

*The Catholic University of America, The School of Philosophy*  
**PHILOSOPHY 201, SECTION 12: THE CLASSICAL MIND (3)**  
**First Year Experience Course, Learning Community 33**  
Fall, 2009: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 11:10 a.m. to 12 p.m., O'Boyle 235

Instructor: Miss Anna Mathie, M.A., 71mathie@cardinalmail.cua.edu, 202-319-5636 office hours only  
Office hours: Wednesday, 3-5 p.m., in Aquinas Hall 200 C; MWF, 12-1 p.m., by appointment.

**GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION**

**Course description and objectives:**

This course 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. In this course you will read, discuss, and write about philosophical texts and the ideas they contain. The aim is to help you to think more clearly about important questions and to express your thoughts clearly. The texts we will read address these questions: What is the best life for human beings? How is wisdom involved in living well? Can knowledge make us good?

**Goals for Student Learning:**

The student will demonstrate an ability to read and analyze original texts of classical philosophy and to discuss and write about the ideas they contain, particularly regarding ethics and the role of knowledge in the good life.

**Required books:**

*The Republic of Plato*, trans. Allan Bloom, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New York: Basic Books, 1991.  
Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, trans. Martin Ostwald. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice Hall, 1999.  
*The Confessions of St. Augustine*, trans. John K. Ryan. New York: Image/Doubleday, 1960.  
Thomas Aquinas. *On Law, Morality, and Politics*, trans. Richard J. Regan. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, Inc., 2002.  
Diana Hacker, *A Writer's Reference*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2007. (*Note: This is the same text you are required to buy for ENG 101.*)

**Other Course Materials**

Other readings, as well as handouts, etc., will be posted on the Blackboard system at bb8.cua.edu. Log in using your cua.net username (e.g., mine is "71mathie") and password.

**Instructional Methods**

Lecture, formal and informal discussion, guided paper-writing.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Assignments and Grading Breakdown:**

Two tests	20%
Essay 1	5%
Essay 2	10%
Essay 3	15%
Participation & Preparation	20%
Final Exam	30%

96-100%	Excellent	A (4.0)
90-95		A- (3.7)
87-89		B+(3.3)
83-86	Good	B (3.0)
80-82		B-(2.7)
77-79		C+(2.3)
73-76	Satisfactory	C (2.0)
70-72		C-(1.7)
60-69	Lowest passing	D (1.0)
0-60	Failing	F (0.0)

**Tests & Exam:** These will consist primarily of short essay or paragraph answers. They are *not* open book. The final exam is cumulative.

**Essays:** See schedule of readings for dates, and Hacker's *A Writer's Reference* for proper format and style. Paper assignments will include a grading rubrics, but the simplest way to put it is that your grade will be roughly proportional to how much I enjoy reading your paper.

-Things I enjoy: clarity of thought and expression, logical arguments, accurate explanations of texts, interesting insights, organization, succinctness.

-Things I don't enjoy: incoherence, confusion, self-contradiction, vagueness, platitudes, repetition, and wordiness. Nor do I enjoy puzzling over bad grammar, incomplete sentences, typos, or unprofessional formatting.

**Participation & Preparation:** Participation will be assessed regularly. You earn a C by:

-being punctual, attentive, and courteous – no electronic devices in class, please.

-bringing all necessary materials (books, handouts, etc.) to each class.

You raise this to an A or B by:

-asking and/or answering questions during daily lecture classes.

-participating in formal discussions by suggesting own interpretations of texts, pointing out relevant passages, responding to other students' points. See last page of syllabus for schedule, and appendix for Formal Discussion guidelines and rubric.

It is, of course, also possible to earn a D or F in this category by:

-failing to have your text, relevant handouts, etc. with you in class

-falling asleep in class, reading the newspaper, texting, etc.

**Note:** 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.*

## **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

### **Late and missed assignments or tests:**

Assignments are due *in hard copy* at the beginning of class. They will be marked down a letter grade for each class day late (e.g., from B+ to C+). If you will miss class on the due date, you need to plan ahead and submit the paper early – not later, not by e-mail. If you must miss class unexpectedly, you may e-mail me a copy to avoid the late penalty, but *you must also bring a hard copy next class or the paper will not be considered to have been submitted.* Printing out your papers is your job, not mine! Papers cannot be submitted at the Dean's office. Tests must be taken as scheduled, although at my discretion I may allow you to take a make-up test (harder than the original version). Please note the exam date and do not make travel plans that conflict with it: "My mom bought my plane ticket" is not a valid excuse.

### **Attendance policy:**

This is the attendance policy for all sections of The Classical Mind:

*Attendance is required and will be checked on a daily basis. Attendance counts toward the assessment of the final grade in the following way: For classes meeting 3 days per week, 4 absences will be tolerated without academic penalty. Each absence after the fourth will result in a reduction of 2 points of the total 100 points for the course up until the tenth absence which results in failure for the course. For such a course, a maximum of 9 absences will be allowed without failure for the course due to absences. No distinction in general is made between excused and unexcused absences.*

If you are late, it is your responsibility to make sure (after class) that I marked you present.

