Philosophy 220 Introduction to Philosophy
Fall 2008 – Section 05

Professor: James A. Van Slyke, PhD.
Room: Duke 601; Call #1438
3 units, section 05
Class times: Mon, Wed, Fri. 1:00 – 1:55 PM
Office hours: By appointment only, 12:30 – 2:30 Tues; Thurs.
Email: jvanslyke@apu.edu
Website: jvanster.blogspot.com

School of Theology
Division of Religion and Philosophy
Azusa Pacific University
Department Phone: 626-815-5496

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 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:**

**Three Exams** – (75 points per exam) – Each Exam will cover relevant material from the text and classroom discussions. The in-class portion of the test will consist of multiple choice questions and the take-home portion will consist of essay questions that are due at the following class period.

**Pop Quizzes** – (10 points per quiz) Quizzes will be given at random throughout the semester. Students should be prepared to take pop quizzes each day in class, which will cover either material from the readings or the current lecture topics. No makeup quizzes will be given for missed pop quizzes. Extra credit may be used to make up for missed quizzes. One quiz will be dropped or may be used as extra credit at the end of the semester.

**Two Reflection papers** – (15 points each) - The student will reflect on topics that are either challenging or interesting and write down their reactions.

**Research Bibliography** – (20 points) - The bibliography will consist of 10 sources or references on the topic chosen for the research paper. Each source will contain 30 words that describe information about the source and its relevance to the overall argument of the research paper.

**Research Outline** – (30 points) {2 pages, single-spaced} - The outline will show the structure of the argument of the research paper and the way in which that argument will be supported by different evidence from your bibliography.

**Research Paper** – (75 points) - The student will critically analyze a subject of interest from the class and write a five page paper describing the subject and the important aspects. The assignment will include both an outline of the paper and the paper itself. The three papers must be from different areas of philosophy covered in class (i.e. theory of knowledge, philosophy of mind, etc.)

**Mini Assignments** – (5 points each) – Smaller participation assignments will be given throughout the semester during class.

**Two Extra Credit Assignments** – (15 points each) - Two assignments may be completed for extra credit during the semester. The extra credit assignments will be a report on a particular philosopher or philosophical issue (must be a topic or philosopher other than the one covered in the research paper).

**Grading**
Grades are assigned based on the number of points a student earns out of approximately 435 total points.

****All percentages are approximate, tests and the final will be graded on a curve****
A Superior knowledge regarding details, assumptions, implications, history; superior thinking with information relevant to application, critique, and relationship to other information.

B More than adequate knowledge regarding technical terms, distinctions, and possesses an ability to use information.

C Basic knowledge needed to function and carry on learning regarding major principles, central terms, major figures, also possesses an awareness of field or discipline.

D Serious gaps in knowledge, confusion of concepts and categories, inability to recall basic information.

F 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.

**Example of grading scale for the course:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93-100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0-59</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Academic Integrity**

Cheating or plagiarism will not be tolerated. If a student is caught cheating, he or she will receive a sanction based on the severity of the offense according to the following criteria.

1. A minor offense is a less serious violation, which normally carries the sanction of zero credit for the work with respect to which the violation occurred. Such an offense has some of the following characteristics: the dishonesty involved a more limited portion of the work submitted; it would not have considerably increased the student’s grade in the course; and the student did not engage in extensive premeditation and planning prior to the act.

2. A major offense is a more serious violation, which normally carries the sanction of an F in the course. Such an offense is characterized by having one or more of the following: the dishonesty involved a substantial portion of the work submitted; it would have considerably increased the student’s grade in the course; and there is evidence of fairly extensive premeditation and planning prior to the act.

It is ultimately up to the Professor’s discretion to decide the severity of the offense and the sanction, but this provides general guidelines for how those decisions will be made. These sanctions apply to both persons who cheat and those who help or participate in the cheating in any way. For more information, please consult the Azusa Pacific University Academic Integrity Policy at the following website: (http://www.apu.edu/provost/downloads/integrity_brochure.pdf).

**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. **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.
4. **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 it will cost the student 10 points per incident.

**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 Critical Analysis Papers Classroom Discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identify the major areas of study in philosophy, define those areas, and explain three issues within each area</td>
<td>Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.</td>
<td>Critical Analysis 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>
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Schedule Fall 2008

Week 1  Sept 3 - Introduction to Class
         Sept 5 - Introduction to Philosophy  Chapter 1

Week 2  Sept 8 – Ancient Philosophers  Chapter 3 and 4
         Sept 10 – cont’d
         Sept 12 – Cosmological Argument  Chapters 5 and 6
             (Last day to Drop/Add; Sept. 12)

Week 3  Sept 15 – Understanding Divine Action  Handout
         Sept 17 – cont’d
         Sept 19 – Teleological Argument  Chapter 7

Week 4  Sept 22 – cont’d
         Sept 24 – Anthropic Argument  Handout
         Sept 26 – cont’d

Week 5  Sept 29 – Religious Experience  Chapter 9
         Oct 1 – cont’d
         Oct 3 – Test 1

Week 6  Oct 6 – The Problem of Evil  Chapter 10
         Oct 8 – cont’d
         Oct 10 – Faith and Reason  Chapter 11

Theory of Knowledge

Week 7  Oct 13 – What Can We Know?  Chapter 12
         Oct 15 – Skepticism  Chapter 13
         Oct 17 – Study Day

Philosophy of Mind

Week 8  Oct 20 – The Mind Body Problem  Chapter 14 and 15
         Oct 22 – Materialist Monism  Chapter 16
         Oct 24 – cont’d
             Extra Credit #1

Week 9  Oct 27 – Functionalism and Naturalism  Chapter 17
         Oct 29 – cont’d
         Oct 31 – Test 2

Week 10 Nov 3 – Personal Identity  Chapter 18
         Nov 5 – cont’d
Nov 7 – Resurrection  
(\textit{Last Day to Withdraw from class Nov. 7})  

\textit{Freedom of the Will}

\textbf{Week 11}  
Nov 10 – Determinism, Libertarianism  
Nov 12 – cont’d  
Nov 14 – Compatibilism

\textit{Ethics}

\textbf{Week 12}  
Nov 17 – Intro to Ethics  
Nov 19 – Utilitarianism  
Nov 21 – cont’d

\textbf{Week 13}  
Nov 24 – Kantian Deontological Ethics  
Nov 26 – cont’d  
\textit{Paper due}  
Nov 28 – Thanksgiving Break

\textbf{Week 14}  
Dec 1 – Virtue Ethics  
Dec 3 – cont’d/catch up  
\textit{Reflection Paper #2 due}  
Dec 5 – Test 3 – Take home questions  
\textit{Extra Credit #2}

\textbf{Week 15}  
\textbf{Final Wednesday, December 10 – FINAL 12:15 – 2:15}  

\textit{Test 3 Multiple Choice}  
\textit{Take home questions due}