Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

Sophists

**SYLLABUS**

Don Ross, Instructor

The purpose of this course is to explore the ideas of the Sophists. We will begin with Presocratic Xenophanes, who is difficult to classify, but who has more in common with the Sophists than with the other Presocratics. Xenophanes will then be followed by Protagoras, Gorgias, Antiphon, and Alcidamas.

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

**Day 1**

Xenophanes God Barnes: 40 - 47

Protagoras Relativism Dillon: 2 - 42

Gorgias Skepticism Dillon: 45 - 75

**Day 2**

Antiphon Nature & Convention Dillon: 134 - 172

Alcidamas Dillon: 284 - 294

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

*Early Greek Philosophy*, ed. Barnes, Penguin, 2001, 9780140448153 ($18.00).

*The Greek Sophists*, ed. Dillon & Gergel, Penguin, 2003, 9780140436891 ($19.00).