

The Catholic University of America  
School of Philosophy

**Philosophy 201 - The Classical Mind**

Section 05

First Year Experience, Learning Community 31

Fall 2009

3 Credits

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 10:10 - 11:00 am.  
Shahan Hall, room 307.

Instructor: Mr. Joshua Potrykus, Ph.L.

Office: Aquinas Hall, Room 200

Office Hours: 11:10 - 12:00 Wednesday and  
11:00-12:30 Thursday or by appointment.

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Course Description:

As listed in the announcements, The Classical Mind is “an introduction to philosophy, using the original writings of several philosophers from the ancient and medieval periods, with a more general consideration of the history of philosophy.”

The Classical Mind is the first part of the required philosophy curriculum at The Catholic University of America. The purpose of this course is twofold: the course will introduce students to philosophy both as a body of thought and as a habit of mind. The major classical and medieval texts in philosophy which will be read during the semester will introduce the students to some of the important philosophical questions of the classical philosophers and the ways in which these philosophers answered these questions.

Student Objectives: 1) To learn to read philosophical texts, 2) to learn to think philosophically, 3) to learn to write philosophical papers.

Required Texts:

Plato. *The Trial and Death of Socrates*. Translated by G.M.A. Grube. Revised by J.M. Cooper. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Indianapolis: Hackett, 2000.

Plato. *Republic*. Translated by G.M.A. Grube. Revised by C.D.C. Reeve. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1992.

Aristotle. *Nicomachean Ethics*. Translated, with Introduction, Notes and Glossary by T. Irwin. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1999.

Boethius. *The Consolation of Philosophy*. Translated by R.H. Green. Mineola: Dover Publications, 2002.

Aquinas, St. Thomas. *On Law Morality, and Politics*. Translated by Richard J. Regan. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Indianapolis: Hackett, 2002.

Hacker, Diana. *A Writer's Reference*. 6<sup>th</sup> edition. Boston/New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2007.

*N.b.:* The book by Hacker is also required for English 101. Do not buy it again if you already own it.

Course Requirements:

The course grade will be based upon participation in classroom discussions about the readings, four quizzes given in class, three short papers of varying lengths (1-4 pages), a midterm examination and a final examination. I will hand out a list of possible topics for the papers. The weight of the requirements relative to the final grade is as follows:

Class participation:	10%
Quizzes:	20%
Short papers:	30%
Midterm examination:	15%
Final examination:	25%

The grades will be assigned according to the following distribution, which will be based upon individual merit, not on a curve:

Excellent	A	94-100	A-	90-93		
Good	B+	87-89	B	83-86	B-	80-82
Satisfactory	C+	77-79	C	73-76	C-	70-72
Lowest Passing	D	60-69				
Failure	F	< 60				

Hard copies of the papers are to be turned in at the beginning of class on the due date that is listed in the schedule. Electronic submission is not accepted without prior express, written permission. Late papers will be reduced by one fraction of a letter grade per day. If there is a conflict with an exam, it is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor well ahead of time so that arrangements may be made for the student to make up the test. In general, quizzes that are missed may not be made up.

The university grading system is available at: <http://policies.cua.edu/academicundergrad//gradesfull.cfm#II>  
 Reports of grades in courses are available at the end of each term on <http://cardinalstation.cua.edu>.

Campus Resources: When needed, be sure to take advantage of the student support services offered by The Writing Center (319-4286) and The Counseling Center [personal] (319-5765), both in O'Boyle Hall; The Center for Academic Success in 204 Pryzbyla Center which provides a variety of workshops to assist study and learning, test-taking, time management, memory improvement, and writing papers, as well as tutoring services (319-5655); and the Library (319-5070).

Accommodations will be made for students with learning disabilities according to the needs specified for each student by the Office of Disability Support Services (207 Pryzbyla Center; 202 319-5211; <http://disabilitysupport.cua.edu>) provided that the instructor has received this information in sufficient time to make the accommodation.

