



PHIL 70A: Ancient Philosophy (GE Area: Satisfies C2 – Humanities)

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In Person (SH 241) | Spring Semester, 2025 | Tues./Thurs. 10:30-11:45 AM

In this course, we will examine a variety of ancient philosophical traditions. This course will be divided into three main units. First, we will begin by examining various perspectives in “religious” literature (where “religious” is meant very, very broadly) on the question of what it means to be a human being, including texts from Hindu, Buddhist, Daoist, and Abrahamic traditions. We will then turn our attention to Plato and Aristotle, concentrating in particular on how these two thinkers define and understand human nature.

The specific texts we will read will likely include some or all of the following:

- Vedic/Hindu, Buddhist, and Daoist traditions: selections from the *Manava-Dharmasastra* (“Laws of Manu”), the *Mahasatipatthana Sutta*, and *Zhuangzi*
- Abrahamic traditions: Selections of philosophical writings of Augustine of Hippo, Maimonides, and ibn-Arabi.
- Plato’s *Apology of Socrates*, the *Meno*, and the *Phaedo*
- Aristotle’s *Nicomachean Ethics* and *On the Soul*

All course texts will be available as PDFs on Canvas.

