



Ancient Philosophy | PIU44011

Year	Senior Sophister
ECTS Credits	10
Contact Hours	22 (18 x lectures and 4 x tutorials)
Pre-requisite	None
Semester	1
Module Leader & Lecturer	Dr Samantha Fazekas
Contact Email	sfazekas@tcd.ie

Topic: Hannah Arendt & the Ancients

Module Outline:

Hannah Arendt's love of ancient philosophy and her extensive knowledge of ancient Greek has led many to characterize her as a grecophile. The purpose of this module is to see whether or not this is an accurate depiction of Arendt. To this end, we will read excerpts from Plato's and Aristotle's texts that Arendt explicitly and implicitly draws on in order to develop her political thought. First, we will tease out the Platonic and Aristotelian influences on Arendt's conception of the *vita activa* (the active life). Second, we will analyze the Socratic and Aristotelian influences on Arendt's conception of the *vita contemplativa* (the contemplative life).

Assessment:

1 Exam (mid-term) 50% **AND** 1 Essay (end of module) 50%

Recommended Reading List:

The complete reading list, including primary and secondary literature, will be finalized at the beginning of the term. Our central texts will be **excerpts** from the following:

- Hannah Arendt, *The Human Condition* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1958).
- Hannah Arendt, *The Life of the Mind* (New York: Harcourt Inc., 1978).
- Hannah Arendt, *Responsibility and Judgment*, ed. Jerome Kohn (New York: Schocken Books, 2003).
- Aristotle, *Politics*, trans. William Ellis (Project Gutenberg E-Book, 2013).
- Aristotle, *The Nicomachean Ethics*, trans. J.A. Smith (Project Gutenberg E-Book, 2021).
- Plato, *Gorgias*, trans. Benjamin Jowett (Project Gutenberg E-Book, 2022).