**History of Ancient Philosophy**

Course Code: PHI 2104

**Course Unit: 3**

***Course description :***

The course considers the origin of Greek philosophy starting with the period of naturalism that addresses the cosmological question about the origin and the end of things. It considers in particular the Ionians Thales, Anaximander and Anaximenes, the Pythagoreans with their mathematic-metaphysical explanations, Heraclitus with his emphasis on change and contrast, the Eleatic school with Parmenides stating the permanence of being, the Atomists prepared by Empedocles and Anaxagoras and represented by Leucippus and Democritus. The period of naturalism is concluded by the contribution of the Sophists. The subsequent metaphysical period of the classical philosophers Socrates, Plato and Aristotle will be considered in some detail. Ancient Greek philosophy ends with the ethical period and its schools of stoicism, Epicureanism, skepticism and eclecticism, finally phasing into Roman philosophy. The course gives special consideration to the recent studies linking ancient Greek thought to Egypt and to the NileValley, shifting the origin of western philosophy and of modern thought to Africa.

***Course Objective:***

The course aims at equipping students with knowledge and a critical approach towards the historical development of philosophical inquiry.

***Learning objectives***

At the end of the course students should be able to:

1. discern the emergence of ancient philosophical thought
2. appreciate the role of historical epochs to shaping philosophical inquiry
3. Critically relate foundations of contemporary philosophical ideas in the proceeding philosophical ideas.

***Course Outline***

1. The Presocratics
2. Introduction
3. The James George Thesis
4. The Milesians
5. Heraclitus
6. Parmenides
7. Zeno
8. Empedocles
9. Anaxagoras
10. The Atomists
11. Socrates and Plato
12. Aristotle

***Methodology***

Lectures, tutorials, guest lecturers, group work, individual presentations

***Assessment Mode***

Course work exercises 30%

End of semester examination 70%

***Reading List***

1. Cohen, Curd, Reeve (eds.), *Readings in Ancient Greek Philosophy (second edition)*
2. Ackrill, *Aristotle the Philosopher*
3. Barnes, *The Presocratic Philosophers*
4. Burnet, *Early Greek Philosophy*
5. Guthrie, *A History of Greek Philosophy*
6. Hussey, *The Presocratics*
7. Kirk, Raven, & Schofield, *The Presocratic Philosophers*
8. McKirihan, *Philosophy Before Socrates*
9. Ring, *Beginning with the Presocratics (second edition)*
10. Shields, *The Blackwell Guide to Ancient Philosophy*