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| Code of course: BBN-FIL-212.03, BMA-FILD-212.03 |
| Title of course: **Stoics, Epicureans, and Sceptics: Introduction to Hellenistic Philosophy** |
| Lecturer: Dr Máté Veres |
| Office hour, consultation (e-mail of the lecturer): [mateveres8519@gmail.com](mailto:mateveres8519@gmail.com) |

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| General aim of the course:  (No knowledge of Greek or Latin is necessary.)  The course will give an overview of Hellenistic philosophy, i.e. the main philosophical positions formulated and debated in the period ranging from the death of Aristotle (322 BCE) to the revival of Aristotelianism and the emergence of Platonism in the Roman Empire (late 1st century BCE). Some of the finest and most influential doctrines of ancient philosophy were formulated in this period.  The lectures will introduce students to Epicurean, Stoic, Academic, and Pyrrhonean texts (in English translation) concerning the possibility of knowledge, the structure of reality, determinism and responsibility, and theories of the good life, as well as to the major interpretive debates in the modern secondary literature.  The course is open to anyone, but previous familiarity with ancient philosophy might be useful. |

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| Weekly schedule  After the first, introductory lecture, the course will deal with Hellenistic debates on epistemology (weeks 2-4), metaphysics (weeks 5-8), and ethics and politics (weeks 9-12).  Students are required to prepare each week's *Required reading* for class. Items listed under *Suggested reading* are not required. All readings will be provided by the instructor.  1) **9 September. Introduction**  *Required reading*:  \* A.A. Long – D. Sedley, *The Hellenistic Philosophers* vol. 1 (Cambridge, 1987), 'Introduction' = pp. 1-9.  *Suggested reading*:  \* Brunschwig, J. and Sedley, D. 'Hellenistic philosophy' in D. Sedley (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Greek and Roman Philosophy* (Cambridge, 2003), 151-83.  2) **16 September. Epicurean epistemology**  *Required reading*:  \* A.A. Long – D. Sedley, *The Hellenistic Philosophers* vol. 1 (Cambridge, 1987), chs. 16-19 = pp. 78-97.  *Suggested reading:*  \* Asmis, E. 'Epicurean empiricism' in J. Warren (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Epicureanism* (Cambridge, 2009), 84-104.  \* Everson, S. 'Epicurus on the truth of the senses', in his (ed.) *Epistemology* (Cambridge, 1990), 161-83.  3) **23 September. Stoic epistemology and its Academic criticism**  *Required reading*:  \* A.A. Long – D. Sedley, *The Hellenistic Philosophers* vol. 1 (Cambridge, 1987), chs. 39-42 = pp. 236-66.  *Suggested reading:*  \* Annas, J. 'Stoic epistemology' in S. Everson (ed.), *Epistemology* (Cambridge, 1990), 184-203.  \* Hankinson, R.J. 'Stoic epistemology' in B. Inwood (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to the Stoics* (Cambridge, 2003), 59-84.  \* Nawar, T. 'The Stoic account of apprehension', *Philosophers' Imprint* 14 (2014), 1-21.  4) **30 September. The Pyrrhonean Modes for suspension of judgement**  *Required reading*:  \* A.A. Long – D. Sedley, *The Hellenistic Philosophers* vol. 1 (Cambridge, 1987), chs. 39-42 = pp. 236-66.  \* R. Bett (tr.), Sextus Empiricus, *Outlines of Pyrrhonism*, Book I, sections 164-179 = pp. 40-44.  *Suggested reading:*  \* Striker, G. 'The Ten Tropes of Aenesidemus' in M.F. Burnyeat (ed.), *The Skeptical Tradition* (Berkeley, 1983), 95-115.  \* Morison, B. 'Sextus Empiricus' in *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, section 3 (online).  