

<b>Course ID:</b>	<b>Course Title:</b>	<b>FALL 2023</b>
<b>PH 340</b>	<b>Ancient Philosophy</b>	<b>Prerequisite: PH 125</b>
		<b>Credits: 3</b>

Class Information		Instructor Information		Important Dates	
<b>Days:</b>	W & F	<b>Instructor:</b>	Ken Nickel, PhD	<b>First day of classes:</b>	SEP 6
<b>Time:</b>	1:00 - 2:15	<b>Email:</b>	knickel@ambrose.edu	<b>Last day to add/drop, or change to audit:</b>	SEP 17
<b>Room:</b>	L2212	<b>Phone:</b>	403-410-2000 ext 6903		
<b>Lab/ Tutorial:</b>		<b>Office:</b>	2103	<b>Last day to withdraw from course:</b>	NOV 20
		<b>Office Hours:</b>	Drop-in or upon request	<b>Last day to apply for coursework extension:</b>	NOV 23
<b>Final Exam:</b>	Wednesday DEC 13 @ 1:00			<b>Last day of classes:</b>	DEC 8

## Course Description

The course introduces students to the origins of Philosophy in the Greco-Roman tradition. We begin with various insights and disputes among the Presocratics, and also contributions of the Sophists, leading up to the classical era of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. Out of the classical era various movements and developments are considered, including Stoicism/Cynicism, Epicureanism, and Scepticism. The Neo-Platonists bring the Ancient era to a close.

## Expected Learning Outcomes

1. Students should learn how Philosophy in the Western tradition departs from the folk-mythological traditions and methodologies of Homeric/Archaic Greece.
2. Students should learn the profoundly prescient and enduring scientific, metaphysical, epistemological, and ethical contributions made by ancient thinkers in the Greco-Roman tradition.
3. Students should come to appreciate the important ways in which Ancient Philosophy shaped theology, theological controversies, and the development of Christian civilization down through the Middle Ages and into the Modern Era.

## Textbooks

Baird, Forrest E, ed. *Ancient Philosophy*. 7th ed Vol. 1, Philosophic Classics. New York, NY: Routledge, 2019.

**Recommended:**

Vaughn, Lewis, and Jillian Scott McIntosh. *Writing Philosophy: A Guide for Canadian Students*. 2nd ed. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2013.

✓ This is an excellent resource, especially if a student plans to take additional courses in the discipline of Philosophy.

**Online Resource:** *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (SEP)

<http://plato.stanford.edu/contents.html>

## Course Schedule

SEP 6 MYTHOLOGY & PRESOCRATICS  
SEP 8

SEP 13  
SEP 15

SEP 20 SOPHISTS  
SEP 22

SEP 27 HISTORY & THUCYDIDES  
SEP 29

OCT 4 NO CLASS  
OCT 6 PLATO

OCT 11  
OCT 13

OCT 18  
OCT 20

OCT 25 ARISTOTLE  
OCT 27

NOV 1  
NOV 3

NOV 8 READING WEEK  
NOV 10 READING WEEK

NOV 15 EPICUREANISM  
NOV 17

NOV 22 STOICISM & CYNICISM

NOV 24

NOV 29     **SCEPTICISM**  
DEC 1

DEC 6     **NEO-PLATONISM & PLOTINUS**  
DEC 8

## Requirements:<sup>1</sup>

1.       **Attendance & Participation** 10%
  - Please make every effort to be seated and prepared for class by **1:00**. Attendance will be taken before each class.
  - Participation is welcomed in the form of in-class questions or comments, but all students are expected to give evidence of participation in Moodle Discussion forums, in-person or Zoom meetings, etc. These participation markers will be documented through the semester.
  - Students lose 1 mark for every absence. Two ‘lates’ is equivalent to one absence. Students who repeatedly abbreviate class attendance (e.g., arrive late, depart early, etc.) may also be deemed absent. Students who feel the need to put their heads down for nap-time in class are demonstrably absent.
  - Students whose ‘attendance’ is **perfect** but whose quality of engagement is negligible should anticipate nothing better than **C (6.5 out of 10)** for this portion of their grade.
  - When a student has **missed 12 classes** the Registrar’s office will be notified and a failing grade will be immediately entered in the student’s portal. He or she will not be permitted to write the Final Exam.
  
