

CLU33385 Greek Philosophy

Module Code	CLU33385
Module Name	Greek Philosophy
ECTS Weighting	10 ECTS
Semester taught	Semester 2
Module Coordinator/s	Dr Ashley Clements
Module Learning Outcomes with embedded Graduate Attributes	<p>On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Translate and offer philosophically plausible independent interpretations of our extant fragments of and evidence for Eleatic thought during the fifth century BC2. Offer critical evaluations of the major strands of modern scholarly interpretation of Eleatic claims and their sophistic interpretation and refutation.3. Assess the pragmatic appropriation and popular dissemination of Eleatic ideas during the fifth century BC.
Module Content	<p>All European philosophy, the British philosopher Alfred North Whitehead famously alleged, is merely a series of footnotes to Plato. But “Plato’s own writings” themselves, David Gallop has appended, “might be said to have consisted in footnotes to Parmenides of Elea” (Gallop (1984) 3). In this module we study the fragments of Parmenides and the legacy of his extraordinary poem during the first century of its reception in the work of the so-called Eleatics, Zeno and Melissus, whose differing responses to Parmenides and his critics both bestowed an afterlife for Eleaticism and inspired further critical responses during the fifth century BC. In part one, we read Parmenides’ contentious poem closely; in part two, we then consider ‘Eleatic’ responses to it, reading our evidence for the paradoxes of Zeno and the radical monistic prose treatise of Melissus, before turning to Gorgias’ nihilistic parody of Eleaticism and its further serio-comic afterlives at the hands of the (Platonic) sophists and fifth-century dramatists.</p>

Teaching and Learning Methods 11 2hr reading classes.

Assessment Details¹

Please include the following:

- **Assessment Component**
- **Assessment description**
- **Learning Outcome(s) addressed**
- **% of total**
- **Assessment due date**

Assessment Component	Assessment Description	Level Addressed	% of total	Week due
1.	Presentation	1-3	10	tbc
2.	Textual analysis	1-3	30	Wk 10
3.	Exam		60	Assessment Period

Reassessment Requirements

Contact Hours and Indicative Student Workload

Contact hours: 22 hrs
Independent Study (preparation for course and review of materials): 130
Independent Study (preparation for assessment, incl. completion of assessment): 130

Recommended Reading List

Warren, J. (2014) *The Presocratics*. London.
Long, A.A. (ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Early Greek Philosophy*. Cambridge.
Palmer, J.A. (2009) *Parmenides and Presocratic Philosophy*. Oxford.
Tor, S. (2017) *Mortal and Divine in Early Greek Epistemology*. Cambridge.
Harriman, B. (2018) *Melissus and Eleatic Monism*. Cambridge.
Lee, H.D.P. (ed.) (2015 [1936]) *Zeno of Elea, a Text, with Translation and Notes*. Cambridge.

Module Pre-requisite SF Greek

Module Co-requisite SF Greek

¹ [TEP Guidelines on Workload and Assessment](#)

Module Website

Are other Schools/Departments involved in the delivery of this module? If yes, please provide details.

N/A