**COURSE OUTLINE**

**(1) GENERAL**

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| **UNIVERSITY / Department** | * NATIONAL AND KAPODISTRIAN UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS / Department of History and Philosophy of Science   in collaboration with:   * UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS / Department of Philosophy * UNIVERSITY OF CRETE / Department of Philosophy and Social Studies | | | | |
| **STUDY LEVEL** | Postgraduate | | | | |
| **COURSE CODE** | 109 | | **SEMESTER OF STUDY** | 2nd | |
| **COURSE TITLE** | Topics in Ancient Philosophy: SOCRATES AND THE SOPHISTS | | | | |
| **INSTRUCTOR(S)** | Chloe Balla | | | | |
| **TEACHING ACTIVITIES** | | **TEACHING HOURS PER WEEK** | | | **ECTS** |
| Seminars | | 3 | | | 10 |
| **COURSE TYPE** | specialization, skills development | | | | |
| **PREREQUISITE COURSES** | – | | | | |
| **LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION and EXAMINATIONS** | English | | | | |
| **COURSE OFFERED TO ERASMUS STUDENTS** | N/A | | | | |
| **COURSE WEBSITE (URL)** | TBA | | | | |

**(2) LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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| **Learning Outcomes** |
| Upon successful completion of this course, students:   * will have gained familiarity with the close reading and interpretation of philosophical texts; * will be able to apply their knowledge and understanding to other works of ancient philosophy; * will be able to form judgments about the social and moral issues raised in the texts; * will be able to communicate clearly their views and arguments to both specialist and non-specialist audiences |
| **General Skills** |
| * Critical Thinking * Independent work * Team work * Work in an international environment * Work in an interdisciplinary environment * Generating new research ideas |

