

**PHI 201: HISTORY OF ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY
EXTRA CREDIT**

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. If you do not follow the instructions precisely, you will not receive extra credit.
2. Write at least a half of a page, but no more than 1 (one) typewritten, single-spaced, page. Put the name of the option or the name of the option at the top. This is due anytime on or before the last day of class (the day the third paper is due, not the "final exam" day) in class. No late extra credit assignments will be accepted, without an excused absence or arrangements.
3. Answer each question in one separate paragraph, numbered at the beginning of each paragraph so it's really obvious which question you're answering. Do *not* have an introductory paragraph or a concluding paragraph.
4. Each assignment is worth 10 points, they will be added to your participation grade, and you may do up to two total extra credit assignments. [If you do an extra presentation for extra credit, if applicable, you will receive 10 points for each of those as well. The class total of extra credit is 20 points, no matter how they are earned. Please let me know if you have questions.]

The Topics:

1. **Gorgias Topic: Read Gorgias' arguments ([linked here](#)) that (i) Nothing exists; (ii) If anything exists, it is incomprehensible; and (iii) If it is comprehensible, it is incommunicable. Then do the following:**
 1. In the first paragraph, explain the first argument.
 2. In the second paragraph, explain the second argument.
 3. In the third paragraph, explain the third argument.
 4. Assess the arguments - are they sound/good arguments, or do you have one objection or more? Either explain why each argument is sound, or give your objection(s) against each.
2. **Read pages 156-157 (or 77b2-78c3) Plato's *Meno*, and do the following:**
 1. Explain this argument to the best of your ability, detailing which possibilities remain open, and which are closed (e.g., desiring evil supposing them to be beneficial, not desiring bad things knowing they are bad, etc.). How does he argue the possibilities are not possible? [Note: You can write out a chart if you wish - it's pretty helpful!]
 2. Give at least **one** brief reason or argument as to why Socrates might be right that no one desires what is evil.
 3. Give at least **one** brief reason or argument as to why Socrates might be wrong that no one desires what is evil.
 4. Ultimately, do you agree with Socrates' argument, and why or why not?
3. **Read Dr. Y's manuscript entitled, "Plato Meets His Critics: Volume I: Aristotle" (contact him and he will email it to you):**
 1. Print at least 8 pages of this writing off, and mark it up just like I do when I grade your paper: Look for anything that's confusing, grammatically incorrect, spelling, weak argument, factually incorrect, etc. (You can use a red pen - I can handle it psychologically!) Turn the whole writing in along with your one page write up.
 2. Can you come up with objections against Dr. Y's replies?

3. What did Dr. Y do well in this writing, if anything?
4. Even if you had some good objections, did Dr. Y do a good job of proving his case? Why or why not?

Note: If you make any suggestion that improves this manuscript, I will thank you in the book, should it ever be published.

4. Read Dr. Y's paper entitled, "Mysticism in Plato and Plotinus" (contact him and he will email it to you):

1. Print this writing off, and mark it up just like I do when I grade your paper: Look for anything that's confusing, grammatically incorrect, spelling, weak argument, factually incorrect, etc. Turn the whole writing in along with your one page write up.
2. Can you come up with objections against Dr. Y's thesis?
3. What did Dr. Y do well in this writing, if anything?
4. Even if you had some good objections, did Dr. Y do a good job of proving his case? Why or why not?

5. AI Extra Credit Option

1. Using ChatGPT, create a prompt for a 5 paragraph essay on one of the philosophers we covered and ask for quotations and citations. For instance, "Write a 5 paragraph essay on Aristotle's ethics, with quotations and citations." Only prompt it once – please do not keep asking it to revise its answer. [I want you to ask it to write a short paper on what you are most expert on, not on any topic/author in philosophy that we didn't cover.]
2. Print out the prompt so I can see that, and print out the essay. Put line numbers next to each line so you can refer to those in what follows.
3. Write a critique of the essay. What statements did it get right, to the best of your knowledge? (List the line #'s it got right)
4. What statements did it get wrong? (List the line #'s it got wrong, and state why what it wrote is incorrect, to your knowledge.)
5. How would you grade the quality and style of the essay? Is it repetitive, does it have filler sentences, or is it clear and concise?
6. Check every quotation and citation and check to see if each quotation is accurate (if the quotation is in our portion of the reading) and whether the book or article cited really exists. Then state which were accurate and which were inaccurate.
7. Lastly, write a reaction to this experience: Did this make you more or less confident that ChatGPT is good at writing philosophy papers?

6. Choose your own extra credit!

Meet with Dr. Y and come up with a topic. See below for examples.

Example 1: You could take just one or two of the questions under any paper topic for the whole semester—provided you have not already written a paper for that topic—and just answer one or two of them. *NOTE: This topic must be approved of beforehand, to ensure that it's "fair" and enough work to merit extra credit, or it will not be accepted as extra credit.*

Example 2: You could watch the movie "300", reread the historical account of that battle in our history text, and come up with what they did that was accurate, and what was inaccurate or questionable (based on our reading – several paragraphs). Or watch some other movie based on ancient philosophy or history, etc.

