

Point Loma Nazarene University  
**PLATO AND ARISTOTLE**  
PHL 3001

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Office Hours: by appointment

**PLNU MISSION:**

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service becomes an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we aspire to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

1. Students will engage in the disciplined practices of asking questions about God, the world, and of themselves, including questions for which there may be no easy answers. (Learning, Growing)
2. Students will differentiate among interrelated movements or figures in the history of philosophy. (Learning)
3. Students will evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of human reasoning or experience to provide adequate accounts of significant issues that relate to our human condition, the world, ethics and Christian life. (Learning, Growing, Serving)

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

1. To develop and widen an openness towards the pursuit of wisdom.
2. To nurture creative and reflective thinking by reading significant primary texts within the Western philosophical tradition.
3. To examine what it means for us to be human.
4. To introduce several philosophical issues found in the ancient western tradition including human knowledge, the nature of desire, the ancient Greek notion of health, the relationship of the soul to the body, the relationship of human beings to nature and (g)od, and the meaning of a *good* human life.
5. To wrestle, and I mean wrestle, with these issues as they relate to our lives.

**ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS:**

Please see me in order to discuss any accommodations you may need. All students are expected to meet the minimum standards for this course as set forth by the instructor. Students with learning disabilities who may need accommodations should first discuss options and services with the Academic Support Center (ASC) during the first two weeks of the semester. Approved documentation must be provided by the student and placed on file in the ASC prior to the beginning of the semester. If you have a diagnosed disability, please contact PLNU's Disability Resource Center (DRC) within the first two weeks of class to demonstrate need and to register for accommodation by phone at 619-849-2486 or by e-mail at [DRC@pointloma.edu](mailto:DRC@pointloma.edu). See [Disability Resource Center](#) for additional information.

**INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE:**

The School of Theology and Christian Ministry is committed to the equality of women and men. Recognizing that people have often used the English language in ways that imply the exclusion or inferiority of women, the school urges students, faculty, and staff to avoid sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussion, and in their writings. Thus, terms like “man” or “mankind” or the pronoun “he,” should not be used to refer to all humans. Instead “people,” “humanity,” “humans,” and “he or she” better acknowledge women as full persons.

### **PLNU ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY:**

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one’s own when in reality they are the results of another person’s creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. Faculty should follow and students may appeal using the procedure in the university Catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

### **TEXTBOOK:**

<http://philoctetes.free.fr/anaximander.htm>

<http://philoctetes.free.fr/heraclitus.htm>

<http://philoctetes.free.fr/parmenides.htm>

- 1) Five Dialogues of Plato  
    **ISBN-13:** 978-0872206335
- 2) The Republic by Plato  
    **ISBN-13:** 978-0872201361
- 3) The Symposium by Plato  
    **ISBN-13:** 978-0872200760
- 4) The Basic Works of Aristotle (McKeon ed.)  
    **ISBN-13:** 978-0375757990

### **PROCEDURE/REQUIREMENTS:**

1. We will be reading from some of the most significant **texts** in the history of Western thought. It is vitally important that you become acquainted with the primary material in order that you get a feel for not simply what the writer says, but how *he* makes you think. I want you to be thoughtful and critical of what each of the thinkers writes, as well as of what I say in class. A significant portion of your grade will be based upon the amount of **reading** you do. You will be asked to give a report

each day on your reading progress (scale of 0-10). For example, an 8.5 means that you read carefully and thought about carefully 85% of the assigned reading for that day.

2. Regular and punctual **attendance** is required for the full benefit of this class. If you are late it is your responsibility to see me after class in order that your attendance may be recorded. Any three tardies will be recorded as one absence. Dialogue tends to spawn new ideas and creativity, so discussion will also be important. Therefore, *each* student will be expected to enter into class discussion. The extent to which this occurs, along with attendance, will be considered in your final grade. *You cannot pass the class* if you miss more than three weeks of class (six sessions). See the catalogue.