**(3) COURSE CONTENT**

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| **Socrates and the Sophists**  **General Description:**  Plato’s representation of the Sophists as paid teachers of argumentation has permeated the historiography of philosophy, which has hardly acknowledged the contribution of this group of fifth century intellectuals who—as more and more scholars today realize—marked 5th century intellectual life. In this course we will study the texts of the Sophists in order to appreciate   * the originality of their thought * the various ways in which their practices and ideas triggered Plato’s literary and philosophical agenda, which often turns on the demarcation between philosophy and sophistry * their possible similarities to (and differences from) Socrates and the ways in which those similarities and differences have shaped Socratic apologetics.   **Course Requirements:**  Students are expected to read the weekly assignments (*part* of the suggested readings) and to prepare an abstract (no later than week 6) and a final paper.  **Weekly Schedule:**  **WEEK 1: Course Overview. Methodological Questions/Questions of Nomenclature**  **Suggested Readings:**  Kerferd, G. B. “The First Greek Sophists”. *Classical Review*,64 (1950)  Nehamas, A. “Eristic, Antilogic, Sophistic, Dialectic: Plato's Demarcation of Philosophy from Sophistry”. *History of Philosophy Quarterly* 7.1 (1990); reprinted in *Virtues of Authenticity*, Princeton U. Press, 1999.  Tell, Håkan. Plato's Counterfeit Sophists. Hellenic Studies Series 44. Washington, DC: Center for Hellenic Studies. [**http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:hul.ebook:CHS\_Tell.Platos\_Counterfeit\_Sophists.2011**](http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:hul.ebook:CHS_Tell.Platos_Counterfeit_Sophists.2011).  Wallace, R. W. “Plato’s Sophists, Intellectual Developments after 450, and Sokrates”. In: L. J. Samons II, ed. 2007. *Cambridge Companion to the Age of Pericles*. Cambridge University Press.  **WEEK 2: Plato the Plagiarist**  We will reconstruct the background and the reasoning of Aristoxenus’ claim that in the *Republic* Plato copied Protagoras’ *Opposing Arguments.*  **Suggested Readings:**  Balla, Ch. ‘Politics as Theory and Practice’. In J. Billings and C. Moore, *Cambridge Companion to the Sophists* (forthcoming)  El Murr, D. ‘Eristic, antilogy and the equal disposition of men and women’. *Classical Quarterly* 70.1 (2020): 85-100.  Corradi, M. “*τὸν ἥττω λόγον κρείττω ποιεῖν*: Aristotle, Plato, and the *ἐπάγγελμα* of Protagoras”. In: J. van Ophuijsen, M. van Raalte, P. Stork, eds., 2013. *Protagoras of Abdera: The Man, His Measure,* Leiden, Boston: Brill, 2013.  **WEEK 3: Gyges’ Ring**  We will reconstruct the background of Glaucon’s speech in the *Republic*, and discuss its relevance to the extant fragments of the Sophists  ***Suggested readings:***  Balla, Ch. ‘ΠΕΦΥΚΕΝ ΠΛΕΟΝΕΚΤΕΙΝ? Plato and the sophists on greed and savage humanity’, *Polis* 35 (2018).  Betegh, Gábor (2016). ‘Archelaus on Cosmogony and the Origins of Social Institutions’. *Oxford Studies in Ancient Philosophy* 51:1-40.  Gagarin, M. *Antiphon* the Athenian*. Oratory, Law, and Justice in the Age of the Sophists.* University of Texas Press, 2002 (selections).  **WEEK 4: The power of words, I: Gorgias’ *Helen***  We will read Gorgias’ *Helen* and discuss its importance as a ‘manifesto of rhetoric’.  ***Suggested readings:***  Long, A.A. “The perils of persuasion”, chapter 3 in: *Greek Models of Mind and Self*. Harvard University Press, 2015.  Segal, C. “Gorgias and the Psychology of the *Logos*”, *Harvard Studies in Classical Philology* 66 (1962)  **WEEK 5: The power of words, II: *Correctness of language***  We will identify and discuss the fragments that provide evidence for the Sophists’ interest in the study of language (*orthoepeia*).  ***Suggested readings:***  Balla, Ch. ‘The Correctness of Grammatical Gender in the Sophistic Tradition’. In: S. Brill and C. McKeen, eds, *Routledge Hanbdook of Women and Ancient Philosophy* (forthcoming)  Huitink, L., Willi, A., 2021. „Protagoras and the Beginnings of Grammar“. *The Cambridge Classical Journal* 67.  