



PHIL 70A: Ancient Philosophy (GE Area: Satisfies C2 – Humanities)

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In Person | Spring Semester, 2024 | Mon./Wed. 9:00-10:15 AM

In this course, we will examine a variety of ancient philosophical traditions. This course will be divided into three main units. First, we will begin by examining various perspectives in “religious” literature (where “religious” is meant very, very broadly) on the question of what it means to be a human being, including texts from Hindu, Buddhist, and Abrahamic traditions as well as philosophical commentaries on these. We will then turn our attention to Plato and Aristotle, concentrating in particular on how these two thinkers define and understand human nature.

The specific texts we will read will likely include some or all of the following:

- Abrahamic traditions: Commentary on the book of Genesis and selections of philosophical writings of Augustine of Hippo, Maimonides, al-Farabi, and al-Razi.
- Vedic and Hindu traditions: selections from the Rig Veda, the Upanishads, and Manava-Dharmasastra (“Laws of Manu”)
- Buddhist traditions: Agganna Sutta, Cakkavatti-Sihanada Sutta, Cula-Malunkyovada Sutta
- Plato’s *Apology of Socrates*, the *Meno*, and selections from the *Protagoras*
- Aristotle’s *Nicomachean Ethics* and *On the Soul* (Joe Sachs translations)

