Philosophy 220 Introduction to Philosophy
Spring 2009

Professor: James A. Van Slyke, PhD
Room: Duke 113; Call #1420; Section 01
Class times: Tues, Thurs 1:05 - 2:30
Office hours: By appointment only, 9:30-11:30 Tues; Thurs.
Email: jvanslyke@apu.edu
Instructor website: jvanster.blogspot.com
Phone: 626-815-5496
APU School of Theology
Division of Religion and Philosophy

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 Philosophy requirement in Heritage and
Institutions.

Course Materials:
2006.


Course Goals:
1. To introduce students to representative topics within the major branches of philosophy.
2. To survey important and influential attempts to deal with basic philosophical questions over
the course of history.
3. To understand the way these developments shape the Western mind and society, and to
examine our own philosophy of life and the values and presuppositions which influence the
choices which shape our lives.
4. To understand the purpose of our lives and sense that our lives are serving that purpose.
5. To learn the value of precision in thinking and in the use of language.

University Mission Statement: 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 which encourage students to develop a Christian perspective of truth and life.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Two Exams – (Mid-Term and Final) (75 pts. per exam) – Each Exam will cover relevant material from the text and classroom discussions. The Final is not comprehensive and will cover material from the mid-term to the end of class. Each exam will be long essay and the questions will be selected from a list given to the students prior to the exam.

Reflection papers (2) (15 pts. each) The student will reflect on topics that are either challenging or interesting and write down their reactions.

Pop Quizzes – (10 to 20 pts. each) Throughout the semester the instructor will give pop quizzes to test the students knowledge of topics covered in class

Position Papers (2) (50 pts. per paper) – The student will critically analyze and give a particular position on an issue from philosophy (i.e. existence of God, free will, etc.) and write a 5 page paper describing their position. The two papers must be from different areas of philosophy covered in class (i.e. theory of knowledge, philosophy of mind, etc.) Assignments must be turned in by the date assigned or will receive a grade reduction for each day the assignment is late. (i.e. B+ to B)

Extra Credit – (15 points each) Two assignments may be completed for extra credit during the semester. These can be used to help a student’s grade or make up for missed work. No other extra credit is given except in cases where the student has written authorization to miss extra class periods. Each assignment is worth 15pts. The assignments may either be a review of a philosophical article or book chapter approved by the instructor. One assignment may be a review and philosophical analysis of a movie discussed in class (i.e. Memento). The assignments are due according to the class schedule. No assignments will be accepted at the end of class.

Homework – (5 pts each) For each class period students will be required to read the assigned primary text and turn in a one page typed response for the readings. The assignments will answer two questions (1) What is the primary argument of the text? (Main thesis, plus supporting material) and (2) What is your reaction to the text? This is primarily a completion grade, so there are no right and wrong answers, the student just needs to demonstrate that they read and thought through the material.

Class participation – (5 pts. each) Students will be expected to participate in classroom discussions of the primary texts by sharing their answers to the homework assignments. Students will be expected to participate in classroom discussions at least 3 times and receive 5 points each time they participate. Extra participation may result in extra credit and will help to resolve borderline cases in grading.
Attendance – There is no attendance policy in this class, so there is no need to inform the instructor of any missed classes. However, assignments are often given in class and cannot be made up at a later time. In class homework functions as a way to track student involvement in class and attendance. The student is still responsible for all announcements in the class and should consult other students if a class is missed, not the instructor.

Grading
Grades are assigned based on the number of points a student earns out of approximately 435 total points. Letter Grades will reflect the following chart:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Superior knowledge regarding details, assumptions, implications, history; superior thinking with information relevant to application, critique, and relationship to other information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>More than adequate knowledge regarding technical terms, distinctions, and possesses an ability to use information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Basic knowledge needed to function and carry on learning regarding major principles, central terms, major figures, also possesses an awareness of field or discipline.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Serious gaps in knowledge, confusion of concepts and categories, inability to recall basic information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Absence of knowledge, incapable of carrying on a conversation about the subject, misunderstands most concepts, confuses all categories. Missing assignments, continually absent from class, lacks a sufficient grasp of the course material.</td>
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Grading scale for the course:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93-100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-92</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83-86</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-82</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<tr>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<tr>
<td>63-66</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-62</td>
<td>D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-59</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Student Learning Outcomes:
1. Increase ability to use abstract concepts in thinking and conversation.

