

ὄνομα _____

The Athenian Culture War

Midterm Exam

10.18.05

This Midterm Exam has three sections: (1) Chronology, (2) Greek Terms, and (3) Essays.

Chronology (5 minutes)

In the right-hand column, arrange chronologically the list of ten items in the left-hand column. At the top should be the item furthest in the past, and at the bottom the item most recent.

The Plague in Athens	_____
Death of Plato	_____
Beginning of the Peloponnesian War	_____
Life of Hesiod	_____
Death of Socrates	_____
The eclipse which Thales successfully predicted	_____
Dramatic Date of <i>Oedipus the King</i>	_____
Floruit of Parmenides	_____
Composition Date of <i>Oedipus the King</i>	_____
Pythagoras founds society in Croton	_____

Greek Terms (15 minutes)

Provide for the following three Greek terms an English translation—or, where appropriate, a range of English meanings—and then discuss their significance so far in this course, mentioning the Greek authors to whom they are most relevant, and then discussing briefly their particular meaning for these authors.

θεός
ἐπιστήμη
αἰτία

Essay Questions (55 minutes)

1. (25 minutes) Describe the development of Milesian thought about the *ἀρχή* of the *κόσμος*. First name the candidate preferred by Thales and outline the arguments Aristotle presents on Thales' behalf. Next make two objections: one against the candidate itself, another against one of the arguments presented by Aristotle. What candidate did Anaximander then favor? What are two arguments against this candidate? Next name the candidate preferred by Anaximenes and present the two reasons he apparently offered to support it. Finally, make two objections: one against Anaximenes' candidate, another against one of his reasons. Did Milesian thought evolve, with each philosopher marking an advance over his predecessor?
2. (20 minutes) Describe the Pythagoreans musical and mathematical investigations. How did these investigations provoke a new metaphysics, a radical departure from the natural philosophy of the Milesians? Applying the same revolutionary spirit to religion, how did the Pythagoreans depart from traditional Greek religion?
3. (10 minutes) If you had to capture Heraclitus's account (*λόγος*) of the world in three or four words, what would they be? Explain their significance by paraphrasing several Heraclitean aphorisms, at least two for each word. Be sure to describe a few of the most important of his images and analogies. Now, what is the inherent problem with presenting *Heraclitus's account of the world*? Presuming that Heraclitus himself recognized this problem, what does he seem to have done to escape it? Did he succeed?