Academic Honesty:

Academic honesty is expected of all CUA students. Faculty are required to initiate the imposition of sanctions when they find violations of academic honesty, such as plagiarism, improper use of one's own work, cheating, and fabrication. For undergraduate students the presumed sanction for academic dishonesty will be failure for the course. Circumstances may warrant a more serious sanction, such as suspension or expulsion. In exceptional cases, mitigating circumstances may warrant a lesser sanction than the presumed sanction. For the complete texts of the University policy and procedures regarding Student Academic Dishonesty, including requirements for appeals, see <http://policies.cua.edu>. Also, consult the School of Philosophy "Statement on Plagiarism" which will be distributed in class.

Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory and will be checked at the beginning of every class. Four classes may be missed without penalty. Every absence after the fourth will result in the loss to the final grade of two percentage points, up to the tenth absence, *which results in automatic failure of the course*. For this policy, in general no distinction is made between excused and unexcused absences. Punctuality is also important; three late arrivals will equal one absence. If the student misses roll call, it is the student's responsibility alone to inform the instructor at the end of class of his or her presence. Early departures will be treated the same as late arrivals.

Course Schedule:

The student should read the assigned reading in advance of the class for which it is assigned.

M	August	31:	Introduction
W	September	2:	Plato, <i>Apology</i>
F		4:	Plato, <i>Republic</i> , Book 1
M		7:	No class, Labor Day
W		9:	Plato, <i>Republic</i> , Book 2
F		11:	Plato, <i>Republic</i> , Book 3
M		14:	Plato, <i>Republic</i> , Book 4
W		16:	Plato, <i>Republic</i> , Book 5
F		18:	<b>QUIZ 1</b>
M		21:	Plato, <i>Republic</i> , Book 6; <b>FIRST PAPER DUE</b>
W		23:	Plato, <i>Republic</i> , Book 7
F		25:	Plato, <i>Republic</i> , Book 8
M		28:	Plato, <i>Republic</i> , Book 9
W		30:	Plato, <i>Republic</i> , Book 10; <b>QUIZ 2</b>
F	October	2:	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book 1
M		5:	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book 2
W		7:	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book 3
F		9:	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book 4
M		12:	No Class, Columbus Day
W		14:	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>
F		16:	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book 5
M		19:	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book 6
W		21:	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book 7
F		23:	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book 8; <b>SECOND PAPER DUE</b>
M		26:	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book 9
W		28:	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book 10
F		30:	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , continued discussion; <b>QUIZ 3</b>
M	November	2:	Boethius, <i>Consolation of Philosophy</i> , Book 1
W		4:	Boethius, <i>Consolation of Philosophy</i> , Book 2
F		6:	Boethius, <i>Consolation of Philosophy</i> , Book 3
M		9:	Boethius, <i>Consolation of Philosophy</i> , Book 4
W		11:	Boethius, <i>Consolation of Philosophy</i> , Book 5
F		13:	Boethius, continued discussion; <b>QUIZ 4</b>
M		16:	Handout on proofs for the existence of God
W		18:	St. Thomas Aquinas, <i>On Law Morality and Politics</i> , pp. 1-9
F		20:	St. Thomas Aquinas, <i>On Law Morality and Politics</i> , pp. 16-22
M		23:	St. Thomas Aquinas, <i>On Law Morality and Politics</i> , pp. 40-45; <b>THIRD PAPER DUE</b>
W		25:	No class, beginning of Thanksgiving recess
M		30:	St. Thomas Aquinas, <i>On Law Morality and Politics</i> , pp. 45-51
W	December	2:	St. Thomas Aquinas, <i>On Law Morality and Politics</i> , pp. 51-59
F		4:	St. Thomas Aquinas, <i>On Law Morality and Politics</i> , pp. 164-172
M		7:	St. Thomas Aquinas, <i>On Law Morality and Politics</i> , pp. 203-210
W		9:	St. Thomas Aquinas, <i>On Law Morality and Politics</i> , continued discussion
F		11:	Summary of material in the course, with a look forward to next semester.
M		14:	Review and catch-up
Sat		19:	<b>FINAL EXAM.</b> 8:00 am - 10:00 am, Shahan 307 (the same room)