

SEMESTER 1st
MAJOR COURSE

PHL122J: PHILOSOPHY (INTRODUCTION TO GREEK PHILOSOPHY)

CREDITS: THEORY: 04; TUTORIALS: 02

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- a. *Introduction to ancient Greek and Hellenistic thinkers who introduced a new way of inquiring into the world and the place of human beings in it.*
- b. *A thorough engagement with the Socratic Method of questioning that prepares us to ask critical questions, feel perplexed about “obvious” things, acknowledge the inconsistencies, errors and ignorance in the knowledge claims that we make in our everyday life.*
- c. *Foregrounding the role of philosophers in shaping not only our life of the mind, but the cultural landscape, thereby putting into question the myth about the unworldliness of philosophy.*

THEORY (04 CREDITS)

UNIT I: PRE-SOCRATICS

The Milesians: Thales, Anaximenes, Anaximander
The Eleatics: Parmenides, Zeno, Empedocles
Heraclitus and Pythagoras

UNIT II: SOPHISTS AND SOCRATES

Protagoras and Gorgias
Socrates vis-a-vis Relativists
Modes of Socratic Questioning

UNIT III: POST-SOCRATICS

Plato: Theory of Knowledge
Theory of Forms
Aristotle: Theory of Universals

UNIT IV: HELLENISTIC PHILOSOPHERS

The Epicureans
The Sceptics
The Stoics

TUTORIALS/MINI PROJECTS (02 CREDITS)

UNIT V

Comparative Study of Pre-Socratic and Post-Socratic forms and functions of Philosophy
Being vs becoming: A Conceptual History

UNIT VI

Reception of Greek Philosophy in Islamic World
Philosophy as Therapy: Epicureanism and Stoicism

RECOMMENDED READINGS

1. The Story of Philosophy - Will Durant
2. Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction - Edward Craig
3. Introduction to Pre-Socratics: A Thematic Approach to Early Greek Philosophy with Key Readings - Giannis Stamatello
4. The Cambridge Companion to Early Greek Philosophy - A. A. Long
5. The Sophists: An Introduction Patricia F. O’Grady
6. Sophists, Socratics and Cynics - H. D. Rankin
7. Plato: A Very Short Introduction - Julia Annas
8. Plato: Complete Works - Plato, John M. Cooper, D. S. Hutchinson
9. Stoics, Epicureans and Sceptics: An Introduction to Hellenistic Philosophy - R.W. Sharples
10. Arguing with Socrates: An Introduction to Plato’s Shorter Dialogues - Christopher Warne
11. Philosophy as a Way of Life: Spiritual Exercises from Socrates to Foucault, Pierre Hadot and Arnold Davidson.