

**Final Exam**  
Summer II, Ancient Philosophy (56)  
Thursday July 22<sup>nd</sup>  
8am

The exam will be divided into four sections

**1. Chronology and Identification** (15 minutes)

You will be given a list of ten ancient philosophers and asked to provide for each one (i) the century in which he wrote and (ii) two facts about him or his thought that demonstrate a familiarity with his name.

For instance, if you were given Empedocles, answers would be “5<sup>th</sup> century BC; Sicilian doctor who adopted Pythagorean teachings; first Presocratic to codify the four elements as such.” Unfortunately we did not discuss Empedocles in this course; the names upon which you will be tested will be ones we have.

In fact, these names have been italicized in a list I am compiling of all the ancient philosophers. This list is entitled “Chronology of Ancient Philosophy” and can be found under the “Course Documents” section of Blackboard. A companion list, “The Schools of Ancient Philosophy,” may help place the philosophers in their context. It can be found at the same place on Blackboard.

**2. Short Explanations** (20 minutes)

You will be given four terms, each of which may be sufficiently explained (for our purposes) in a paragraph. The idea is to demonstrate as quickly as possible that you understand the term and its ancient philosophical context.

For example, if you were given “Platonic Form,” you could speak about the dialogue we read that featured the Forms (the *Symposium*), the particular Form it discussed (Beauty), but also the questions that Platonic Forms were meant to answer. A brief mention of the problems that Plato found with the Forms would raise your answer to the highest level. “Platonic Form” is rather indicative of the sort of the four terms you will be asked to explain.

**3. Medium Essays** (30 minutes each)

You will be given three questions to be answered in ninety minutes. These are questions on the order of the Medium Essays of the Midterm—detailed analyses of specific philosophical problems, sometimes informed by historical background. Now, though, you have the leisure of an extra ten minutes to plan or expatiate.

At most one of these questions will be exclusively concerned with material we treated before the midterm. The emphasis of the other two will be upon material we have covered since the midterm—in other words, Plotinus and Augustine. However, even these questions may ask you to draw comparisons or contrasts, and thus criticisms or support, from earlier philosophers. You should therefore begin to think not only of the relationship between Augustine and Plotinus themselves, but also of their relationship with

the thought of their predecessors. As before, the discussion topics that have been posted before each class should serve as good guides. Anyone who has tried each day to answer them has nothing to worry about.

Perhaps you would like still more guidance? Pythagoreanism is an important school of thought for Late Antiquity, while the *Symposium* is obviously an important text. Begin to consider how Plotinus and Augustine appropriate Pythagorean and Platonic doctrines. Aristotle's Active Mind and Unmoved Mover make an appearance in Plotinus' system as The Intelligence, so you should be sure to understand it as well. As for the Hellenistic philosophies, we have seen both Plotinus and Augustine reacting to their psychologies, their theologies and theodicies, and of course their discussions of fate and time. Be sure to master the relevant positions and arguments.

#### **4. Long Essay (55 minutes)**

This question will ask you to write on a theme that encompasses our entire course. Provided that you have attended all the classes and have done all the readings, provided that you have struggled with the material on your own and have sought to understand the most important issues at stake in the great philosophical dialogue of antiquity, this question should be a delight to answer.

#### **Subject Headings**

Here is a list of the material from which these questions may draw. This includes everything you have learned in this course, whether from the readings, the classroom, or both. It adds only four headings to those of the Midterm, so your study two weeks ago will serve you again now. With emphasis now decided by what has just been said, and with the daily discussion topics as your guides, you should thus review the following 21 subjects:

1. The background of Archaic Greek philosophy in Archaic mythology and the basic developments of Archaic history
2. Presocratic philosophers and their main ideas and arguments:

Thales	Heraclitus
Anaximander	Parmenides
Anaximenes	Zeno
Xenophanes	Anaxagoras
Pythagoras	Democritus
3. The basic developments of Classical (fifth-century, Athenian) history and their importance to the Sophists, Sophocles, and Socrates
4. Sophists and their main ideas:

Protagoras	Antiphon
Gorgias	Critias

5. Sophocles' *Oedipus Tyrannus*
6. Socrates (in Plato's *Apology*)
7. Plato's *Symposium*
8. The main ideas of Plato's middle dialogues, and his own criticisms of them:
 

4 motives for the doctrine of Forms	The allegory of the Cave
The Meno Paradox	Critiques of the Forms
9. Plato's *Philebus*
10. Aristotle:
 

Genus and Species	Perception
Potentiality and Actuality	Passive and Active Mind
Matter and Form	God, the Unmoved Mover, or ...
4 Causes	Thought thinking Itself
11. The basic developments of Hellenistic history and thus the background of Hellenistic philosophy
12. Epicureanism
13. Stoicism
14. Skepticism
15. Socrates and Hellenism
16. Fate
17. Time
18. The basic developments of 3<sup>rd</sup> century history, and thus the background of the pagan Neoplatonism.
19. Plotinus
20. The basic developments of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> century history, and thus the background of the Christian philosophy of Augustine.
21. Augustine