 points out of 10. After absences are taken into account, your grade for the week will be based on your level of participation. So if you miss one class and have average participation, your grade would be a 3 or 4 out of 10 (-5 for missing class and a further deduction for lack of participation). If you attend both classes in a given week, then your grade will be based on your level of participation. Excused absences include: documented illness, school function, religious exemptions, pregnant/parenting students, or prior approval by the professor (unless it is an emergency). Students can make up any missed work for the week (but not their grade) by watching the videos listed on the weekly announcement.

Online

To receive full credit you must watch all the videos I send in the weekly announcement. You must complete this assignment by **SUNDAY** of each week.

Notes

The 160 minute rule is not absolute, it is meant to approximate attending 2 classes per week. Sometimes the time will be less, other times a few minutes more. Whatever time is provided on the weekly announcement will be the required time for that week. You will not be required to watch videos for holiday weeks such as Thanksgiving or Spring Break. In those cases, you will receive full credit for that week. You are not required to submit anything for this assignment.

11) Calendar of Topics

Tentative Course Schedule:

Week 1: Introductions, Start Here module, Pre-Socratics

Week 2: Pre-Socratics and Socrates

Week 3: Socrates, Plato's *Apology* and Plato's *Euthyphro*

Week 4: Plato, General Information; Formatting and Citing Assignment

Week 5: Plato, General Information, Plato's *Symposium*

Week 6: Plato's *Symposium*

Week 7: Plato's *Republic* I-III

Week 8: Plato's *Republic* IV-VI; Paper 1: Plato's *Symposium*

Week 9: Plato's *Republic* VII-X; Midterm Exam

Week 10: Spring Break

Week 11: Aristotle, General Information

Week 12: Aristotle, General Information

Week 13: Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics* I-II; Research Paper: Prospectus

Week 14: Aristotle's *NE* II-III; Research Paper: Thesis Statement and Bibliography

Week 15: Aristotle's *NE* V-X; Paper 2: Research Paper

Final Exam

12) UT-Tyler AI Statement and Faculty Member's Selection

UT-Tyler AI Statement

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy. Refer to the About This Course section of the UT Tyler Syllabus Module for specific information on appropriate use of AI in your course(s).

Faculty Member's Selection

AI is not permitted in this course at all. I expect all work students submit for this course to be their own. I have carefully designed all assignments and class activities to support your learning. Doing your own work, without human or artificial intelligence assistance, is best for your efforts in mastering course learning objectives. For this course, I expressly forbid using ChatGPT or any other artificial intelligence (AI) tools for any stages of the work process, including brainstorming. Deviations from these guidelines will be considered a violation of UT Tyler's Honor Code and academic honesty values.

13) Incomplete Grade Policy

From the UT-Tyler Registrar page: "If a student, because of extenuating circumstances, is unable to complete all of the requirements for a course by the end of the semester, then the instructor may recommend an Incomplete (I) for the course. The "I" may be assigned in lieu of a grade only when all of the following conditions are met: (a) the student has been making satisfactory progress in the course; (b) the student is unable to complete all course work or final exam due to unusual circumstances that are beyond personal control and are acceptable to the instructor; and (c) the student presents these reasons prior to the time that the final grade roster is due."

"Satisfactory progress" for this course means that a student has a C (70%) average or higher and that the student has submitted at least 70% of the assignments toward the semester total (100%) at the time the request is made. This instructor is hesitant to offer incomplete grades due to having adjunct status, which means I will not have access to the UT system, including Canvas, shortly after the semester ends.