### **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.

**Campus Resources:** Be sure to take advantage of the student support services offered by:

The Writing Center, 110 O'Boyle Hall, 202-319-4286

The Counseling Center, 127 O'Boyle Hall, 202-319-5765

The Center for Academic Success, 240 Pryzbyla Center, 202-319-5655

-provides a variety of workshops to assist study and learning, test-taking, time management, memory improvement, and writing papers, as well as tutoring services

Mullen Library, 202-319-5070

### **LEARNING COMMUNITY EVENTS TO NOTE ON YOUR SCHEDULE**

**Dinner:** Ms. Veronica Cowan (your English instructor) and I will be hosting a beginning of the year dinner for you on the terrace of Aquinas Hall, on **Tuesday, September 15**, at 6 p.m. Please contact me if you are willing to help with set-up for the dinner.

**D. C. Outing:** Your second essay will discuss the art and architecture of D.C. in relation to what Plato has to say about the arts in his *Republic*. We will do the field research for this essay by making a trip together on the morning of **Saturday, October 3**. Details will follow, in class and by e-mail, but save the date now.

### **Service Learning:**

One goal of the First Year Experience program is for all students to engage in some form of community service and to reflect on it in a serious way. You will need to participate in a service project through the Office of Campus Ministry and then, later in the semester, subject it to philosophical analysis in the third essay for this course. Note that you will need to choose and complete a service project by the beginning of November to be able to write this essay. Details will be provided later on, but you can start thinking about this by going to:

[service.cua.edu/CUAServiceOpportunities/index.cfm](http://service.cua.edu/CUAServiceOpportunities/index.cfm).

**SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND READINGS (subject to change at instructor's discretion)**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Assignments, Notes, etc.</i>	<i>Reading assignment</i>	<i>Pages (to be read ahead)</i>
M 8/31	Introduction to the course;	introduction to Plato's <i>Apology of Socrates</i>	
W 9/2		<i>Apology</i> 17a- 31c	63-83 (on Blackboard)
F 9/4	Discussion	<i>Apology</i> 31c-42a	83-97
M 9/7	Labor Day – no class		
W 9/9		<i>Republic</i> I:327a-342e	3-21
F 9/11	Discussion Last add/drop day	I:343a-354c	21-34
M 9/14		II:357a-376c	35-53
W 9/16	Paper 1 assigned	II-III:376c-398b	53-76
F 9/18	Discussion	III:398b-417b	76-96
M 9/21		IV:419a-436a	97-114
W 9/23		IV:436a-445e	114-25
F 9/25	Discussion	V:449a-474a	127-54
M 9/28	Paper 1 due	V:474a-480a, VI: 484a-502d	154-82
W 9/30		VI:502d-511e; VII:514a-521c	182-200
F 10/2	Discussion	VII:521c-541b	200-220
M 10/5	Paper 2 assigned.	VIII: 543a-569c	221-49
W 10/7		IX: 571a-592b	251-75
F 10/9	Discussion;	X: 595a-621d	277-303
M 10/12	Columbus Day – no class		
W 10/14	Test 1: Plato		
F 10/16	Discussion	<i>Ethics</i> , Bk. I: ch. 1-5	3-9
M 10/19		I:7-9; I:13	14-23; 29-32
W 10/21	Paper 2 due	II:1-6	33-44
F 10/23	Discussion	II:7-9	44-51
M 10/26		III:5-9	64-77
W 10/28		III:10-12	77-82
F 10/30	Discussion	IV:1,3,8	83-89, 93-99, 107-109
M 11/2		VI:1, 2, 5, 7	146-49; 152-54; 155-58
W 11/4		VII:1-4	174-89
F 11/6	Discussion; Paper 3 assigned	VIII:1-8	214-30
M 11/9		VIII:12; IX:4, 7-9	237-240; 252-55; 258-67
W 11/11		X:1-5	273-86
F 11/13	Test 2: Aristotle's <i>Ethics</i>	X:6-9	286-302
M 11/16	Discussion	<i>Confessions</i> , Bk. I	43-63
W 11/18		II	65-76
F 11/20		III: 1-8	77-89
M 11/23	Discussion; Paper 3 due	IV:4-11; V:8-10	97-104, 122-128
W, 11/25 – F, 11/27	Thanksgiving Recess – no classes		
M 11/30		VI:3-5, 11-16	135-40, 149-55
W 12/2		VII	157-180
F 12/4	Discussion	VIII, IX:1,2,6; XIII:35-38	181-207, 214; 369-70
M 12/6		Thomas Aquinas, <i>Summa Contra Gentiles</i> I, ch. 1-5	57-71
W 12/9		<i>SCG</i> I., ch. 6-9	71-78
F 12/11	Discussion	<i>Summa Theologiae</i> II-II, q. 23, a.1	On Blackboard
M 12/14		Other articles of Aquinas TBA, to be chosen by me based on our class discussions during the semester.	On Blackboard
W 12/16	Final Exam: 1:30-3:30 p.m., in our regular classroom.		