

PHIL 230: Ancient Greek Philosophy
Winter 2023 - MWF 2:00-2:50 pm

Instructor: Prof. Phil Corkum

Description

The goal of the course is to introduce some of the themes of ancient Greek philosophy. Students will also gain facility with the skills needed to take further classes in Philosophy generally. The course concerns in part the relation between knowledge and virtue. We'll examine the interrelations among three strands of Plato's philosophical views: his views on ethics (addressing such questions as: is it better to be just than unjust? and can virtue be taught?), epistemology (what is knowledge and how does it differ from true belief?) and metaphysics (what is there?). For example, we'll study Plato's middle period answers to these questions through a close reading of the *Republic* and other dialogues. We'll also study the Presocratics, philosophers working prior to Plato, to understand the context within which Plato proposes his middle period answers to these questions. And we'll study Aristotle's criticism of these answers.