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**The presocratic philosophers**

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本科生    硕士生    博士生

Undergraduate    Master    Doctoral student

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English

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None

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lectures and discussions

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(1) attendance and participation 20%  
(2) essays 80%

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2 credits

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Dr. Goy’s research is concerned with the philosophy of Aristotle and Immanuel Kant, and, more broadly, with ancient and modern philosophy. Primarily, she is interested in philosophy of nature, but she has also significant interests in metaphysics and epistemology, metaethics and moralpsychology, and philosophy of religion. Sheis co-editor of the volume Kant’s Theory of Biology (2014) and author of the monograph Kants Theorie der Biologie. Ein Kommentar. Eine Lesart. Eine historische Einordnung (2016). She is currently working on Aristotle‘s philosophy of biology and collaborates as an author and editor with two groups of writers in an anthology project Kant on proofs of the existence of God and a commentary project Aristotle. The generation of animals. Her work has been supported by grants from the German Research Foundation (2008–2013), the Fritz Thyssen Foundation (2006–2007 and 2010), the German Academic Exchange Service (2004–2005), and the post-graduate funding Baden-Wuerttemberg (2003–2005). She spent most of her academic life in Tübingen, a university town in southern Germany, apart from being a Visiting Scholar at the University of Chicago (2004–2005), at Stanford University (2005 and 2007), at UC Berkeley (2009), and at UC San Diego (2009). In summer 2010, she lectured as a Visiting Full Professor at University of Munich. In 2012–2013, she worked as a Visiting Assistant Professor at Concordia University in Montréal. She holds three degrees in philosophy from the University of Tübingen (Magistra Artium 2002, excellent; PhD 2006, summa cum laude; Habilitation 2015, venia legendi).

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Presocratic philosophy marks the beginning of Western European philosophy. It covers the period between 625/4 BC, the birth of Thales of Miletus, and 370 BC, the year of the death of the atomist Democritus of Abdera. While Socrates’ philosophy was concerned with man and ethical questions, the presocratic philosophers tried to explain the principles and the nature of being. As a tentative orientation, scholars describe presocratic philosophers as belonging to either the Ionian/Milesian or to the Eleatic/Italian schools of thought, or as influenced by both schools. While members of the former tended to explain the nature of being by means of concrete material principles, such as Thales’ water, Anaximander’s apeiron, or Anaximenes’ air, members of the latter made use of abstract formal principles instead, such as Pythagoras’ numbers or Parmenides’ one. The combination of influences of both schools resulted in more eclectic accounts such as Empedocles’ connection of the four material principles earth, water, air, and fire, with the abstract principles love and strife, or Anaxagoras’ material principles, the homoiomeres,with an abstract principle, the mind.Presocratic philosophy anticipatedand shapedthe contents of central philosophical disciplines, later called metaphysics and ontology, philosophy of nature and the sciences, including the philosophy of physics, of biology, cosmogony, and cosmology, and, to some extent, philosophical theology, psychology, and epistemology.—The aim of this summer school is to study the origin of Western European philosophy in its earliest Ancient Greek sources: the presocratic fragments.

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SESSION 1  
INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW  
assignments: KRS 1–74 (Guthrie 1.1–38)  
  
THALES OF MILETUS  
1. person, 2. principle of being: water, 3. geometry, 4. psychology  
assignments: KRS 76–99 (Guthrie 1.45–72, DK 11)  
SESSION 2  
ANAXIMANDER OF MILETUS  
1. person, 2. principle of being: apeiron, 3. “the” fragment, 4. cosmogony, cosmology  
assignments: KRS 100–144 (Guthrie 1.72–115, DK 12)  
  
ANAXIMENES OF MILETUS  
1. person, 2. principle of being: air, 3. cosmogony, cosmology, 4. meteorology  
assignments: KRS 144–162 (Guthrie 1.115–140, DK 13)  
  
due first essay: What is for either Thales or Anaximander or Anaximenes the principle of being and why does the philosopher choose this principle as an explanation of being?  
SESSION 3  
PYTHAGORAS OF SAMOS  
1. person, schools, 2. Pythagorean bios, 3.principle(s) of being: numbers, 4. cosmology, psychology  
assignments: KRS 214–238 (Guthrie 1.146–340, DK 14)  
  
XENOPHANES OF COLOPHON  
1. person, 2. principles of being: earth, water, 3. cosmogony, cosmology 4. theology, epistemology  
assignments: KRS 163–180 (Guthrie 1.360–402, DK 21)  
SESSION 4  
HERACLITUS OF EPHESOS  
1. person, 2. principles of being: logos, fire, 3. harmony of opposites, 4. river doctrine  
assignments: KRS 181–212 (Guthrie 1.403–492, DK 22)  
SESSION 5  
PARMENIDES OF ELEA  
1. person, 2. principle of being: the one, 3. characteristics of being 4. mortal opinions  
assignments: KRS 239–262 (Guthrie 2.1–80, DK 28)  
ZENO OF ELEA  
1. person, 2. principle of being: the one, 3. paradoxes of plurality, 4. paradoxes of motion  
assignments: KRS 263–279 (Guthrie 2.80–101, DK 29)  
  
due second essay: What are for either Pythagoras or Xenophanes or Heraclitus or Parmenides the principles of being and why does the philosopher choose these principles as an explanation of being?  
SESSION 6  
EMPEDOCLES OF ACRAGAS  
1. person, 2. principles of being: earth, water, air, fire, love, strife, 3. cosmogony, cosmology, 4. biology, epistemology  
assignments: KRS 280–321 (Guthrie 2.122–265, DK 31)  
SESSION 7  
ANAXAGORAS OF CLAZOMENAE  
1. person, 2. principles of being: original mixture of homoiomeres, 3. principles of being: the mind, 4. cosmology, biology, meteorology  
assignments: KRS 352–384 (Guthrie 2.266–338, DK 59)  
SESSION 8  
LEUCIPPUS AND DEMOCRITUS OF ABDERA  
1. person, 2. principles of being: atoms, void, 3. cosmology, 4. biology, meteorology  
assignments: KRS 402–433 (Guthrie 2.383–502, DK 67, DK 68)  
  
due third essay: What are for either Empedocles or Anaxagoras or Democritus the principles of being and why does the philosopher choose these principle as an explanation of being?

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[KRS]The Presocratic Philosophers. A Critical History With a Selection of Texts, trans. and ed. by G.S. Kirk, J.E. Raven, M. Schofield, Cambridge1957.  
[Guthrie]Guthrie, W.K.C. 1962/1965, A History of Greek Philosophy, Cambridge, vols. 1/2.  
  
The standard edition of presocratic fragments has been edited by two German philosophers:   
[DK]Die Fragmente der Vorsokratiker, Greek-German, ed. by H. Diels and W.Kranz, Zürich 61952, 3 vols.

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Barnes, J. 1979, ThePresocratic Philosophers, London/New York.  
Vlastos, G. 1993, The Presocratics, Princeton, 2 vols.

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