2. Identify the major areas of study in philosophy, define those areas, and explain three issues within each area.

3. Compare basic Christian convictions to the major concepts about the physical world, human existence, and Ultimate Reality.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Learning Outcome</th>
<th>Idea Objective</th>
<th>Assignments Used</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increase ability to use abstract concepts in thinking and conversation.</td>
<td>Learning fundamental principles, generalizations or theories</td>
<td>Mid-Term and Final Position Papers Classroom Discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identify the major areas of study in philosophy, define those areas, and explain three issue within each area</td>
<td>Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.</td>
<td>Position Papers Classroom Discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compare basic Christian convictions to the major concepts about the physical world, human existence, and Ultimate Reality</td>
<td>Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view. Developing a clearer understanding of and commitment to personal values.</td>
<td>Classroom Discussion Reflection Papers Critical Analysis Papers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Schedule Spring 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>What to Read</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Jan 13 - Introduction to Class&lt;br&gt;Jan 15 - Introduction to Philosophy</td>
<td>Chapter 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Ancient Philosophy</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Jan 20 – Ancient Philosophy&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;(Pre-Socratics 11-19)&lt;br&gt;Jan 22 – The time of Socrates&lt;br&gt;(The Crito 47-54)&lt;br&gt;(Jan 23 – Last day to drop/add)</td>
<td>Chapter 3&lt;br&gt;Chapter 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Jan 27 – Plato and Aristotle&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;(The Republic 186-197)</td>
<td></td>
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Philosophy of Religion

Jan 29 – Cosmological Argument
   (Summa Theologica 462-467)  Chapters 5 and 6

Week 4  Feb 3 – Teleological Argument
   (Natural Theology 723-725)  Chapter 7
Feb 5 – Theology and Science
   (Reserve)

Week 5  Feb 10 – cont’d
Feb 12 – Atheism/The Problem of Evil
   (Dialogues 794-818)  Chapter 10

Week 6  Feb 17 – Religious Experience
   (Will to Believe 1076-1084)  Chapter 9
Feb 19 – Religion and Existentialism
   (Concluding Unscientific Postscript 926-934)  Chapter 11 and 30

Week 7  Feb 24 – Review –
Feb 26 – Mid – Term Exam - Reflection paper #1

Philosophy of Mind

Week 8  Mar 3 – Intro to Phil of Mind
   (Reserve)  Chapter 15
Mar 5 – Evidence from Cognitive Science
   (Reserve)  Chapter 16
   Extra Credit #1 due

Week 9  Mar 10 – cont’d
Mar 12 – Personal Identity  Chapter 18

Epistemology

Week 10 Mar 17 – Intro to Epistemology  Chapter 12
Mar 19 – Skepticism
   (Meditations 495-524)  Chapter 13
(Mar 14 Last Day to Withdraw from class)
   Paper #1 due

Week 11 Mar 24 – Spring Break (no classes)
Mar 26 – Spring Break (no classes)
### Freedom of the Will

| Week 12 | Mar 31 – Freedom of the Will  
(Reserve) | Apr 2 – Determinism  
Chapters 20 |
|---------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Week 13 | Apr 7 – Libertarianism  
(Reserve) | Apr 9 – Compatibilism  
Chapter 22 |

### Ethics

| Week 14 | Apr 14 – Intro to Ethics  
Chapter 23 | Apr 16 – Utilitarian Ethics  
(Utilitarianism 944-956)  
Chapter 26 |
|---------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Week 15 | Apr 21 – Deontological Ethics  
(Foundation 873-913)  
Chapter 27 | Apr 23 – Virtue Ethics  
(Nicomachean Ethics 290-322)  
Extra Credit #2 due  
Chapter 28 |

| Week 16 | Apr 28 – cont’d  
Apr 30 – Review - Paper #2 due |
|---------|---------------------------------|
| Week 17 | **FINAL: Thursday, May 7th: 12:15-2:15pm**  
Reflection Paper #2 due |

Course schedule, topics, evaluation and assignments may be changed at the instructor’s discretion

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### General Guidelines for Philosophy 220

**Course Policies:**

1. **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 verification and discuss accommodations that may be necessary to ensure her/his full participation and successful completion of the course requirements.
2. **Special Needs Learners** (students having special needs due to learning disabilities, language, or other factors that may affect achievement) should make special needs known to the instructor during the first week of the course.

3. **Academic Integrity:** The maintenance of academic integrity and quality education is the responsibility of each student at APU. Cheating or plagiarism in connection with an academic program is an offense for which a student may be expelled, suspended, or given a failing grade. Academic dishonesty is a serious offense which diminishes the quality of scholarship and defrauds those who depend upon the integrity of the educational system. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, or plagiarism. Any paper that is plagiarized or any cheating on a test will receive an automatic F for the assignment and no points awarded. The instructor reserves the right to give the student a failing grade for the quarter if the cheating greatly affects their grade or is premeditated. See the APU Student Handbook or the academic integrity brochure (www.apu.edu/provost/downloads/integrity_brochure.pdf) for further information.

4. **Cell phones:** Cell phone use will not be tolerated during classroom discussion. If phone use is necessary please step out of the classroom. If a person makes a habit of stepping out of the classroom to use their cell phone, they will be asked to leave the class. If the problem continues, the student will lose 10 points per incident. Phone use includes text messaging.

5. **Computer usage:** Computer usage is for taking notes or looking up relevant information on the Internet as directed by the instructor. Computers may not be used for text messaging, Internet browsing, or computer games during class time. If the person is caught, he or she will be asked to leave the class. If the student has been warned of misusing the computer and continued to do so, the student will have a reduction in their overall grade for the class or may be given a failing grade.