

Classics 7: Rethinking Greek Rationality

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Office hours: M 3:30-4:30; Thu 1-2; and by appointment

Fall 2004
MWF 1:45-2:50
105 Reed
X-period: Th 1:00-1:50

Class Schedule

Week 1: Introduction

- Wed. Sept. 22 Who were the Greeks? What do we mean by Greek Rationality?
Scope and major themes of the course
- Fri. Sept. 24 The traditional account: From religion (*mythos*) to philosophy
(*logos*). Quellenforschung: How have the Greek texts been
preserved and handed down to us?

Reading: Guthrie (pp. 1-14 and pp. 26-38); Kirk, Raven, Schofield (pp. 1-7); McKirahan (pp. 1-6). Optional extra reading on sources: Long (pp. 22-44).

Week 2: Ancient and Modern Views on the Greek 'Discovery' of Reason

- Mon. Sept. 27 From *mythos* to *logos*, and the negation of history
- Wed. Sept. 29 Why the 'discovery of the mind' in ancient Greece?
- Thu. Sept. 30 Library Orientation, 1-1:50 pm in Baker Library
- Fri. Oct. 1 The Milesians: Thales, Anaximander, Anaximenes

Reading: Aristotle (*Metaphysics I*, pp. 1552-1569); Hegel (pp. 1-55, pp. 81-100, and pp. 149-164); Nietzsche (pp. 3-30); Barnes (pp. xi-xxiii, and pp. 3-16); McKirahan (pp. 20-58).

FIRST PAPER DUE IN CLASS (Oct. 1)

Week 3: Problematizing Greek Rationality: A Different Interpretation

- Mon. Oct. 4 Myth into *Logos*? Society and culture in focus
- Wed. Oct. 6 *Polis*, Law, and the beginnings of Philosophy
- Fri. Oct. 8 Xenophanes and the early Ionians

Reading: Buxton (pp. 1-47); Vernant *The Origin of Greek Thought*; McKirahan (pp. 59-78).

Week 4: Wisdom Before Philosophy

Mon. Oct. 11 Ordering the Kosmos
Wed. Oct. 13 Gods and Men
Fri. Oct. 15 The Seven Sages. Know Thyself. Nothing in Excess. The Early Sages and the Performance of Wisdom

Reading: Hesiod *Theogony* and *Works and Days* (pp. 3-79); Burkert in *From Myth to Reason* (pp. 87-106); Diogenes Laertius (pp. 1-129); R. P. Martin (pp. 108-128).

SECOND PAPER DUE IN CLASS (Oct. 15)

Week 5: The Mystic Tradition

Mon. Oct. 18 In the Dark Places of Wisdom
Wed. Oct. 20 Parmenides
Fri. Oct. 22 Mystical Philosophy

Reading: Kingsley *In the Dark Places of Wisdom*; McKirahan (pp. 151-178).

Week 6: Empedocles

Mon. Oct. 25 Sandals of Bronze and Thighs of Gold
Wed. Oct. 27 Seer and/or Scientist?
Fri. Oct. 29 Ancient Philosophy and the Origins of Western Civilization

Reading: McKirahan (pp. 232-289); Kingsley *Reality* (pp. 315-559).

Week 7: Pythagoras and Heraclitus

Mon. Nov. 1 The Pythagorean Way of Life
Wed. Nov. 3 Akousmatikoi and Matematikoi
Fri. Nov. 5 Harmony in Tension

Reading: McKirahan (pp. 79-150); Kahn (pp. 1-38); Hegel (pp. 278-298); Long (pp. 88-112).

Week 8: Anaxagoras and Hippocrates

Mon. Nov. 8 Mind in All Things
Wed. Nov. 10 The Hippocratic School

Fri. Nov. 12 Medicine and Greek Society

Reading: McKirahan (pp. 196-231); Anaxagoras in Brunschwig & Lloyd (pp. 3-13); *The Sacred Disease* (pp. 138-183); *Airs, Waters, Places* (pp. 70-137); Medicine in Brunschwig & Lloyd (pp. 263-281).

THIRD PAPER DUE IN CLASS (Nov. 12)

Week 9: Medicine and Reason

Mon. Nov. 15 Magic vs. 'Rational' Healing
Wed. Nov. 17 The Notion of Causation
Fri. Nov. 19 Poetry and Early Greek Thinking

Reading: *Nature of Man* (pp. 2-41); Lloyd *Magic, Reason, and Experience* (pp. 1-59, and pp. 234-267); The Poetics of Early Greek Philosophy in Long (pp. 332-362); Poetics in Brunschwig & Lloyd (pp. 301-313).

Week 10: The Sophists

Mon. Nov. 22 The Sophistic Movement
Wed. Nov. 24 THANKSGIVING BREAK – NO CLASS
Fri. Nov. 26 NO CLASS

Reading: Kerferd (pp. 1-23); Gorgias *Encomium of Helen, Palamedes*; Rhetoric and Relativism in Long (pp. 290-310); Sophists in Brunschwig & Lloyd (pp. 435-454); Rhetoric in Brunschwig & Lloyd (pp. 314-334).

Week 11: The Institutions of Philosophy

Mon. Nov. 29 The New Schools of Learning
Wed. Dec. 1 The End of an Era: Rediscovering Greek Rationality. What does it mean to us, now?

Reading: Schools and Sights of Learning in Brunschwig & Lloyd (pp. 40-66); Nightingale (pp. 156-191).

FOURTH PAPER DUE (Dec. 6 by noon)

Course Requirements and Grading:

Four Papers	60%
Oral Presentations	20%
Participation	20%

The first paper should be ca. 1,000 words. Papers two through four should be ca. 1,250 words each.

Required Texts:

Kingsley, P.	<i>In the dark places of wisdom</i> (The Golden Sufi Center)
McKirahan, R. D.	<i>Philosophy before Socrates: an introduction with texts and commentary</i> (Hackett Publishing)
Vernant, J. P.	<i>The origins of Greek thought</i> (Cornell University Press)

All other readings will be available on the course web site:
(<http://www.dartmouth.edu/~blackboard>)