S Y L L A B U S: Phil 201: Introduction to Philosophy

Spring 2015  3 credits  MWF: 11:00-11:50 am  Old Main #354

No textbook; two essay-type tests, one at mid-term, one at semester's end.
Term paper: from O'Brien's The Essential Plotinus: “Can you ever really go home again?” (about 10 pages, 27 April).

Introductory Lecture

Anaximander: the fragment, the metaphor; is the infinite really infinite?

Parcenides: introduction to his poem, the way of truth, the opinions of mortals

Early Greek Atomists: theory of nature, of mind, of knowledge

Anaxagoras: shares in nature, the meaning of mind, and Mind

Plato: Ideas, learning as anamnēsis, the divided line and the cave, participation, the soul's immortality

Aristotle: his life, epistēmē, "induction," change and the four causes, "theological" science

Plotinus: his life, the One, the Intelligence, the Soul and souls, matter and evil

[The grade will be based, one third each, on the two essay tests and the term paper. As there is no textbook, and since the essay-type tests are based upon what we do in class, class attendance is de rigueur. Fr. George may be reached on campus at (438) 4416 or through the switchboard.]