Fall 2008

Philosophy 220 - Introduction to Philosophy (online)  Call #3016  Sec. Z3  3 Units

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Contact:

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Phone conversations may also be arranged via email

Required Texts


Course Description

This course helps students understand the world better by studying significant interpretations of self, the world, and God that have been offered by thinkers, past and present “the major concerns of philosophy. Meets general studies core requirement in Heritage and Institutions.

Course Objectives
The overall objective of this course is for the student to gain a greater understanding of God, themselves, and the world they live in so that he/she might lead a richer life. This overall goal has two sub-goals. First, the student is to gain a basic understanding of what philosophy is and how it might be integrated with his/her faith and impact his/her life. Second, the student is to gain critical skills and the ability to apply these skills in his/her chosen profession and in life in general.

Course Requirements and Grading

Course Requirements and Grading:

Three Exams 140 pts.
Threaded discussions 60 pts.

(see Threaded Discussion Section below for details)

Total 200 pts.

Grading Scale:

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<th>Score</th>
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<td>186 - 200</td>
<td>A</td>
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<td>180 - 185</td>
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<td>174 - 179</td>
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<td>166 - 173</td>
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See Further Description of each of the Assignments below in the Syllabus.
There will be three exams, the first is worth 46 points and the other two are worth 47 points. Each exam will include multiple choice and essay questions. These will be taken from the assigned textbook readings and the “lectures.” Exam dates are posted below. You will be given approximately a week in which to begin your exam. Once you begin your exam, you will have ninety minutes to complete it. Make-up exams are not allowed. Please plan accordingly. Also, given that this is an open-book, open-notes exams, I will not allow long quotations to be included in the exam essays, for I cannot evaluate you on your ability to quote someone. Thus, I will ignore all quotations longer that 3 or 4 words. Exams are **not** cumulative.

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**Threaded Discussions**

Online classes offer us many unique opportunities to learn. It does not allow us to have class discussions, but it does offer us another way to share our thoughts. We will use a tool called a threaded discussion. Here’s how the threaded discussions work:

1. The discussion will begin with a question put forth by me at the beginning of each lesson.

2. Each student must then respond to the question(s). Completion of threaded discussions assignments is mandatory! No late assignments will be accepted. Missing or *incomplete* assignments will result in a removal of up to 1-5 points. Incomplete homework consists of poorly constructed answers, answers for which there is little substance or are hard to understand due to poor grammar. If there is a question you cannot answer, you need to email me explaining what is confusing about this task. Be sure to email me with your questions before the assignment is due. Please allow me at least one working day (working days are Monday, 8:00 a.m. thru Friday 5:00 p.m.) to respond to homework questions. Sometimes I respond to my emails on Saturday, but do not expect me to ever respond on Sundays. All of the “weeks” run from Sunday, 12:00 a.m. to the following Saturday, 11:59 p.m. All homework must be posted by 11:59 p.m. the Saturday the lesson ends.

3. As an extra-credit assignment, you have the opportunity to respond to other students’ answers to the original question. In order to encourage participation in class discussion you may earn 1 point per response, up to 2 points per weekly lesson. This is an easy way to boost your grade or make-up missing or incomplete homework. But you can’t do it all at the last minute so start early. I will **NOT** give you extra-credit point for responses that merely say something like, “I agree with your point about . . .” or “I enjoyed reading you discussion on
..." Instead, I will ONLY grant extra-credit points if your response extends the discussion by including a philosophically interesting point(s) or question(s). Extra-credit cannot be earned for past weeks. This is the only type of extra-credit that will be available to you, so get an early start on it.

Each homework and response will be assessed, and graded, according to certain requirements. I will be looking for comprehension of class material and philosophical thought. I want to know that you have worked on the ideas offered and can express your own ideas. I want to know that you are not just someone who knows the words but not the concepts. I want to know that your thoughts about the issue.

The total length should not be more than 500 words and no less than 200 words. Be sure proofread, proofread, proofread again then post your material. If you successfully complete your weekly “threaded discussion” assignment, you will earn “5” points. Please remember, late work will not be accepted.

Disabilities

Any student in this course who has a disability that might prevent him/her from fully demonstrating his/her abilities should meet with an advisor in the Learning Enrichment Center as soon as possible to initiate disability verification and discuss accommodation that might be necessary to ensure your full participation in the successful completion of course requirements.

Restrictions

Each student is expected to do his or her own work. Study together, but work alone. There is to be no cheating on papers or homework. There is to be no plagiarism (if you are using someone else’s work, give them credit). If you plagiarize, it is an automatic zero on the paper or other assignment, and possible other academic penalties. You are responsible for dropping this class. If you feel it is necessary to drop the class, make sure you take the necessary measures with admissions. Please remember, late work will not be accepted.

Course Outline

1 9/3-6  Ch. 1: The Nature of Philosophy (pp. 1-44) and "Why Should a
Christian Study Philosophy?" (Accessed through eCollege)

2  9/7-13  Ch. 3: Reality and Being (pp. 137-193)

3  9/14-20  Ch. 3: Reality and Being (pp. 179-227)

4  9/21-27  Exam #1 (chapters 1, 3, readings accessed through eCollege, and corresponding “lectures”)

5  9/28-10/4  Ch. 4: Philosophy and God (pp. 229-267)

6  10/5-11  Ch. 4: Philosophy and God (pp. 268-305)

7  10/12-18  Ch. 5: The Sources of Knowledge (pp. 307-352)

8  10/19-25  Ch. 5: The Sources of Knowledge (pp. 352-380)

9  10/26-11/1  Exam #2 (chapters 4, 5 and corresponding “lectures”)

10  11/2-8  Ch. 7: Ethics (pp. 449-492)

11  11/9-15  Ch. 7: Ethics (pp. 492-543)

12  11/16-22  Ch. 8: Social Philosophy (pp. 545-584)

13  11/23-29  Ch. 8: Social Philosophy (pp. 584-627)

14  11/30-12/6  Ch. 9: Postscript: Art and Meaning (pp. 629-658)

15  12/7-12*  Exam #3 (Chapters 7-9 and corresponding “lectures”)

(* Please note that the course ends on a Friday and not on a Saturday)

**Work Load**

The following is your typical work load on weeks where you do not take an exam:

1)  Read 21-48 pages of text.

2)  Read the "Lecture" of the week on weeks where there is no exam
3) Reading Chapter "Outline and Summary" on weeks where the assigned reading completes a chapter

4) Answer the "Threaded Discussion" question(s)

5) Take the “Practice Quizzes” on weeks where the assigned reading completes a chapter. You are NOT required to take these quizzes. I provide them only so that you may test yourself on how well you understood the chapters

5) You may find helpful information that will help you study for the exam and deepen you knowledge of philosophy at the “Student Companion Site”

http://www.wadsworth.com/cgi-wadsworth/course_products_wp.pl?fid=M20b&flag=student&product_isbn_issn=9780495103097&discipline_number=5