5) **7 October. Epicurean atomism**  *Required reading*:  \* Epicurus, *Letter to Herodotus* and *Letter to Pythocles* in B. Inwood – L. Gerson (eds.), *Hellenistic Philosophy: Introductory Readings* (Indianapolis, 1997), 5-28.  *Suggested reading:*  \* Taub, L. 'Cosmology and meterology' in in J. Warren (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Epicureanism* (Cambridge, 2009), 105-24.  \* Betegh, G. 'Epicurus' argument for atomism', *Oxford Studies in Ancient Philosophy* 30 (2006), 261-84.  6) **14 October. Epicureans on determinism and responsibility**  *Required reading*:  \* A.A. Long – D. Sedley, *The Hellenistic Philosophers* vol. 1 (Cambridge, 1987), ch. 20 = pp. 102-12.  *Suggested reading:*  \* T. O'Keefe, 'Action and responsibility' in J. Warren (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Epicureanism* (Cambridge, 2009), 142-57.  \* D. Sedley, 'Epicurus' refutation of determinism' in *Syzetesis: Studi sull'epicureismo greco e romano offerti a Marcello Gigante* (Naples, 1983), 11-51.  \* S. Bobzien, 'Did Epicurus discover the free will problem?', *Oxford Studies in Ancient Philosophy* 19 (2000), 287-337.  7) **21 October. Stoic metaphysics and theology**  *Required reading*:  \* A.A. Long – D. Sedley, *The Hellenistic Philosophers* vol. 1 (Cambridge, 1987), chs. 43-47, 54 = pp. 266-89, 323-33.  *Suggested reading:*  \* Brunschwig, J. 'Stoic metaphysics' in B. Inwood (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to the Stoics* (Cambridge, 2003), 206-32.  \* Bailey, D.T.J. 'The structure of Stoic metaphysics', *Oxford Studies in Ancient Philosophy* 46 (2014), 253-309.  \* Algra, K. 'Stoic theology' in B. Inwood (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to the Stoics* (Cambridge, 2003), 153-78.  \* Sedley, D. 'The origins of Stoic god' in D. Frede – A. Laks (ed.), *Traditions of Theology* (Leiden, 2002), 41-83.  **!!! NO CLASS ON 28 OCTOBER !!!**  8) **4 November. Stoics on determinism and freedom**  *Required reading*:  \* A.A. Long – D. Sedley, *The Hellenistic Philosophers* vol. 1 (Cambridge, 1987), chs. 52, 55, 62 = pp. 308-13, 333-43, 386-94.  *Suggested reading*:  \* Frede, D. 'Stoic determinism' in B. Inwood (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to the Stoics* (Cambridge, 2003), 179-205.  \* Bobzien, S. 'Chrysippus' theory of causes' in K. Ierodiakonou (ed.), *Topics in Stoic philosophy* (Oxford, 1999), 196-242.  9) **11 November. Epicurean ethics**  *Required reading*:  \* Epicurus, *Letter to Menoeceus* in B. Inwood – L. Gerson (eds.), *Hellenistic Philosophy: Introductory Readings* (Indianapolis, 1997), 28-31.  \* J. Annas (ed.) and R. Woolf (tr.), Marcus Tullius Cicero, *On Moral Ends* (Cambridge, 2001), Book I = pp. 3-25.  *Suggested reading*:  \* Striker, G. 'Epicurean hedonism' in her *Essays on Hellenistic Epistemology and Ethics* (Cambridge, 1996), 196-208.  \* Sedley, D. 'The inferential foundations of Epicurean ethics' in S. Everson (ed.), *Ethics* (Cambridge, 1998), 129-50.  \* Warren, J. 'Removing fear' in J. Warren (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Epicureanism* (Cambridge, 2009), 234-48.  10) **18 November - Stoic ethics**  *Required reading*:  \* Annas, J. (ed.) and Woolf, R. (tr.), Marcus Tullius Cicero, *On Moral Ends* (Cambridge, 2001), Book III, pp. 65-89.  \* Selections from A.A. Long – D. Sedley, *The Hellenistic Philosophers* vol. 1 (Cambridge, 1987), chs. 57-61 = pp. 346-86.  *Suggested readings:*  \* Striker, G., 'Following Nature: A Study in Stoic ethics', *Oxford Studies in Ancient Philosophy* 9 (1991), 1-73.  \* Inwood, B., 'Rules and reasoning in Stoics ethics' in K. Ierodiakonou (ed.), *Topics in Stoic Philosophy* (Oxford, 1995), pp. 95-127.  \* Schofield, M. 'Stoic ethics' in B. Inwood (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to the Stoics* (Cambridge, 2003), 233-56.  \* Brennan, T. 'Stoic moral psychology' in B. Inwood (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to the Stoics* (Cambridge, 2003), 257-94.  11) **25 November. Scepticism and ethics**  *Required reading*:  \* A.A. Long – D. Sedley, *The Hellenistic Philosophers* vol. 1 (Cambridge, 1987), chs. 2, 69 =  pp. 18-22, 450-460.  \* Bett, R. (tr.), Sextus Empiricus, *Against the Ethicists* (Oxford, 1997), 110-167 = pp. 19-27.  *Suggested readings*:  \* Annas, J., 'Doing without objective values: Ancient and modern strategies', in M. Schofield and G. Striker (eds.), *The Norms of Nature: Studies in Hellenistic Ethics* (Cambridge, 1986), 3- 29.  \* Striker, G., 'Ataraxia: Happiness as tranquillity', in her *Essays on Hellenistic Epistemology and Ethics* (Cambridge, 1996), pp. 183-95. \* Vogt, K. 'Scepticism and action' in R. Bett (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Ancient Scepticism* (Cambridge, 2010), 165-80.  \* Bett, R., 'Scepticism and ethics' in R. Bett (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Ancient Scepticism* (Cambridge, 2010), 181-194.  12) **2 December. Politics and society**  *Required reading*:  \* A.A. Long – D. Sedley, *The Hellenistic Philosophers* vol. 1 (Cambridge, 1987), chs. 22, 67 = pp. 125-39, 429-37.  *Suggested reading*:  \* Brown, E.. 'Politics and society' in J. Warren (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Epicureanism* (Cambridge, 2009), 179-96.  \* Long, A.A. 'Stoic communitarianism and normative citizenship', *Social Philosophy and Policy* 24 (2007), 241-61.  \* Vogt, K. *Law, Reason, and the Cosmic City*. Oxford, 2008.  13) **9 December – Conclusion**  *Required reading*:  \* M. Frede, 'Epilogue' in K. Algra – J. Barnes – J. Mansfeld – M. Schofield (eds.), *The Cambridge History of Hellenisic Philosophy* (CUP, 1999),771-97. |

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| Grading criteria, specific requirements:  The course is delivered in a lecture format. Nevertheless, in-class discussion will be facilitated (ideally comprising about 1/3 of each class).  The final grade will be determined by oral examination. For advanced students, the oral exam might be substituted for a term paper (approximately 3,000–5,000 words, to be discussed individually). |

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| Suggested further reading:  \* Algra, K. – Barnes, J. – Mansfeld, J. – Schofield, M. (eds.) *The Cambridge History of Hellenistic Philosophy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999.  \* Bett, R. (Ed.) *The Cambridge Companion to Ancient Scepticism*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010.  \* Inwood, B. (ed.) *The Cambridge Companion to the Stoics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.  \* Inwood, B. and Gerson, L. (eds. and tr.) *Hellenistic Philosophy: Introductory Readings.* Indianapolis: Hackett, 1997.  \* Long, A.A. *Hellenistic philosophy: Stoics, Epicureans,* *Sceptics*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1986.  \* Long, A.A. – Sedley, D. (eds. and tr.) *The Hellenistic Philosophers*, vol. I-II. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1987.  \* Sellars, J. *Hellenistic Philosophy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018.  \* Sharples, R.W. *Stoics, Epicureans, and Sceptics*. London – New York: Routledge, 1996.  \* Warren, J. (ed.) *The Cambridge Companion to Epicureanism*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009. |