

**Philosophy 1: Beginnings of Western Philosophy**  
Summer A Session 2000, TR 10:45 AM – 12:50 PM, Public Policy 2242

Instructor: Ben Caplan  
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Course webpage: [ecampus.humnet.ucla.edu/classes/philos1-lec1-001](http://ecampus.humnet.ucla.edu/classes/philos1-lec1-001)

**Teaching Assistants**

Justin Kirvan  
James Rocha

**Required Texts**

1. Patricia Curd, ed., *A Presocratics Reader: Selected Fragments and Testimonia*, trans. Richard D. McKirahan, Jr. (Indianapolis, IN: Hackett, 1996).
2. Plato, *Meno*, 2nd ed., trans. G.M.A. Grube (Indianapolis, IN: Hackett, 1980).
3. Plato, *The Trial and Death of Socrates*, 2nd ed., trans. G.M.A. Grube (Indianapolis, IN: Hackett, 1980). This includes *Euthyphro*, *Apology*, *Crito*, and the death scene from *Phaedo*.

**Course Requirements**

Midterm Exam	40%
Final Exam	60%

You must take both exams to pass the course. Participation can help your grade in the following limited way: in borderline cases, it can bump you up at most 1/3 of a letter grade (e.g. from B to B+).

The midterm is due at the beginning of class (i.e. 10:45 AM) on Tuesday, 18 July 2000 (which is the beginning of the fourth week). The final is due at 4 PM on Friday, 4 August 2000 (which is the very end of the sixth week).

## Tentative Schedule

### Week 1

- 06/27 Introduction  
06/29 Our Milesian friends and the problem of material constitution  
Reading: "The Milesians," in *A Presocratics Reader*, pp. 9-16

### Week 2

- 07/04 Independence Day  
07/06 Our Milesian friends (cont.)

### Week 3

- 07/11 Parmenides and the problem of nonexistence  
Reading: "Parmenides," in *A Presocratics Reader*, pp. 43-51  
07/13 Parmenides (cont.)

### Week 4

- 07/18 Zeno and the paradoxes of motion  
Reading: "Zeno of Elea," in *A Presocratics Reader*, pp. 73-77  
07/20 Zeno (cont.)

### Week 5

- 07/25 *Apology*  
Reading: Plato, *Apology*, in *The Trial and Death of Socrates*, pp. 21-42  
07/27 *Crito* and the obligation to obey the law  
Reading: Plato, *Crito*, in *The Trial and Death of Socrates*, pp. 43-54

### Week 6

- 08/01 *Meno* and the paradox of inquiry  
Reading: Plato, *Meno*  
08/03 *Meno* (cont.)