**Ancient Theories of Mind**

Friday 11 – 13, DSB G.06
Dr Inna Kupreeva
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**Week 1 (24ix). Introduction. Early Greek Theories of Soul.**

1. What is this thing called psuchê?
2. Early theories of cognition. ‘Like is known by like’.

**Reading:**

Notation: the articles that are not marked in any way are regular readings which will be discussed in class; + signals background readings (optional, but may be helpful if the topic is completely new to you); * refers to further readings

**Primary sources:**


**Secondary sources:**

+A. Kenny, Ancient Philosophy (A New History of Western Philosophy vol. 1), Oxford, Clarendon, 2004, chapters 1 (pp. 1 – 28) and 7 (229 – 56) (general survey and background reading on Presocratics)
+ T.H. Irwin, Classical Thought (A History of Western Philosophy 1), OUP, 1989, sections 2,3 (pp. 6 – 42)
+ C. Osborne, Presocratic Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction, OUP
**Week 2 (1x). Plato, Phaedo**

1. Arguments for soul’s immortality.
2. Objections against immortality: ‘harmony’ theory (Simmias) and ‘tailor’s cloak’ argument (Cebes) and Socrates’ replies.
3. The Final Argument.

**Reading**

*Primary sources:*

Plato, *Phaedo*
Aristotle, *De anima* 1.4
+Plato *Meno*

*Secondary literature:*

J. Barnes, ‘Pythagoras and the Soul’ in his The Presocratic Philosophers, Routledge, 1982, 100 – 120
C.C.W. Taylor, ‘The Arguments in the Phaedo Concerning the Thesis That the Soul Is a Harmony’

**Week 3(8x). Plato’s Moral Psychology**

1. Simple or tri-partite soul?
2. Plato’s discussion of *akrasia.*

**Reading**

*Primary sources*

*Republic IV and IX*

*Secondary literature*

C. Shields, ‘Simple Souls’ in E. Wagner
B. Williams, ‘Analogy of City and Soul in Plato’s Republic’
Week 4 (15x). Plato: Soul and embodied cognition in the Timaeus

1. Soul of the world and human soul.
2. Human soul and human body.
3. The doctrine of cognition: sense perception.

Reading:

Primary sources

Plato, Timaeus
+Plato, Meno

Secondary literature

T.K. Johansen, Plato’s Natural Philosophy, chapters 8 and 9
F. Solmsen, ‘Tissues and the Soul: Philosophical contributions to physiology’ in Philosophical Review 59 (1950), 435 – 468 (and reprints)
*J.L Beare, Greek Theories of Elementary Cognition: From Alcmaeon to Aristotle, London 1906 (and reprints)

Week 5 (22x). Aristotle’s definitions of the soul.

1. What is hylomorphism?
2. Substance or attribute?

Reading:

Primary sources

Aristotle, De anima (On the soul), 2. 1 – 4

Secondary literature


**Week 6 (29x). Aristotle on perceptual cognition.**

1. Special senses: structure and mechanism of perception.
2. ‘Receiving form without matter’: a debate.
3. What is ‘common sense’ in Aristotle?

**Primary sources**

Aristotle, De anima (On the soul), Book 2, chapters 5 – 12, book 3, chapters 1 – 3
Aristotle, Parva naturalia

**Secondary literature**

M.F. Burnyeat, ‘How Much Happens When Aristotle sees Red and Hears Middle C?’, ibid., 421 - 434
*S. Everson, Aristotle on perception, Oxford, 1996
**Week 7 (5xi). Aristotle on intellect.**

1. Aristotle on the operation of intellect (*De anima* 3.4).
2. Active and potential intellect (3.5): the question of interpretation

**Reading**

**Primary**

Aristotle, *De anima*, Book 3, 4-11
Aristotle, *Metaphysics Lambda* 7, 9 - 10
*Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics* Book 6
*Aristotle, De motu animalium*
*Alexander of Aphrodisias, On Intellect (Mantissa 2)*

**Secondary literature**

*M. Wedin, Mind and Imagination in Aristotle*, New Haven, CT, 1988

**Week 8 (12xi). Hellenistic philosophy: Epicurus.**

1. Soul as body: atomism.
2. Theory of cognition
3. Moral psychology

**Reading**
**Primary**

Lucretius, *On the Nature of Things*, books 3 and 4  

**Secondary**

Gill  
*J. Annas, Hellenistic Philosophy of Mind, Berkeley, 1992, 17 – 36, 123 - 200*  
*J.P. Vallance, The Lost Theory of Asclepiades of Bithynia, Oxford, 1990*

**Week 9 (19xi). Hellenistic philosophy: Stoicism.**

1. Stoic corporealism and the problem of personal identity.  
2. Theory of cognition: representation (*phantasia*)  

**Reading**

**Primary**

Secondary


*B. Inwood, Ethics and Human Action in early Stoicism, Oxford, 1985

**Week 10 (26xi). Science and Medicine. Scepticism.**

1. Theory and experience in medicine.
2. Sceptical tradition in philosophy and medicine.
3. Teleology versus mechanism in philosophy and medicine.
4. Galen on mind.

Reading

Primary sources

Galen, *On Natural Faculties*  
[Hippocrates] *On Ancient Medicine*  
Sextus Empiricus, *The Outlines of Scepticism* (focus on books 1 and 3)

Secondary literature

Science and medicine
S. Everson, ‘The objective appearance of pyrrhonism’ in S. Everson (ed), *Psychology (Companions to Ancient Thought 2)*, Cambridge 1991, 121 - 147

**Week 11 (3xii). Soul and body in philosophical schools of Late Antiquity**

1. Plotinus on soul’s attributes

**Reading**

**Primary**

Galen. QAM
Plotinus *Enn.1.1; 4.3*

**Secondary**

*H. Blumenthal, Plotinus’ Psychology, The Hague, 1971

*E. Eliasson, *The Notion of That Which Depends on Us in Plotinus and Its Background*, Leiden, 2008
