

## History of Western Philosophy IA | PIU11031

Year	Junior Freshers
ECTS Credits	5 ECTS
Contact Hours	11 (11 x 1-hour lectures)
Pre-requisite	None
Semester	1
Module Leader & Lecturer	Professor Vasilis Politis
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### Module Outline:

The aim of these lectures is to study Plato's dialogue, the *Phaedo*; and to do so both in its own right and for its own sake—it is a wonderful and fascinating work both as philosophy and as literature—and as a model of an introduction to Ancient Philosophy and indeed philosophy. The *Phaedo* combines philosophical arguments of the most abstract and demanding logical and metaphysical nature with the pursuit of concerns of a personal and existential nature. The logical and metaphysical arguments are about the question whether the soul is or is not capable of existing independently of the body: Socrates argues Yes, Simmias and Cebes argue No or at any rate they challenge Socrates' arguments. The personal and existential concerns are, first and foremost, about how to exercise care (*epimeleia*) for oneself. We will also consider how these two master-themes in the *Phaedo*—the arguments for and against the immortality of the soul; and the exercise of the care for oneself—are related and combined by Plato.

### Assessment:

1 Essay (end of module) 50%: 1 Examination (end of module) 50%.

### Recommended Reading List:

- Plato: *Phaedo* (there are several good translations; I recommend the one by G.M.A. Grube, which can be found in *Plato. Complete Works*, edited by John M. Cooper).
- V. Politis (paper-in-progress) 'The Care for the Individual Through Dialogue and Dialectic. Plato's *Phaedo*.'
- Catherine Rowett (2017) 'On being reminded of Heraclitus by the motifs in Plato's *Phaedo*', in E. Fantino, U. Muss, C. Schubert und K. Sier (eds.), *Heraklit im Kontext*. Berlin/Boston. De Gruyter.
- Foucault, M. 2005. *The hermeneutics of the subject: lectures at the Collège de France, 1981–1982*. Edited by Frédéric Gros ; general editors, François Ewald and Alessandro Fontana; translated by Graham Burchell. (The original French edition published in 2001 by Éditions de Seuil/Gallimard.) Read pages 1–79.
- Robb, K. 1986. '“Psyche” and “Logos” in the Fragments of Heraclitus: the Origins of the Concept of Soul', *The Monist* 69(3), 315–351.