

# The Presocratic Philosophers

Phil 353-001

Prof. Eric Lewis

Burnside Hall 1104 Tu-Th 1:05-2:25

This course is a systematic investigation into many of the Presocratic philosophers, focusing on primary sources. The only required text is:

*The Presocratic Philosophers*, Kirk, Raven and Scholfield (2ed ed), which is available at Paragraphe. You should also access on-line a copy of Hesiod's *Theogony*.

Sept 1: Introduction, house keeping

Sept 6: Hesiod, Thales I

Sept 8: Thales II

Sept 13: Anaxamander I

Sept 15: Anaxamander II, Anaxamenes

Sept 20: Heraclitus I

Sept 22: Heraclitus II

Sept 27: Heraclitus III

Sept 29: Quiz 1

Oct 4: Parmenides I

Oct 6: Parmenides II

Oct 13: Parmenides III

Oct 18: Melissus I

Your grade will be calculated as follows:

3 quizzes 10% each = 30%

Midterm = 30 %

Take Home Final = 40%

The take home final will go live on the last day of class, and be due a week later.

McGill is located on un-ceded land which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst Indigenous peoples, including the Haudenosaunee and Anishinabeg nations. We are presently meeting, here on the downtown McGill University campus, on territory of the Kanien'kehá:ka nation. We should all recognize this fact and think about the history of genocide and racism which these and other Indigenous peoples have suffered, and what we can do to combat its continuation.

Oct 20: Mid term

Oct 25: summary/catch-up

Oct 27: Zeno I

Nov 1: Zeno II

Nov 3: Zeno III

Nov 8: Quiz 2

Nov 10: Anaxagoras I

Nov 15: Anaxagoras II

Nov 17: Empedocles I

Nov 22: Atomists I

Nov 24: Atomists II

Nov 29: Atomists III

Dec 1: quiz 3

“In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded. This does not apply to courses in which acquiring proficiency in a language is one of the objectives.”

“McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures”

(see [www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/](http://www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/) for more information).