



Horologium (Pompeii)

Time and Temporality in Ancient Thought

Sunday 14.15-15.45

Semestre 2 (2011)

Ancient Sun-Dial from Pompeii, Roman Period

The ancient world discussed theories of time in a highly sophisticated manner. After a brief preview of the linear and cyclical understanding of time current in archaic Greek thought, we will examine the concepts of time and eternity as set out in Plato's *Timaeus* and the criticism of the existence of time as set out in Aristotle's *Physics* Book iv.10-14. We will close the course by examining various Neo-Platonic concepts of Time as simultaneously existing dimensions of reality each completing and developing from each other.

Texts for discussion:

For the convenience of the students, a class handout will be placed on High-Learn towards the end of summer.
for Hebrew editions used in class, see Hebrew Menu;

English readers may consult any translation of:

- Plato's *Timaeus*
- Aristotle's *Physics* book iv chapter 10-14
- Plotinus' 'On Time and Eternity' *Ennead* iii.7
we will also use
- S. Sambursky- S. Pines, *The Concept of Time in Late Neoplatonism*

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the following works are also useful:

- W.K.C. Guthrie, *History of Greek Philosophy* vol 5 (Cambridge)
- F.M. Cornford, *Plato's Cosmology* Routledge
- Richard Sorabji, *Time, Creation and the Continuum* Duckworth  
further bibliography will be added soon

**Course requirements:**

**attendance, mid-term assignment presented in class (depending on numbers enrolled), end of term paper.**

**For admission to the course, students must have already participated in a previous course on Plato or at least done some preparation on this at the beginning of the course .**