Introduction to Philosophy-Honors (PHIL 220H-02)

Dr. Steve Wilkens

Spring 2009 3 Units
Room: Duke 617 TR 8:05-9:30

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.

Objectives:

1. To understand the fundamental issues with which philosophical inquiry is concerned.

2. To survey important and influential attempts to deal with basic philosophical questions over the course of history.

3. To gain insight into the influence of philosophy on society and its structures.

4. To provide a basis for students to consider questions of philosophical import.

5. To enter into the discussion with selected philosophers from the history of western thought.

Desired Learning Outcome for Philosophy Courses

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 a current social or moral issue. This is an application of the university’s goal for all students that graduates 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 Outcome for Philosophy Courses

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.
APU 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 that encourage students to develop a Christian perspective of truth and life.

Requirements:

1. **Examinations**

   There will be two examinations, each accounting for 25% of the final course grade. The examinations are mutually exclusive. Each examination will include essay questions drawn from reading, lecture, and discussion materials. See class schedule for examination dates.

   Every effort should be made to take examinations on the assigned day. Tests may be made up only in the event of:

   1. Illness (Documentation should be provided)
   2. Activities for other classes or official campus groups

   Make up exams must be approved by the instructor. To schedule a make-up test, contact Marilyn Moore in the Department of Philosophy.

2. **World View Essay**

   A 12-15 page essay will be due April 2 and will account for 30% of the final grade. This essay will be a summary of your personal philosophy in comparison to a major philosopher and should address the following topics:
   - Metaphysics/Ultimate Reality
   - Epistemology
   - Relation of Faith and Reason
   - Concept of Human Nature
   - Ethics

   You should indicate the intellectual center of your overall world view and indicate how it ties your various conclusions together, and should do the same for the philosopher with whom you are interacting. On each major aspect of your world view, indicate where and why you agree and disagree with the philosopher selected.

   If a rough draft of your paper is turned in by Mar. 24, I will be willing to suggest revisions that may result in a higher grade.
3. **Reading Assignments**

Required Texts:
- Donald Palmer, *Does the Center Hold?* 3rd ed. (Mountain View: Mayfield, 2002)
- Plato, *The Last Days of Socrates* (*Euthyphro, Apology, Crito only*)
- Descartes, *Discourse on Method, Meditations, and Principles* (*Read only Meditations*)

See schedule for approximate dates for discussion of the Plato, Descartes, and Kierkegaard books

4. **Attendance/Participation**

If you must be absent from class, or any portion of class, the instructor should be notified beforehand. Otherwise, an absence will be counted as unexcused. You will be considered tardy if you arrive after the scheduled beginning of class. Tardies are counted as 1/2 of an absence. More than 2 unexcused absences will negatively affect your final grade. You are responsible for all information presented in sessions from which you are absent.

The maximum impact of a class in philosophy requires your participation, and the smaller class size should facilitate your involvement. 20% of your grade will be determined by your preparation for and contribution to class sessions.

**Weighting of Course Requirements**

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>March 3</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final</td>
<td>May 5 (7:30)</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Worldview Essay</td>
<td>April 2</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
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<td>20%</td>
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Note: To be fair to all students, no extra credit will be given.

**Students with 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 accommodations that might be necessary to ensure your full participation in the successful completion of course requirements.
Academic Integrity

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.

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

Consequences for violations of academic integrity in this class
Academic dishonesty harms the guilty student, classmates, and the institution, and will be dealt with severely. Any instance will result in an “F” for the entire course.

Professor Access

Office Hours – Duke 239
Monday 9:00-11:30; Friday 1:00-2:30

Phone
Office ext. - #5633
Home - (626) 359-6415

Email - swilkens@apu.edu

Note: The instructor reserves the right to modify course schedule and requirements in this syllabus.
Class Schedule

Week One
What is philosophy?
Eight Presocratic Worldviews (cont.)
  Good Ideas, Intro

Week Two
Asking Questions
  Euthyphro, Good Ideas, chapter 1

Week Three
What are you willing to die for?
  Apology, Crito

Week Four
Building an Ideal Society
  Good Ideas, chapter 3

Week Five
Aristotle's Alternative – Virtue
  Good Ideas, chapter 4

Week Six
Faith, Evil and Reason
  Good Ideas, chapter 5

Week Seven
Can we prove God's existence?
  Good Ideas, chapter 6

Midterm March 3

Week Eight
Can I be certain of anything? – Discussion of Meditations on First Philosophy

Week Nine
Philosophy and Reason

Week Ten
Rebellion against reason – Discussion of Fear and Trembling

Week Eleven
Human nature/Human freedom
  Good Ideas, chapter 11
Week Twelve
   Political philosophy
      Good Ideas, chapter 9

Week Thirteen
   Why be good?
      Good Ideas, chapter 10

Week Fourteen
   Why be good? (cont.)

Week Fifteen
   Putting it all together
      Good Ideas, Epilogue

Final Exam
   Tuesday, May 5 (7:30)