

PHIL 1060

PHYSICS WITH THE STOICS

COURSE DESCRIPTION: According to the Stoics the philosophical discourse is divided into three parts: logic, physics and ethics. Each of these parts is developed separately, but ultimately the entire system can be seen to fit together as a unified whole. We shall concentrate on Stoic physics but shall also try to appreciate its relevance for the entire system. Stoicism often initially strikes students as a collection of strange and unattractive ideas, but the more these ideas are studied the more one appreciates their depth and complexity. From Diogenes Laertius we learn that the Stoic physical theorems can be structured in the following order: 1. Bodies, 2. Principles, 3. Elements, 4. Gods, 5. Incorporeals (place, void and time). We shall follow this order and try to understand its philosophical significance.

Textbook: Hellenistic Philosophy. Introductory Readings. Second Edition. Translated with Introduction and Notes by Brad Inwood and Lloyd P. Gerson (Hackett Publishing Company). Most of the relevant readings are in this text, but additional readings will be provided (*).

Grading and Course Requirements: The grade for the course is determined by 2 short papers (2-3 pages), and a final paper (4-5 pages), each counting 1/3 of the final grade. **Participation can raise the grade.**

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

W1 *The Stoic Division of Philosophy*

READING: Diogenes Laertius 7.39-41 (Inwood-Gerson II-20)

READING: Sextus, *M* 9.1-23*

W2 *Physics and Mathematics*

READING: Diogenes Laertius 7.133 (Inwood-Gerson II-20)

READING: Simplicius, *On Physics* 2*

W3 *Bodies*

READING: Diogenes Laertius 7.135 (Inwood-Gerson II-20)

READING: Cicero, *Academica* 1.39 (Inwood-Gerson II-29)

READING: Sextus, *Outlines of Pyrrhonism* 3. 38-55*

W4 Principles

READING: Diogenes Laertius 7.134, 150 (Inwood-Gerson II-20)

READING: Arius Didymus, *fr. phys.* 20 (Inwood-Gerson II-55)

READING: *Chalcidius* (II-54)

W5 Mixture

READING: Alexander, *On Mixture* 216.14-218.10*

READING: Arius Didymus, *fr. phys.* 28*

W6 Elements

READING: Diogenes Laertius 7. 134, 136, 137, 142 (Inwood-Gerson II-20)

READING: Arius Didymus *fr. phys.* 21 (Inwood-Gerson II-62)

W7 Gods

READING: Diogenes Laertius 7.135, 136, 147 (Inwood-Gerson II-20)

READING: Cicero *On the Nature of the Gods*, selections (Inwood-Gerson II-23)

W8 Teleology and Providence

READING: Diogenes Laertius 7. 138 (Inwood-Gerson II-20)

READING: Cicero, *On the Nature of the Gods*, selections from 2. 98-153 (Inwood-Gerson II-23)

W9 Fate

READING: Alexander, *On Fate* 22*

READING: Aulus Gellius 7.2 (Inwood –Gerson II-89)

READING: Cicero, *On Fate* 39-44 (Inwood-Gerson II-90)

W10 Cosmos

READING: Diogenes Laertius 7.137, 138, 140, 141, 142, 143 (Inwood-Gerson II-20)

READING: Cicero, *On the Nature of the Gods*, selections from 2. 98-153 (Inwood-Gerson II-23)

W11 Incorporeals (place, void and time)

READING: Diogenes Laertius 7.140-141 (Inwood-Gerson II-20)

READING: Arius Didymus, *fr. phys.* 25, 26 (Inwood-Gerson II-36/38)

READING: Sextus, *M* 10. 3-4*

READING: Aetius 1.20.1 (Inwood-Gerson II-37)

W12 Soul

READING: Sextus, *MIX* 78-84*

READING: Diogenes Laertius 7.85-86 (Inwood-Gerson II-94)

READING: Hierocles, *Foundation of Ethics*, 1.15-28; 4. 38-53*

READING: Origen *On Principles* 3.1.2-3 (Inwood-Gerson II-25)

W13 *A Physical Interpretation of the Universe*

READING: Seneca, *Letters* 58.11-15 (Inwood-Gerson II-32)

READING: Sextus, *M* 7.38-45 (Inwood-Gerson II-34)

READING: Simplicius, *On Aristotle's Categories* (Inwood-Gerson II-45)

W 14 (Nov 27) *Thanksgiving Recess for students (no classes), all schools.*

W 15 *Review*

NB: this schedule is tentative and may be subject to change. All changes will be made in class with ample time for adjustments