2.       **First Writing Assignment (1200-1400 words)** 15%
  - **Due: OCTOBER 6** *before* class (electronic and paper submissions)
  - A separate document regarding topics, format and submission guidelines, and late policy will be available on Moodle. Papers will be submitted by the Instructor to “**Turnitin**” for originality assessment. Personal privacy is protected.
  - Students may be required to meet with the professor to discuss the content of the assignment before a final grade is attributed. Failures to meet in a timely fashion and failures to orally substantiate one’s writing may result in a reduced or failing grade for the assignment.
  - Students must submit this assignment to be eligible to write the Final Exam.
  
3.       **Second Writing Assignment (1200-1400 words)** 15%
  - **Due: NOVEMBER 3** *before* class (electronic and paper submissions)
  - A separate document regarding topics, format and submission guidelines, and late policy will be available on Moodle. Papers will be submitted by the Instructor to “**Turnitin**” for originality assessment. Personal privacy is protected.
  - Students may be required to meet with the professor to discuss the content of the assignment before a final grade is attributed. Failures to meet in a timely fashion and failures to orally substantiate one’s writing may result in a reduced or failing grade for the assignment.

---

<sup>1</sup> The Professor reserves the right to modify requirements, assignments, and exams in the event of any permanent transition to online delivery. The current requirements assume the semester will proceed as planned.

- Students must submit this assignment to be eligible to write the Final Exam.
4. **Third Writing Assignment (2800-3000 words)** 25%
- Due: Monday, DECEMBER 11 @ 4:00 PM (electronic only – no paper submission required)
  - A separate document regarding topics, format and submission guidelines, and late policy will be available on Moodle. Papers will be submitted by the instructor to “Turnitin” for originality assessment. Personal privacy is protected.
  - Students may be required to meet with the professor to discuss the content of the assignment before a final grade is attributed. Failures to meet in a timely fashion and failures to orally substantiate one’s writing may result in a reduced or failing grade for the assignment.
  - Students who have not submitted all assignments will not be permitted to write the Final Exam.
5. **Comprehensive / Cumulative Final Exam** 35%
- Date: Wednesday, December 13 @ 1:00 in 2212
  - Students must pass the Final Exam to ensure a passing grade in the course. Even if a student’s accumulated grades are above 50%, the Professor reserves the right to withhold a passing grade for the course if the student fails the Final Exam.
  - Students should refrain from scheduling all other commitments (e.g., flights or travel of any sort) that will conflict with the Final Examination schedule. Final examinations will not be rescheduled to accommodate travel arrangements.

**Attendance:**

(See requirements)

**Grade Summary:**

Letter Grade	GPA	Description	Percentage
A+	4.0		96-100 %
A	4.0	Exceptional	91-95 %
A-	3.7		86-90 %
B+	3.3	Good	82-85 %
B	3.0	Exceeds Expectations	75-81 %
B-	2.7		72-74 %
C+	2.3	Satisfactory	68-71 %
C	2.0	Meets Expectations	63-67 %
C-	1.7		60-62 %
D+	1.3		56-59 %
D	1.0	Minimal Pass	50-55 %
F	0.0	Failure	≤ 49 %

Because of the nature of the Alpha 4.00 system, there can be no uniform University-wide conversion scale. The relationship between raw scores (e.g. percentages) and the resultant letter grade will depend on the nature of the course and the instructor’s assessment of the level of each class, compared to similar classes taught previously.

Please note that final grades will be available on student registration system. Printed grade sheets are not mailed out.

**Other: (On a more personal note)**

- ✓ **Students are responsible to check the Moodle** course site and their **Ambrose e-mail** accounts regularly. I like to use Moodle and/or e-mail to remind students of upcoming topics and readings, or to pose questions in light of readings or lecture topics. E-mail and Moodle may be used to notify you of cancelled classes or other important and immediate details relating to the course.