Mayhew, R., 2011. *Prodicus the Sophist.**Text, Translation, and Commentary*. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press (selections).  Wolsdorf, D., 2011. “Prodicus on the Correctness of Names: The Case of ΤΕΡΨΙΣ, ΧΑΡΑ and ΕΥΦΡΟΣΥΝΗ”. *Journal of Hellenic Studies* 131, σσ. 131-145·  **WEEK 6: Socrates as Daidalus. The perils of antilogic**  We will discuss how Plato’s apologetic strategy addresses the (implicit) accusation of Socrates as a practitioner of antilogic  ***Suggested readings:***  Balla, Ch.‘Sailing Away from Antilogic. Plato’s *Phaedo* 90b-101e’ *Ancient Philosophy* 41.2 (2021).  ‘Intended Ambiguity in Plato’s *Phaedo*’, in M. Vöhler, Th. Furher, and S. Frangoulidis, eds., *Strategies of Ambiguity in Ancient Literature*, Berlin: De Gruyter.  **Paper abstract due (approx. 800 words, excluding bibliography)**  **WEEK 7: Inventing rhetoric, I: Plato’s *Gorgias***  We will see how Plato’s *Gorgias* shaped the definition and criticism of rhetoric  Balla, Ch.‘Plato and Aristotle on rhetorical empiricism’, *Rhetorica*, vol. 25.1 (2007): 73-85.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, ‘Isocrates, Plato and Aristotle on Rhetoric’, *Rhizai* 1 (2004).  Dodds, E.R. *Gorgias.* Oxford Clarendon Press, 1970.  Wallace, R.W., 2007. Law’s enemies in ancient Athens. Στο: E. Cantarella, G. Thür, eds. 2007. *Symposion* 2005, Vorträge zur griechischen und hellenistischen Rechtsgeschichte. Vienna 2007.  Yunis, H. *Taming Democracy.* Cornell University Press, 1996.  **WEEK 8: Inventing rhetoric, II: Plato’s *Phaedrus***  We will see how Plato in the *Phaedrus* attempts to rehabilitate rhetoric and to appropriate a new version of it for his own philosophical agenda (including his Socratic apologetics)  ***Suggested readings:***  Balla, Ch.‘Plato and Aristotle on Rhetorical Empiricism’ *Rhetorica*, vol. 25.1 (2007): 73-85.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. ‘Zeno and antilogic’. In: Aik. Lefka and C. Luchetti, eds., *Eleatic Ontology in Plato* (forthcoming)  Yunis, H. *Plato* Phaedrus. Cambridge University Press, 2011.  **WEEK 9: Inventing relativism: Plato’s *Theaetetus***  We will see how Plato’s representation of Protagoras in the *Theaetetus* shaped the idea of relativism in ancient philosophy.  Lee, M.Y. *Epistemology after Protagoras: Responses to Relativism in Plato, Aristotle, and Democritus.* Oxford U. Press, 2005.  **WEEK 10: Socrates’ teaching methods**  Rather than reconstructing and attributing to the historical Socrates a set of teaching methods we will discuss the different ways in which his immediate students but also the historiography of philosophy represented and possibly projected on his practices, often aiming to address the accusations that led to his trial but also to distinguish him from ‘ordinary’ sophists.  Natali, C. ‘Socrates’ Dialectic in Xenophon’s *Memorabilia’*. In: L. Judson, V. Karasmanis, eds., 2006. *Remembering Socrates.* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006.  Sedley, D. *The Midwife of Platonism.* Clarendon Press, 2004.  Vlastos, G. *Socrates. Ironist and Moral Philosopher.* Cambridge University Press, 1991.  **WEEK 11: On Gods and Demons**  Cartledge, P. “The Trial of Socrates, 399 BCE: in: *Ancient Greek Political Thought in Practice*, Cambridge University Press, 2005.  Janko, R. Socrates the Free Thinker. In: S. Ahbel‐Rappe and R. Kamtekar, eds. 2005. *A Companion to Socrates*. Blackwell, 2005.  Kotwick, M. “Interrogating the Gods”, in: J. Billings and C. Moore, eds., *The Cambridge Companion to the Sophists* (forthcoming)  McPherran, *The Religion of Socrates*, Penn State University Press, 1996.  Sedley, D., 2013. “Atheist Underground”. In: V. Harte, M. Lane, eds. 2013. *Politeia in Greek and Roman Philosophy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.  Whitmarsh, T. *Battling the Gods: Atheism in the Ancient World*, Alfred A. Knopf, 2015 (selections).  **WEEKS 12-13: Student presentations**  **Final Paper due: max. between 7,000 and 9,000 words** |

