

Final Exam
Ancient Philosophy (56)
Summer II

Chronology and Identification (15 minutes)

For each of the ten philosophers listed below, provide the century (or centuries) in which he wrote and two facts about him or his philosophy:

Seneca the Younger
Critias
Lucretius
Diogenes of Sinope
Parmenides
Cicero
Xenophanes
Porphyry
Democritus
Chrysippus

Short Explanation (20 minutes)

With about a paragraph for each, explain the four terms listed below by revealing their philosophical meaning and contexts. Whenever appropriate, mention the the primary text—or texts, if there are more than one—in which they appear:

1. *limit and unlimited*
2. *suspension of judgment*
3. *Beauty*
4. *hypostasis*

Medium Essays (90 minutes; about 30 minutes each)

1. Choose only one of the following two questions:
 - a. What were the major political and military events of the following *historical periods*, and how did they affect the course of ancient philosophy?
 - i. Archaic Greece (late 7th – early 5th centuries B.C.)
 - ii. Classical Greece (middle 5th – middle 4th centuries B.C.)
 - iii. Hellenistic (late 4th – 1st centuries B.C.)
 - iv. Early Roman Empire (1st century B.C. – 2nd century A.D.)
 - v. Late Roman Empire (3rd – 4th centuries A.D.)
 - vi. The “Fall” of Rome (5th century A.D. and beyond)
 - b. Until Pythagoras, Greek philosophers had been materialists. How did Pythagoras and subsequent Pythagoreans introduce the idea of *form* into philosophy? How did Plato denigrate matter by appropriating this notion—both in his middle period and also, in a different way, with the *Philebus*? How does matter, or *hyle*, fare in the later philosophies of Plotinus and Augustine, which owe so much to Plato, and thus also Pythagoras?

2. Choose only one of the following two questions:
- Compare and contrast the *theologies and theodicies* of the Epicureans, Stoics, Skeptics, and Augustine. What are their main views? When they argue for these views, what are their most important arguments? Upon which of the three Hellenistic philosophies does Augustine rely most heavily?
 - What is the purpose of *philosophy* according to the following philosophers: Socrates (as he appears in the *Apology*), Plato (in the middle period of his *Symposium* and *Republic*, in which we find his famous Allegory of the Cave), the Epicureans, the Stoics, the Skeptics, Plotinus, and Augustine?
3. Choose only one of the following two questions:
- What is Plotinus' *psychology*? First of all, how are individual souls related to The Soul? Secondly, why do they descend from It? Thirdly, what is the soul-body relation once they have? Is the soul in the body? (Present three analogies he considers for this relation and provide his critique of each.) Instead, is the body in the soul? (Present one of the analogies he consider for this relation.) Has Plotinus solved the soul-body problem? Say why or why not.
 - Explain Plotinus' *cosmos*. First of all, given Nature as we experience it through sensation, how can we infer the existence of The Soul, from it The Intelligence, and then from it The One? Secondly, why must The One produce the lower Hypostases and Nature? How sound are these arguments? (Evaluate each as you present it.)

Long Essay (55 minutes)

How do the major developments of ancient philosophy from Thales to Augustine recapitulate the life of Oedipus described first in *Oedipus Tyrannus* and then in *Oedipus Colonus*? Tell the parallel stories of Oedipus and philosophy, selecting from both their developments in approaches to knowledge and the gods, epistemology and theology. What lessons can we deduce from these developments—for Philosophy, and ultimately for ourselves?