# Course Syllabus

**Phil 220, Z2**

**Instructor:** Nathan Placencia

## Required Texts

- Optional – MLA writer’s handbook
- Optional – Any college level Dictionary

## 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.*

It is also constructed to help fulfill the university's mission statement given below:

> Azusa Pacific University is an evangelical Christian community of disciples and scholars who seek to advance the work of God in the world through academic excellence in liberal arts and professional programs of higher education that encourage students to develop a Christian perspective of truth and life.

## Desired Learning Outcomes

All students will demonstrate increased ability to understand, construct, and reflect critically on philosophical arguments, calling upon the best of the philosophical tradition and their own analytical and expressive skills towards application of such reflection to current social and moral issues. This is an application of the university’s goal for all students that graduate should practice a respect for the worth of all persons, with appreciation of individual and cultural differences, demonstrating truth-telling and grace in their relationships.

## Desired Faith Integration Outcomes

All students will demonstrate increased confidence in the compatibility of sincere Christian faith and robust philosophical reflection, growing into a greater awareness of the intellectual depth, strength, and coherence that is possible for construction of a comprehensive Christian worldview. This outcome is specifically related to the university's goals that graduates should be able to articulate a Christian worldview of truth and life and apply biblically-based ethical reasoning skills to problems.

## Course Requirements

1. **Pay careful attention to reading assignments.** Philosophy gets worked out in a discourse. The primary space for this conversation is the written text. For this reason, if one wants to study philosophy one
must be prepared to read, and read carefully.

2. **Identify major philosophers and their basic views.** Philosophy does not happen in a vacuum. Their have been great thinkers throughout history that have shaped the discourse that we are learning about in this class.

3. **Identify major topics and themes in philosophy.** The study of philosophy is centered on topics of perennial concern. If one is to understand what philosophy is all about, he or she must understand and be able to articulate the issues that are relevant to these topics.

4. **Integrate you’re knowledge.** Philosophy is about examining thoughts and ideas for the purpose of bringing these ideas back together. One of the purposes of this class is to make you a better philosopher. Thus, on your exams and in your discussion responses, I expect to see you integrate the information you are reading. This means you do not simply repeat what you read or what you hear in a lecture, but show that you’re thinking about the issues.

5. **See the assingments for the course under the "Course Home" unit.** This will give specific information regarding the specific nature of the work required.

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**Grading Policy**

Your grade will essentially be calculated in three ways. The first is the answers to discussion questions which will be posted online via a threaded discussion. The second is your quizzes. The third is your exams.

**Grading Criteria**

Here is a rough breakdown of how your grade will be calculated. Sometimes, these percentages vary, but stay around 25%. So just to be clear these are not hard and fast numbers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>%</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Discussion Questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Exam 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Exam 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Weekly Quiz</td>
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**Grading Scale**

This is my standard grading scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84-86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-83</td>
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Writing Center
All Students are encouraged to make use of The Writing Center, offices located in the Marshburn Library on the East Campus. The Writing Center is available to help students with all aspects of their writing projects.

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 exams, 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 exam or paper, 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 the registrar.

Academic Honesty
Whenever direct words or ideas are taken from a source, that source should be correctly cited. This includes any paraphrase, rewording, reconfiguring, or reordering of any source. Incorrect citing is a dishonest reporting of a source. Adhering to academic honesty allows both the student and the professor the opportunity to comprehend when there has been a significant contribution to the learning process. In accordance with the school policies, such behavior exhibiting academic dishonesty may result in a failing grade for the course.

APU Plagiarism Policy
Students found guilty of plagiarism or of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Provost and the Dean of Students, and a memorandum of the plagiarism event will be placed in the student's permanent file in the Provost's office.

*Keeping in line with the spirit of this policy. The student should note that some of the material for this course (powerpoint presentations, notes, lecture material) has been gathered and modified from material provided by the publisher of our textbook and
previous professors who have taught this course online at APU.

**Changes to the Syllabus**

This syllabus is a provisional statement of what you can expect in this course. I reserve the right to change it, if needed.

For the remainder of the syllabus information please click on the links under the Course Home tab on the left.