Introduction to Philosophy
Fall 2008
PHIL 220-12 T/R 3 Units; Duke 116
Call #1445  8:05 – 9:30am

Instructor
George R. Haraksin II
(909) 394-9488 ext. 201
gharaksin@newsongsd.org

I. 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. This course introduces the student to the major concerns of philosophy.

II. Course Objectives

A. To understand the fundamental issues with which philosophical inquiry is concerned and the methods and tools philosophical inquiry employs.

B. To survey and examine important and influential attempts, both historical and contemporary, to deal with questions of ultimate concern.

C. To gain insight into the influence of philosophy on society and come to appreciate the usefulness of philosophy in one’s life and vocation.

D. To provide a foundation for students to consider questions of philosophical import, understand worldview thinking and develop critical thinking skills.

III. Required Course Texts & Course Information


C. Lecture outlines, test study questions, syllabus and grading point scale are all available for review and download at www.newsongsd.org/
IV. Course Requirements

A. Reading. Assigned readings are to be completed according to the course schedule (see below). The order of the readings is significant and should be followed as closely as possible. The assigned readings are intended to introduce the student to various terms, issues and topics in the field of philosophy. Familiarity and knowledge of the readings are vital to completing each précis as well as some of the “one-minute papers” (see below); therefore the assigned reading is vital to your participation and writing in class.

B. One-minute papers & précis

1. Either at the beginning or end of the class period a few minutes may be reserved for the composition of a “one-minute paper.” These papers are open-ended and constitute an opportunity for students to summarize, comment on and/or ask questions about the readings and lecture material for that day/week. Each student is required to turn in a “one-minute paper” for a class period during which it is administered. This will be the primary means of monitoring attendance. If a “one-minute paper” is given at the start of a class period and a student is significantly late to or absent from the class they may not make it up and will incur an absence from that class period.

2. A précis encapsulating the assigned reading for that day/week is due at the beginning of the designated class session (see below). A précis is a one-page summary, no more, no less, in your own words, of the assigned chapter(s). Parameters: 1” margins, single-spaced and 10-12 point Times New Roman font or its equivalent. The best 10 out of the scheduled précis will count towards your final grade. The online précis-template is required to be used for each précis.

3. One-minute papers, précis, and attendance/participation will account for 20% of the final grade.

C. Exams

1. Quizzes. There will be four quizzes throughout the semester. Quizzes will account for 20% of the final grade. Each student must bring their own Scantron for each quiz.

2. Mid-term and Final exams. These exams will be a combination of fill-in and essay. Each exam will be worth 30% of the student’s final grade.

3. Exams will not be rescheduled except for extreme emergencies and by approval of the instructor. It is expected that vacations, miscellaneous trips, and other events—understandably important to the student—will be planned around the schedule (see below) for this course.
D. **Attendance**

1. Attendance and in-class participation is expected and impacts the student’s final grade. Advance preparation for all class periods is expected.
2. Attendance will be monitored with “one-minute papers.” Excessive absence and/or reluctance to be an active participant in class will result in a grade reduction for this course.
3. A student who misses a quiz/exam due to an unexcused absence will not be afforded the opportunity to take the quiz/exam at a later time. A written medical excuse may be allowed, with instructor’s approval, to qualify for a make-up exam—with the exception of the final exam where make-up exams will not be offered.

