



*Philosophy Class semestre 2
(2011)*

• **Hellenistic Philosophy**

Diogenes of Sinope in his infamous "tub" confronting the problems of a modern world

Hellenistic Philosophy

Lecture 2 hours meeting once a week;

Tuesday 14.15-15.45

We will examine the main schools of philosophy in the post-Aristotelian period:

- 1. Cynicism, founded by Diogenes who started a movement of renunciation of all unnecessary property and teaching a return to a life of nature**
- 2. Stoicism, founded by Zeno of Citium, whose school developed a positivist answer to the scepticism of the time, an theory of moral principles in answer to the hedonism of the epicureans and an alternative to Aristotle's logic**
- 3. Epicureanism, founded by Epicurus whose school of material philosophy was a mixture of atomism and hedonism - our natural purpose is to pursue pleasure and avoid pain -- but for Epicurus the highest pleasure is of the intellect**
- 4. Scepticism, founded by Pyrrho but developed in the Platonic Academy by philosophers who returned to an extreme form of Socratic denial of knowledge and to the sophistic principle that for every argument there is a counter-argument**
- 5. and Neo-Pythagoreanism which was a mystical school of this period supposedly based on the mathematical and philosophical ideas of Pythagoras,**

but which greatly influenced the philosophy of late antiquity

Material will be drawn from a class-handout on HighLearn.

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**Bibliography:**

Background material and bibliography are on High-Learn  
Those who have not yet registered may in the meanwhile consult

A.A. Long, [Hellenistic Philosophy](#)

**Course requirements:** attendance, mid-term assignment presented in class (depending on numbers enrolled), exam paper to be prepared at home and sent via email