

**FLF5278 History of Ancient Philosophy (Colors in Ancient Philosophy)**

**1º Semestre de 2021**

**Prof. Dr. Evan Robert Keeling**

**Credits : 08**

**I - OBJECTIVES:**

A classic philosophical problem involves colors. Are they objective features of natural objects, or are they somehow dependent on minds and perception? This problem and others like it were also discussed by the ancient Greek philosophers, though the general consensus was that they are objective features? Why? This course will discuss questions involving theories of color in the ancient Greek philosophers, especially Empedocles, Democritus, Plato and Aristotle. We will ask: What colors did the Greeks recognize? What is their nature? What is the meaning of the ubiquitous dichotomy between white and black? What colors were considered basic or simple, and why?

**II - CONTENT:**

Selections from the writings of Empedocles and Democritus  
Parts of Plato's dialogues, esp. Timaeus  
Parts of Aristotle's physical works, esp. De Anima and Parva Naturalia  
Main Topics  
Work in social anthropology concerning the evolution of color vocabulary  
Which colors did the Greeks recognize? Did they recognize blue?  
The white-black dichotomy  
The nature of color  
Simple and complex colors  
The formation of complex colors, painting techniques

### III - BIBLIOGRAPHY:

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