

**Midterm Exam**  
Ancient Philosophy (56)  
Summer II

**Medium Essays** (20 minutes each)

1. What is the Epicurean account of pleasure? Specifically, according to them, what role does it play in the good life, what is its relation to pain, and how are pleasures that should be pursued distinct from those which should be eschewed? Next, what four criteria did Plato develop in the *Philebus* to distinguish false from true pleasures? How might one or more of these criteria be used to criticize the Epicurean philosophy?
2. What is the “Master Argument” (first articulated by Aristotle) to the effect that all events are fated? What options did this argument leave successors? In particular, which option did the Epicureans choose, and which the Stoics? Each option presented problems; what were they? How did Chrysippus, the Stoic, try to resolve the problems germane to his school?
3. Choose one of the following:
  - a. What is Aristotle’s theory of causation? Illustrate his four causes with an example such as the one we used in class: a house. Next, what is the Skeptical position on causation? Rehearse as many as you can of Sextus’ four arguments about it. Are these arguments effective against Aristotle’s theory, or does his theory remain immune to them?
  - b. Describe two of Zeno of Elea’s arguments to the effect that nothing moves. What is the Skeptical position on motion? Rehearse as many as you can of Sextus’ three arguments about it. Which two of these arguments merely recycle Zeno’s paradoxes, and which one introduces something new? Are any of them sound?

**Long Essay** (30 minutes)

How do the complex elements of Socrates (both his character and his philosophy) survive into the the Hellenistic period? Take each of its three schools in turn and describe the debt that they owe to Socrates.

Ideally, your answer should proceed as follows: choose a school, describe a facet of Socrates that emerges in it (referring to claims, stories, or doctrines from the *Apology* and *Symposium*), and then show precisely how this facet emerges in the school you have chosen; repeat for all the facets relevant to this school; summarize the version of Socrates this school has favored and assess whether it is coherent; then repeat the same steps for the two remaining schools.

Your answer should convey: (a) your acquaintance with Socrates, his historical milieu, and the account of him we receive in the first two Platonic texts we read, (b) your understanding of the main teachings of Epicureanism, Stoicism, and Skepticism, and finally (c) your appreciation of the main developments of Hellenistic history that contributed to the fragmentation of Socrates’ legacy.