ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 300W: TR 9:25-10:40AM
Fall 2017
Dr. Kelly Arenson

COURSE DESCRIPTION: In ancient Greek and Roman philosophy, we find the roots of practically all aspects of Western thought: the nature of reality, knowledge, and the soul; the quest to articulate the best human life; and a turn toward rational argumentation and discourse. Ancient thinkers took these issues very seriously: they formed schools according to their beliefs about epistemology, ethics, and metaphysics, and they lived their philosophies. Arguably, ancient philosophy inaugurated not only the tradition of philosophical thinking in the Western world, but also the notion of a philosophical lifestyle. This course explores the above themes in the works of the Pre-Socratics, Plato, Aristotle, and later Greek and Roman thinkers.

REQUIREMENTS: Midterm & final exams; pop quizzes; two papers that will be written in stages over the course of the semester (e.g., outline, first draft, final draft, peer review); participation.

PRE-REQUISITE: Basic Philosophical Questions (UCOR 132/IHP 132). In addition, you are far more likely to succeed in this class if you are a careful reader and come to every class ready to discuss texts and ideas.