Date: March 2012 

Course Name and Number:

Intro to Ancient Philosophy: Greek concept of Love & Friendship

46-388-01

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**Type of course:** Lecture/discussion

**Year of Studies:** 2013-2014 **Semester:**  Fall& Spring **Hours/credits:** 2

**The courses objectives:**

To introduce students to the ideas of the Greek philosophers.

To enable them to clarify and question their own beliefs.

To develop skills of reading and analyzing philosophic writings.

To develop the ability to articulate and present ideas.

**Course Description**:

In this course we will read and discuss a selection of writings by Greek philosophers and writers related to the subjects of love and war. Readings include Homer, Hesiod, Heracleitus, Plato, Aristotle, Xenophon. If time permits, we also compare some of the Biblical conceptions of war found in the book of Joshua.

**The Process of the Course**:

I use a Maieutic method to encourage the students to think through problems on their own in the context of class discussions.

**Detailed Lesson plan**:

## Semester One: Philosophy and Love.

1. Introduction: The rise of philosophy – Homer, Hesiod and Herodotus

2. Sophocles and other philosophical poets.

3. Pre-Socratic Philosophers: Heracleitus and Parmenides

4. Quiz #1. Introduction to Socrates.

5. Plato: *Symposium*

6. *Plato: Symposium*

7. *Plato: Symposium*

8. Quiz # 2 on Plato *Symposium*; Introduction to Aristotle

9. Aristotle on Happiness: Book One 1-5, 7.

10. Aristotle on Love and Friendship: *Nicomachaean Ethics 8-9*

11. Aristotle on Love and Friendship: *Nicomachaean Ethics 8-9*

12. Summary and preparation for semester exam

**Semester Two: Philosophy and War.**

1. Introduction to Plato's Political Philosophy.

2. *Republic* book two.

3 *Republic* book three

4. *Republic* book four

5. Quiz # 1 on *Republic*. Introduction to Xenophon *Cyropaedia*

6. *Cyropaedia,* book one, 1-3

7. *Cyropaedia*, book one, 3-5

8. *Cyropaedia*, book one, 6

9. Quiz #2 on *Cyropaedia* book one

10. Book of Joshua 1-2

11. Book of Joshua 3-4.

12. Review and preparation for final exam.

**Course requirements**:

Students are required to read the assigned reading materials, to participate actively in class discussions and to take six exams.

**Requirements/ Assignment/Tasks**

See above.

**Grade Components** -Number grade.

The Students' grade is based on class participation and performance on exams.

#### Bibliography: (Required/ Elective)

Students are required to read selections from Plato, Aristotle and Xenophon.

**Required textbooks, other textbooks**

I have prepared a reader which contains the reading selections necessary for this course. The students may also be required to have a Tanach.