

<b>Module Title:</b>	<b>Ancient Greek Philosophy</b>
<b>Level:</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Module Code:</b>	<b>402 PAGP</b>
<b>Credit Rating:</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Duration:</b>	<b>200 hours</b>
<b>Teaching Hours:</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Academic Responsibility:</b>	<b>Monica Tobon, PhD</b>

**Module Aims:**

The Western Philosophical tradition finds its beginning with the Greeks and the thinking of ancient Greece continues to determine and influence the western philosophical project today. This module aims to acquaint students with the key thinkers of ancient Greek philosophy from the Presocratics to Aristotle. Some of the thinkers studied include Thales, Anaximander, Xenophanes, Heraclitus, Parmenides, Socrates, Plato and arriving at Aristotle.

**Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of this module students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate a systematic understanding of the principle aspects of Ancient Greek philosophy and be able to offer a coherent appreciation of that philosophy and major Ancient Greek philosophers.
2. Think and work creatively and intellectually and be stimulated in their search for useful knowledge and insight into the endeavours of Ancient Greek philosophy and its practical applications.
3. Critically reflect, assess and offer problem solving solutions to aspects of their work both in this area of study and others by adopting a systematic philosophical approach.

**Indicative Module Content:**

Building on module 401PINP the major significance for the development of western thought of the Ancient Greek thinkers will be explored in more detail. Their presumptions and preoccupations, as well as developmental differences will also be examined and explored.

### **Learning and Teaching Strategies:**

The module will be taught through a variety of teaching methods: delivered lectures, question/discussion, power point presentation, philosophical text, response and discussion, problem setting and possible solutions from students, presentations by students (with feedback from peers), at least one of the presentations will involve the students working in groups.

### **Assessment:**

The module will be assessed through a variety of means ranging from essays, seminar, powerpoint presentation (PPP) of topic by students, taped oral examination. It is also possible to combine these assessment methods e.g. 2500 essay + PPP + oral exam or 2500 essay + 1 hour seminar by student or two 2500 word essays. Or a text selection from one of the AG Philosophers with a critique by the student.

### **Indicative Essay Titles**

1. What does Plato's Analogy of the Cave tell us about the purpose of Philosophy?
2. Examine how Greek philosophy may have influenced society today.
3. Critically examine three of the arguments put forward by Plato for the existence of the Forms.
4. Select TWO of the 'pre-Socratic' philosophers and outline and comment on their philosophical ideas.

### **Illustrative Bibliography**

Almond A., *The Philosophical Quest*, London 1987

Barnes, J., *Early Greek Philosophy*, London 1987

Bedau, Hugo. *Thinking and Writing about Philosophy*. Boston: Bedford Books of St. Martin's Press, 1996.

Earle, W. J., *Introduction to Philosophy*. New York: McGraw-Hill Inc., 1992.

Ginsberg, R., *Welcome to Philosophy: A Handbook for Students*. San Francisco, CA:Freeman, Cooper & Co., 1977.

Hadot, P., *What is Ancient Philosophy?*, Cambridge 2002

Russell, B., *A History of Western Philosophy*, Oxford, 1961