- ✓ Please, **put cell phones away during class.** Please try to avoid non-essential technology use during class.
- ✓ Students should not be confused about what paying tuition entitles them to. Paying tuition entitles no one to a **passing grade**. Passing grades, indeed all grades, are *earned*—not paid for.
- ✓ No university student consents to any small amount of violence in any classroom, but paying tuition and enrolling in a Philosophy course **implies consent** to a variety of things you may or may not like. If students have learned elsewhere to be confused about what ‘violence’ *is* they should anticipate learning about the history of moral language in this class. ‘**Academic freedom**’ means you *will be* exposed to words and ideas, some of which will be distasteful to some students and possibly to all. It is impossible to identify and appreciate ‘good’ ideas without carefully considering ‘bad’ ideas. Students should consider *why* they are ‘bad’ or incorrect and not merely ‘forbidden’.

Philosophy students consent to the possibility that they might read and hear things that offend their sensibilities. You have every right *not* to be harmed in my class, but you have **NO right not to be offended**. The **pursuit of wisdom** equips students to better **cope** with life’s inevitable challenges. No one on the planet—not God and certainly no Philosophy Professor at Ambrose—bears a duty to make things **perfect** for you. Perfection is the enemy of the good. If you remain in *this* Philosophy class you **consent** to be intellectually challenged. You **consent** to think carefully about, among other things, Truth, Beauty, and Goodness in a world that is all too often deceptive, ugly, gritty, and unjust. The work of Philosophy takes **courage**, though, frankly, not very much.

## Ambrose University Academic Policies:

### Communication

All students have received an Ambrose e-mail account upon registration. It is the student’s responsibility to check this account regularly as the Ambrose email system will be the professor’s instrument for notifying students of important matters (cancelled class sessions, extensions, requested appointments, etc.) between class sessions.

### Exam Scheduling

Students who find a conflict in their exam schedule must submit a Revised Examination Request form to the Registrar’s Office by the deadline date; please consult the Academic Calendar. Requests will be considered for the following reasons only: 1) the scheduled final examination slot conflicts with another exam; 2) the student has three final exams within three consecutive exam time blocks; 3) the scheduled final exam slot conflicts with an exam at another institution; 4) extenuating circumstances. Travel is not considered a valid excuse for re-scheduling or missing a final exam.

### Standards of Behaviour in the Classroom Setting

Learning is an active and interactive process, a joint venture between student and instructor and between student and student. Some topics covered within a class may lead to strong reactions and opinions. It is important that Students understand that they are entitled to hold contradictory beliefs and that they should be encouraged to engage with these topics in a critical manner. Committing to this type of “active learning” significantly increases the learning experience for both teacher and student, and reflects the Christian imperative to pursue truth, which lies at the heart of the Ambrose educational experience. However, active discussion of controversial topics will be undertaken with respect and empathy, which are the foundations of civil discourse in the Classroom Setting. Primary responsibility for managing the classroom rests with the instructor. The instructor may direct a student to leave the class if the student engages in any behaviour that disrupts the classroom setting.

If necessary, Ambrose security will be contacted to escort the student from class. Please refer to your professor regarding their electronic etiquette expectations.

### Academic Integrity

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Academic dishonesty is taken seriously at Ambrose University as it undermines our academic standards and affects the integrity of each member of our learning community. Any attempt to obtain credit for academic work through fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest means is academic dishonesty. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else’s ideas, words, or work as one’s own. Plagiarism is fraud and theft, but plagiarism can also occur by accident when a student fails or forgets to acknowledge to another person’s ideas or words. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean and become part of the student’s permanent record.

### Academic Policies

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Academic Calendar. The academic calendar can be found at <https://ambrose.edu/content/academic-calendar-2>.

### Privacy

Personal information (information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual) may be required as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further

information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at [privacy@ambrose.edu](mailto:privacy@ambrose.edu).