3. Throughout the term each of you will do one **in-class presentation**. If it is the first day discussing a figure, there should be brief and general philosophical introductions to the figure covered during that session. It may include cultural analyses elucidating the time period surrounding a figure or figures, for example. The presentation should mainly be an outline of the text for the day. You should reference 7-9 significant portions of the text to be covered in class. You must provide a printed detailed list of quotations and a bibliography for each member of the class.

4. There will be two **papers**. The first will be less formal than the last. It will require an interpretation of any four fragments of any two **Pre-Socratic** thinkers (not limited to those discussed in class). It will be 3 pages in length and is due in class on September 17th. For the **final paper**, you will need to come up with a topic proposal and an argument for me by November 19th. You may choose your paper topic from among those covered in class. The topic proposal should relate what you plan on doing in your final paper. It should contain a thesis statement and an argument justifying your method and, finally, a projection of how this might be accomplished (description). Each paper is subject to my approval. The paper will be 7-9 pages in length and will be due December 13<sup>th</sup> by noon in my box (Smee #200). The final paper will be explicative, but will allow *minimal* secondary sources. A works cited page (on top of the minimum page requirements) will be required. It will be a formal paper. So, please follow guidelines given in any of the manuals of style. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in either zero credit for the assignment and a full grade reduction for the class or failure of the course all together (this is up to my discretion). Both will result in a letter to the Provost to be placed in your academic record.

5. There will be two in-class **exams**. One will be on Socrates/Plato and the other, Aristotle. They will be essay format. You will be allowed two 3X5 notecards for each exam. The exams will not be timed.

6. The **grades** are based on all of these mentioned assignments. All outside assignments are due at the beginning of class. I will not accept late work. I will give no make-up exams unless you have an excused absence (doctor's note required) AND have notified me in advance. All make-up exams must be taken within one week of the exam. Do not expect to be able to make-up the exam unless I have written or spoken this to you explicitly.

READING	10%
PRE-SOCRATICS PAPER	14%
PRESENTATION	14%
SOCRATES/PLATO EXAM	20%
ARISTOTLE EXAM	20%
<u>FINAL PAPER</u>	<u>22%</u>
TOTAL	100%

100-94% A	79-77% C+	63-60% D-
93-90% A-	76-74% C	59-0% F
89-87% B+	73-70% C-	
86-84% B	69-67% D+	
83-80% B-	66-64% D	

### **SCHEDULE:**

8/28 Introduction to the course  
8/29 Pre-Socratics pp. 1-17  
9/3 No Class  
9/5 Pre-Socratics pp. 18-40  
9/10 Pre-Socratics 40-51  
9/12 *Apology* pp. 153-172\*  
9/17 *Apology* pp. 172-178 \***Pre-Socratics paper DUE\***  
9/19 *Meno* pp. 241-266\*  
9/24 *Republic* bk VI pp. 515-541\*  
9/26 *Republic* bk VII pp. 542-566\*  
10/1 *Protagoras* pp. 192-203 (232a)\*  
10/3 *Protagoras* pp. 203-218\*  
10/8 *Symposium* pp. 320-325, pp. 335-339, pp. 339-357\*  
10/10 *Symposium* pp. 357-368\*  
10/15 *Phaedo* pp. 267-286 (78b)\*  
10/17 *Phaedo* pp. 286-302 (95e)\*  
10/22 *Phaedo* pp. 302-319\*  
10/24 FLEX  
10/29 **Plato Exam**  
10/31 *Physics* pp. 732-747\*  
11/5 *Physics* pp. 747-764\*  
11/7 *De Anima* pp. 847-855\*  
11/12 *De Anima* pp. 855-863\*  
11/14 *De Anima* pp. 863-869  
11/19 *Metaphysics* pp. 815-833\* **paper topic Due**  
11/21-23 Thanksgiving Break  
11/26 *Metaphysics* pp. 834-846\*  
11/28 *Nichomachean Ethics* pp. 901-919\*  
12/3 *Nichomachean Ethics* pp. 919-929\*  
12/6 FLEX  
12/10 **Aristotle Exam** -Final Exam -Monday 10:30-1:00  
12/13 Noon, my box in Smee Hall **Final Paper Due**