V. **Course Schedule and Reading**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week/Readings Due</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week One</td>
<td>What is Philosophy?</td>
<td><em>Miller:</em> Introduction</td>
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<td>Sept. 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week Two</td>
<td>Understanding Philosophical Approaches &amp; Worldviews</td>
<td><em>Miller:</em> Chapter 1;</td>
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<td>Reading/précis 1 due Sept. 9</td>
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<td>Week Three</td>
<td>A Little Logic &amp; Reasoning</td>
<td><em>On Jesus:</em> Chapters 1 &amp; 3</td>
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<td>Reading/précis 2 due Sept. 16</td>
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<td>Week Four</td>
<td>What is Truth and Knowledge? Metaphysics/Ontology</td>
<td><em>Miller:</em> Chapters 2 &amp; 3</td>
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<td>Reading/précis 3 due Sept. 23</td>
<td>(Quiz #1 September 25)</td>
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<td>Week Five</td>
<td>Metaphysics: Mind/Body Problem &amp; Materialism/Physicalism</td>
<td><em>Miller:</em> Chapters 4 &amp; 6;</td>
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<td>Reading/précis 4 due Sept. 30</td>
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<td><em>On Jesus:</em> Chapter 4</td>
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<td>Week Six</td>
<td>Epistemology: Skepticism</td>
<td><em>Miller:</em> Chapter 7;</td>
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<td>Reading/précis 5 due Oct. 7</td>
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<td><em>On Jesus:</em> Chapter 5</td>
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<td>Week Seven</td>
<td>Epistemology: Rationalism and Empiricism (Quiz #2 October 16)</td>
<td><em>Miller:</em> Chapters 8 &amp; 9</td>
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<td>Reading/précis 6 due Oct. 14</td>
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<td>Week Eight</td>
<td>October 21: Review</td>
<td>Mid-Term</td>
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<td><strong>Mid-Term</strong></td>
<td><strong>October 23: Mid-Term</strong></td>
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<td>Week Nine</td>
<td>Philosophy of Religion: Arguments on behalf of God’s Existence</td>
<td><em>Miller:</em> Chapters 11 &amp; 12</td>
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<td>Reading/précis 7 due Oct. 28</td>
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<td>Week Ten</td>
<td>Religious Experience &amp; God and the Problem of Evil</td>
<td><em>Miller:</em> Chapter 13</td>
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<td>Reading/précis 8 due Nov. 4</td>
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<td><em>On Jesus:</em> Chapter 8</td>
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<td>Week Eleven</td>
<td>Challenges to Morality (Quiz #3 November 15)</td>
<td><em>Miller:</em> Chapters 14</td>
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<td>Reading/précis 9 due Nov. 11</td>
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<td>Week Twelve</td>
<td>Utilitarianism &amp; Duty</td>
<td><em>Miller:</em> Chapters 15 &amp; 16</td>
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<td>Reading/précis 10 due Nov. 28</td>
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<td>Week Thirteen</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Break—No Classes November 25 &amp; 27</td>
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<td>Week Fourteen</td>
<td>Virtue Ethics &amp; The Ethics of Jesus (Quiz #4 December 4)</td>
<td><em>Miller:</em> Chapter 17</td>
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<td>Reading/précis 11 due Dec. 2</td>
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<td><em>On Jesus:</em> Chapter 6;</td>
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<td><em>Matthew</em> Chapters 5 – 7</td>
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VI. Method of Grading

A. One-Minute Papers (attendance)/Précis 20%
B. Quizzes 20%
C. Midterm Exam 30%
D. Final Exam 30%

VII. Academic Integrity Policy for Undergraduate Students

A. The mission of Azusa Pacific University includes cultivating in each student not only the academic skills that are required for a university degree, but also the characteristics of academic integrity that are integral to a sound Christian education. It is therefore part of the mission of the university to nurture in each student a sense of moral responsibility consistent with the biblical teachings of honesty and accountability. Furthermore, a breach of academic integrity is viewed not merely as a private matter between the student and an instructor but rather as an act which is fundamentally inconsistent with the purpose and mission of the entire university. A complete copy of the Academic Integrity Policy is available in the Office of Student Life, the Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Programs, and online.

B. Expectations for this course regarding academic integrity in this class are consistent with those outlined in the academic integrity policy.

C. Consequences for violations of academic integrity in this class are consistent with those outlined in the academic integrity policy.

VIII. Students with Disabilities

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

IX. Office Hours/Contact Information

A. The instructor will be delighted to meet with you. However, this will be done by appointment only. The instructor is available on campus Tuesdays and Thursdays only. Appointments on those two days 1p.m. or after are most readily available.

B. Contact by phone: 909-394-9488 ext. 201 or e-mail at gharaksin@newsongsd.org
STUDENT INFORMATION SHEET
PHIL220 Introduction to Philosophy Fall 2008

1. Name: _________________________________________________________________

2. E-mail address: ________________________________________________________

3. Contact phone:  ☐ residence  ☐ cell  ☐ work _______________________________

4. Home Address: __________________________________________________________

5. Major: ___________________________  Why did you choose this major?
__________________________________________________________________________

6. Previous theology, philosophy and/or critical thinking courses taken:
_________________________________________________________________________


8. Career Plans: __________________________________________________________

9. Briefly, describe where you are at in your spiritual journey: ____________________
___________________________________________________________________________

10. What do you hope to learn from this course [be honest]? ______________________
___________________________________________________________________________

11. What are three (3) of your favorite books and three (3) of your favorite movies?
Books: __________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________.
Movies: __________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________
12. Church/Religious Background (if any): ______________________________________________

13. Personal/Spiritual Development:

Are you edified by praying for issues in class? (y) ____ (n) ___
Have you ever read sacred texts from other religions? (y) ____ (n) ___
Are you being mentored by anyone? (y) ____ (n) ___
Are you currently part of a church or spiritual group? (y) ____ (n) ___
Do you attend church services regularly? (y) ____ (n) ___
Have you ever read through the entire Bible? (y) ____ (n) ___
Do you consider chapel attendance to be church? (y) ____ (n) ___
Do you read the Bible regularly—4x or more a week? (y) ____ (n) ___

14. What on the syllabus seems most interesting to you?
___________________________________________________________________________

15. What anxieties, if any, do you have regarding this class?
___________________________________________________________________________

16. What prayer requests do you have with regard to your family, personal development, education, preparation for, and involvement in college life, career, or spiritual journey (believe it or not, I do read and pray for these entries ☺)?
___________________________________________________________________________

___________________________________________________________________________