### Coursework Extensions

Should a request for a time extension on coursework exceed the end of the term, a *Coursework Extension Application* must be completed and submitted to the Office of the Registrar. The extension (if granted) will be recorded on the student record. Extensions are granted at the discretion of the instructor and are normally granted for 30 days beyond the last day of the term.

Normally, Course Extension Applications will be considered only when all of the following conditions are met:

- the quality of prior course work has been satisfactory;
- circumstances beyond your control, such as an extended illness or death of a family member, make it impossible for you to complete the course work on time; and
- you submit *Coursework Extension Application* to the Office of the Registrar on or before the deadline specified in the Academic Schedule.

If granted, time extensions do not excuse you from a final examination where one has been scheduled for the course.

A temporary grade of TX will be assigned until a final grade is submitted in accordance with the new deadline. A final grade of F will apply to:

- all course work submitted after the end of the semester unless a coursework extension has been granted; and all course work submitted after the revised due date provided by an approved extension to coursework.

## Academic Success and Supports

### Accessibility Services

Academic accommodation is provided to Ambrose students with disabilities in accordance with the Alberta Human Rights Act and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Provision of academic accommodation does not lower the academic standards of the university nor remove the need for evaluation and the need to meet essential learning outcomes. Reasonable accommodations are tailored to the individual student, are flexible, and are determined by considering the barriers within the unique environment of a postsecondary institution. It can take time to organize academic accommodations and funding for disability-related services.

Students with a disability who wish to have an academic accommodation are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services as early as possible to ensure appropriate planning for any needs that may include accommodations. Staff can then meet with students to determine areas to facilitate success, and if accommodations are required, ensure those accommodations are put in place by working with faculty.

### Ambrose Writing Services

Ambrose Writing services provides academic support in the four foundational literacy skills—listening, speaking, reading, and writing. It also assists students with critical thinking and the research process. Throughout the academic year, students can meet with a writing tutor for personalized support, or they can attend a variety

of workshops offered by Academic Success. These services are free to students enrolled at Ambrose University. Academic Success serves all students in all disciplines and at all levels, from history to biology and from theatre to theology. To learn more, please visit <https://ambrose.edu/writingcentre>

### Ambrose Tutoring Services

Ambrose Tutoring Services provides support in specific disciplinary knowledge, especially in high-demand areas such as chemistry, philosophy, math and statistics, and religious studies. These tutors also coach students in general study skills, including listening and note-taking. During the academic year, Ambrose Tutoring Services offers drop-in tutoring for courses with high demand; for other courses, students can book a one-to-one appointment with a tutor in their discipline. These services are free to students enrolled at Ambrose University. To learn more, please visit <https://ambrose.edu/tutoring>.

### Mental Health Support

All of us need a support system. We encourage students to build mental health supports and to reach out when help is needed.

#### On Campus:

- Counselling Services: [ambrose.edu/counselling](http://ambrose.edu/counselling)
- Peer Supportive Listening: One-to-one support in Student Life office. Hours posted at [ambrose.edu/wellness](http://ambrose.edu/wellness).
- For immediate crisis support, there are staff on campus who are trained in Suicide Intervention and Mental Health First Aid. See [ambrose.edu/crisissupport](http://ambrose.edu/crisissupport) for a list of staff members.

#### Off Campus:

- Distress Centre - 403-266-4357
- Sheldon Chumir Health Care Centre - 403-955-6200
- Emergency - 911

### Sexual Violence Support

All staff, faculty, and Residence student leaders have received *Sexual Violence Response to Disclosure* training. We will support you and help you find the resources you need. There is a website with on and off campus supports – [ambrose.edu/sexual-violence-response-and-awareness](http://ambrose.edu/sexual-violence-response-and-awareness).

#### Off Campus:

- Clinic: Sheldon Chumir Health Centre - 403-955-6200
- Calgary Communities Against Sexual Abuse - 403-237-5888

**Note:** Students are strongly advised to retain this syllabus for their records.