

Course description

Title of course:	An Interactive Introduction into the History of Greek Philosophy
Course code:	BSB9443
Mode of completion:	practical mark (home-written essay, ca. 6000 chars)
Scheduled time:	Thursday 12:00 – 13:30
Venue:	(Reviczky utca)
Weekly lectures:	2
No. of ECTS:	6
Instructor's name:	István Pásztori-Kupán, MTh, PhD, dr. habil.
Instructor's email address:	mcpasztori@yahoo.com

Brief description of the course:

The course aims to offer a brief introduction into the history of ancient Greek philosophy from the Presocratic philosophers (6th century – mid-5th century BC) until the age of the Neoplatonists of the 5th century AD. The interactive lectures and seminars will include a selection of texts and excerpts from various ancient thinkers like Thales, Heraclitus, Empedocles, Plato, Aristotle, Plotinus, Epictetus, Marcus Aurelius and others. The analysis of selected and previously read passages will be followed by discussion.

Classes during the semester

Class No:	Date:	Theme:
1.	Feb. 13	Presocratics: The school of Miletus, Thales, Anaximander, Anaximenes, Pythagoras and Pythagoreans Kirk-Raven: <i>The Presocratic Philosophers</i> (selections from Thales and Pythagoras)
2.	Feb. 20	Heraclitus The Eleatic school: Xenophanes, Parmenides, Zeno and Melissus Kirk-Raven: <i>The Presocratic Philosophers</i> (selections from Heraclitus and Zeno)
3.	Feb. 27	Empedocles, Anaxagoras and the Atomists: Leucippus and Democritus Selected fragments by Presocratics https://www.mnsu.edu/philosophy/Presocratic%20fragments.pdf
4.	Mar. 5	Socrates: his life, teaching and his reprehension of the Sophists Plato: <i>The Apology of Socrates</i> http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/apology.html
5.	Mar. 12	Plato: his life, works and the teaching concerning the ideas; the allegory of the cave Plato: <i>Republic</i> , Book VII http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/republic.8.vii.html
6.	Mar. 19	Plato's concept of anamnesis and his teaching on the soul. Plato's ethics Plato: <i>Phaedrus</i> , the analogy of the charioteer http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/phaedrus.html
7.	Mar. 26	Aristotle: his life and criticism of Plato's concept of ideas; Aristotle's logic and ethics Aristotle: <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/nicomachaen.1.i.html
8.	Apr. 16	Cynicism: Antisthenes and Diogenes Diogenes Laertius: <i>Lives of Eminent Philosophers</i> http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=D.+L.+6.2&fromdoc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.01.0258
9.	Apr. 23	Hellenistic philosophy: Epicurus and Epicureanism Epicurus: <i>Letter to Menoeceus</i> http://classics.mit.edu/Epicurus/menoec.html
10.	Apr. 30	The early Stoa: Zeno of Citium, Cleanthes and Chrysippus Cleanthes: <i>Hymn to Zeus</i>

		https://salemcc.instructure.com/courses/121/pages/cleanthes-hymn-to-zeus-c-3rd-century-b-dot-c-e Late Stoic philosophers and their ethics: Seneca, Epictetus and Marcus Aurelius Seneca, <i>Of Clemency</i> , Book I, Ch. 1–14 Epictetus: <i>Enchiridion</i> http://classics.mit.edu/Epictetus/epicench.html Marcus Aurelius: <i>Meditations</i> http://classics.mit.edu/Antoninus/meditations.1.one.html
11.	May 5	Scepticism: Pyrrho of Elis; Neo-Platonism: Plotinus and Porphyry Plotinus: <i>Enneads</i> VI, 1: On the kinds of being http://classics.mit.edu/Plotinus/enneads.6.sixth.html
12.	May 12	Philosophers in the Christian world: Libanius of Antioch and Hypatia of Alexandria Socrates Scholasticus, <i>Church History</i> Book VII, Chapter 15 http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/26017.htm Primary sources on Hypatia: http://plato2051.tripod.com/hypatia_of_alexandria.htm

Recommended Bibliography

G. S. Kirk – J. F. Raven: *The Presocratic Philosophers. A Critical History with a Selection of Texts* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1957)

<https://archive.org/details/presocraticphilo033229mbp>

The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy: <http://www.iep.utm.edu/>

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy: <http://plato.stanford.edu/>

Heraclitus' fragments: <http://www.heraclitusfragments.com/index.html>

Selected fragments by Presocratics (including Thales, Anaximander, Anaximenes, Pythagoras, Heraclitus, Parmenides, Zeno of Elea, Anaxagoras, Empedocles, Leucippus and Democritus): <https://www.mnsu.edu/philosophy/Presocratic%20fragments.pdf>

Plato: *The Apology of Socrates* <http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/apology.html>

Plato: *Republic*, Book VII <http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/republic.8.vii.html>

Plato: *Phaedrus* <http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/phaedrus.html>

Aristotle: *Nicomachean Ethics* <http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/nicomachaen.1.i.html>

Epicurus: *Letter to Menoecus* <http://classics.mit.edu/Epicurus/menoec.html>

Cleanthes: *Hymn to Zeus* <https://salemcc.instructure.com/courses/121/pages/cleanthes-hymn-to-zeus-c-3rd-century-b-dot-c-e>

Epictetus: *Enchiridion* <http://classics.mit.edu/Epictetus/epicench.html>

Marcus Aurelius: *Meditations* <http://classics.mit.edu/Antoninus/meditations.1.one.html>

Diogenes Laertius, *Lives of Eminent Philosophers*

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.01.0258%3Abook%3D1%3Achapter%3Dprologue>

Plotinus: *Enneads* <http://classics.mit.edu/Plotinus/enneads.html>

Socrates Scholasticus, *Church History* Book VII, Chapter 15

<http://www.newadvent.org/fathers/26017.htm> (on Hypatia of Alexandria)

Sources on Hypatia:

http://plato2051.tripod.com/hypatia_of_alexandria.htm

Rankin, H.D., *Sophists, Socratics and Cynics* (New Jersey: Barnes & Noble, 1983)