**(4) TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS – ASSESSMENT**

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| **TEACHING FORMAT** | Lectures and Class discussion. |
| **USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES** | Use of E-class online platform. |
| **TEACHING STRUCTURE** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | ***Activity*** | ***Semester Workload*** | | Lectures, Seminars | 39 | | Presentation preparation | 21 | | Independent study | 120 | | Project (paper preparation and submission | 120 | | **Total**  (30 hours of work per credit unit) | ***300*** | |
| **STUDENT EVALUATION** | 1. Class participation (20%) 2. Abstract (20%)  3. Final Paper (30%)  4. Oral Report (30%) |

**(5) RECOMMENDED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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| Primary readings:  Laks, A. and G. W. Most 2016. *Early Greek Philosophy*, vol. VIII: Sophists, Part I; vol. IX: Sophists, part 2.  Selections from Plato’s *Republic, Phaedrus, Gorgias, Theaetetus, Sophist, Phaedo.*  Secondary readings:  Balla, Ch.‘Isocrates, Plato and Aristotle on Rhetoric’ *Rhizai* 1 (2004).  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, ‘Plato and Aristotle on Rhetorical Empiricism’ *Rhetorica* 25.1 (2007): 73-85.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. ‘Sailing Away from Antilogic. Plato’s *Phaedo* 90b-101e’ *Ancient Philosophy* 41.2 (2021).  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. ‘Intended Ambiguity in Plato’s *Phaedo*’. In: M. Vöhler, Th. Furher, and S. Frangoulidis, eds., *Strategies of Ambiguity in Ancient Literature*, Berlin: De Gruyter.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. ‘ΠΕΦΥΚΕΝ ΠΛΕΟΝΕΚΤΕΙΝ? Plato and the Sophists on Greed and Savage Humanity’ *Polis* 35 (2018).  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. ‘The Correctness of Grammatical Gender in the Sophistic Tradition’. In: S. Brill and C. McKeen, eds., *Routledge Hanbdook of Women and Ancient Philosophy* (forthcoming)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. ‘Zeno and Antilogic’. In: Aik. Lefka and C. Luchetti, eds., *Eleatic Ontology in Plato* (forthcoming).  Betegh, Gábor (2016). ‘Archelaus on Cosmogony and the Origins of Social Institutions’. *Oxford Studies in Ancient Philosophy* 51: 1-40.  Billings, J. and C. Moore, eds. *The Cambridge Companion to the Sophists*. Cambridge University Press, 2023.  Bonazzi, M. *Sophists*. Cambridge University Press, 2021.  Cartledge, P. “The Trial of Socrates, 399 BCE” In: *Ancient Greek Political Thought in Practice*, Cambridge University Press, 2005.  Cole, T. *The Origins of Rhetoric in Ancient Greece,* 1991.  De Romilly, J. *The Great Sophists in Periclean Athens,* trans. J. Lloyd, Oxford University Press, 1998.  Dodds, E.R. *Gorgias.* Oxford Clarendon Press, 1970.  Gagarin, M. *Antiphon* the Athenian*. Oratory, Law, and Justice in the Age of the Sophists.* University of Texas Press, 2002.  Janko, R. ‘Socrates the Free Thinker’. In: S. Ahbel‐Rappe and R. Kamtekar, eds. 2005. *A Companion to Socrates*. Blackwell, 2005.  Johnson, D.M. *Xenophon’s Socratic Works*, Routledge 2021.  Kerferd, G. *The Sophistic Movement*. Cambridge University Press, 1981.  Kerferd, G. B. ‘The first Greek sophists’. *Classical Review*,64 (1950)  Lee, M.Y. *Epistemology after Protagoras: Responses to Relativism in Plato, Aristotle, and Democritus.* Oxford U. Press, 2005.  Long, A.A. ‘The perils of persuasion’, chapter 3 in: *Greek Models of Mind and Self*. Harvard University Press, 2015.  McPherran, *The Religion of Socrates*, Penn State University Press, 1996.  Momigliano, A. *The Development of Greek Biography*. Harvard University Press, 1993.  Natali, C. ‘Socrates’ Dialectic in Xenophon’s *Memorabilia’*. In: L. Judson, V. Karasmanis, eds., 2006. *Remembering Socrates.* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006.  Nehamas, A. ‘Eristic, Antilogic, Sophistic, Dialectic: Plato's Demarcation of Philosophy from Sophistry’. *History of Philosophy Quarterly* 7.1 (1990); reprinted in *Virtues of Authenticity*, Princeton U. Press, 1999.  Sedley, D. *The Midwife of Platonism.* Clarendon Press, 2004.  Sedley, D. ‘Atheist Underground’. In: V. Harte and M. Lane, eds. *Politeia in Greek and Roman Philosophy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013.  Segal, C. ‘Gorgias and the Psychology of the *Logos’*. *Harvard Studies in Classical Philology* 66 (1962).  Solmsen, D. *Intellectual Experiments of the Greek Enlightenment*, Princeton University Press, 2016.  Taylor, C. ‘Socrates the sophist’. In: Judson, L. and V. Karasmanis, eds., *Remembering Socrates: Philosophical Essays.* Oxford University Press, 2006.  Tell, Håkan. Plato's Counterfeit Sophists. Hellenic Studies Series 44. Washington, DC: Center for Hellenic Studies. [**http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:hul.ebook:CHS\_Tell.Platos\_Counterfeit\_Sophists.2011**](http://nrs.harvard.edu/urn-3:hul.ebook:CHS_Tell.Platos_Counterfeit_Sophists.2011).  Van Ophjuijsen, J.M., M. van Raalte, and P. Stork, eds. *Protagoras of Abdera: The Man, His Measure.* Brill, 2013.  Vlastos, G. *Socrates. Ironist and Moral Philosopher.* Cambridge University Press, 1991.  Wallace, R.W., 2007. ‘Law’s Enemies in Ancient Athens’. In: E. Cantarella, G. Thür, eds. 2007. *Symposion* 2005, Vorträge zur griechischen und hellenistischen Rechtsgeschichte. Vienna 2007.  Wolfsdorf, D., ed. *Early Greek Ethics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020. Whitmarsh, T. *Battling the Gods: Atheism in the Ancient World*, Alfred A. Knopf, 2015.  Yunis, H. *Plato* Phaedrus. Cambridge University Press 2011.  Electronic resources:  <https://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/display/document/obo-9780195389661/obo-9780195389661-0297.xml>  Barney, Rachel, "Callicles and Thrasymachus", The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (Fall 2017 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL = <https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/fall2017/entries/callicles-thrasymachus/>.  Bonazzi, Mauro, "Protagoras", The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (Fall 2020 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL = <https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/fall2020/entries/protagoras/>.  Taylor, C.C.W. and Mi-Kyoung Lee, "The Sophists", The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (Fall 2020 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), URL = <https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/fall2020/entries/sophists/>. |