

Erasmus Academy Spring '21

Ancient Philosophy for Modern Life (Online)

Instructor: Nick Romeo

January 28 – April 22, 2021

Thursdays, 1:00 to 4:00 PM EST

Course Description

Ancient Greek and Roman philosophers sought to answer many of life's most fundamental and practical questions: What does it mean to be a good person? Does being good make you happy? How can you know who your true friends are? What distinguishes love from lust? These questions are deeply relevant to everyone's life today, but our culture largely neglects the insights of antiquity. In this course, we will read and discuss foundational texts such as Plato's *Republic*, Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*, and Marcus Aurelius' *Meditations*. You will develop familiarity with ancient philosophical ideas through Socratic-style discussion, receive individual coaching on analytical writing skills through multiple writing assignments, and gain useful insights into some of life's most important questions.

By the end of the course, you will understand how to apply principles from Stoicism, Epicureanism, and Platonism to the dilemmas of daily life. Learn from the ancient world's greatest philosophers how to manage anger and unruly passions, how to cultivate ethical habits, how to think about death, politics, friendship, and much more. You also receive extensive coaching and feedback on your own writing assignments, which depending on your preference will involve analysis, essays, or philosophical dialogues. The course is perfect for anyone interested in learning about ancient philosophy and considering how to live a full and flourishing life.

Course Structure

Students may take this class from any location or from the convenience of their home. They will need to have access to the Internet. The course meets in "real time" and participants are expected to attend all the scheduled sessions. The 12-week course meets once a week on Thursdays, 1:00 pm-4:00 pm EST. The class includes 36 hours of live instruction, equivalent in scope to semester courses at colleges or graduate schools. Each 3-hour session includes a brief lecture, close analysis of one or more philosophical passages, discussion of ideas, and periodical student presentations and writing clinics. Presuming 6 hours of outside preparation for each class, 9 hours a week should be available for study.

Performance Evaluation

At the conclusion of the course, the instructor will write an extensive performance evaluation of each student based on class participation and written work. A letter grade can also be assigned at the request of students. This performance evaluation will be kept on file at the Erasmus Academy and may be forwarded to any college or academic institution upon request by a student. A student may of course participate in the course without getting a grade and still receive a performance evaluation. However, his or her college or graduate institution may require a grade to be assigned in order to grant academic credit for this course.

Required Books

Note: Regarding Plato's works, you may purchase the four books as listed below, or purchase the single volume of the complete works, edited by John M. Cooper, as indicated below.

Republic, Plato. [Recommended Edition](#)

Philebus, Plato. [Recommended Edition](#)

Last days of Socrates, Plato. [Recommended Edition](#)

Symposium, Plato. [Recommended Edition](#)

Plato: Complete Works. Ed., John M. Cooper. ISBN 10 0872203492

Politics, Aristotle. [Recommended Edition](#)

Nichomachean Ethics, Aristotle. [Recommended Edition](#)

Meditations, Marcus Aurelius. [Recommended Edition](#)

Recommended Books:

What Plato Said, Paul Shorey. University of Chicago Press, 1933.

Background of Instructor

Nick Romeo is a nationally recognized journalist, essayist, and cultural critic whose work appears regularly in *The New Yorker*, *The Washington Post*, *The Atlantic*, *Aeon*, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Newsweek*, and many other venues. He has profiled Nobel Laureates in literature, examined the cultural impacts of technology and artificial intelligence, reviewed dozens of books by leading novelists and nonfiction authors, written essays on the history of political philosophy, Plato and behavioral economics, classics and education, and much more.

He has been a guest speaker at Stanford Medical School, CB Insights business conference, and is a longtime teacher for Stanford University's Pre-Collegiate

Studies Program, where he taught expository writing. He has a BA from Northwestern and two Master's degrees, one in English and one in Ancient Greek philosophy. He has studied classical Greek for nearly a decade and currently lives in Athens, less than a mile from the original location of Aristotle's Lyceum.

To read more about his work, visit: <https://nickromeowriter.com/>

Registration, Course Fee and Refund Policy

The fee for Ancient Philosophy for Modern Life is \$1650, payable to the Erasmus Academy by the registration deadline, January 15, 2021. To reserve a place in the course, an Enrollment Form and a non-refundable deposit of \$75 must be submitted to the Registrar's Office of the Erasmus Academy by Jan. 15, '21. The balance of \$1,575 is due by Jan. 25th. Early application is recommended, however, due to space availability. The maximum number of students in this online course is 20. There are also Early Bird Registration options. If a student registers and pays in full by Dec. 20, 2020, the total course fee is \$1450; if full payment is made by Jan. 12, '21, the total fee is \$1550. After Jan. 12, the normal fee of \$1650 applies. These payment options are accessible in the online store of the website (www.erasmusacademy.com). The Enrollment Form may be downloaded from the website, under the Ancient Philosophy for Modern Life course page.

Refund Policy If, after the first two weeks of classes, a student wishes to discontinue the Ancient Philosophy for Modern Life course, a letter to this effect must be received by the Erasmus Academy Registrar's Office by 4:00pm EST on Wednesday, February 10, 2021. Thereupon, a refund of course fee paid less \$75 will be returned to the student. There are no refunds after Feb. 10, 2021.

Ancient Philosophy for Modern Life

Course Fee: \$1650

For inquiries, please contact the Erasmus Academy Registrar's Office:

erasmusacademyregistrar@gmail.com

Or call 718-499-0077 (leave message for a return call)

You may register and make payments online:

www.erasmusacademy.com