

The Classical Mind, PHIL 201-13

The Catholic University of America
 First Year Experience
 Learning Community 32
 Mr. Joseph Forte, M.A.
 School of Philosophy
 Fall 2009

Syllabus

Regular meeting time and place: MWF 11:10-12, Shahan 308

Credit Hours: 3, Prerequisites/Dept. Consent: None

Instructor Contact Information: e-mail- 25forte@cardinalmail.cua.edu; phone: 202-319-5636 (office hours only)

Office Hours: W 1-3PM, and by appointment (Aquinas Hall, Rm 200)

Course Description:

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. It is offered both semesters.

In this course, students will engage directly with philosophical texts beginning with the work of Plato and ending with that of St. Thomas Aquinas. The course aims principally not only to familiarize students with philosophical texts that form the foundation of Western thought, but to incite students to grapple with issues, concepts, and questions fundamental to all human beings. Additionally, this course will help prepare first year students for their future studies in philosophy and other disciplines by focusing on skills such as essay-writing, critical reading and thinking, oral communication, note-taking, and effective exam preparation.

Course Goals:

1. Students will demonstrate knowledge of ancient and medieval philosophy.
2. Students will demonstrate the ability to read philosophical texts effectively as well as communicate their comprehension of said texts in written and oral form.
3. Students' academic inquiries will involve their ongoing attempts to answer questions fundamental to humanity like: What does it mean to be a human being? How does one act well? Why do good at all? What is justice? What is the best form of government? What is wisdom? What is God? and Does God exist?
4. Students will integrate academic inquiries with world outside CUA by means of class discussion, engagement with Washington D.C, and a service-learning project.
5. Students will achieve course goals not as isolated individuals but as members of a learning community whose interactions extend beyond this class into English 101.

Course Requirements:

1. Regular reading assignments specified on the schedule below, as well as regular class attendance and participation
2. One short paper (3pgs) and one paper of moderate length (4-5 pgs)
3. One mid-term exam and one final exam (see below for dates)
4. Two short quizzes (announced on the schedule below)
5. Two graded in-class discussions (Four total are listed below, because only half of the class will be evaluated in each. More information will be provided about this in class.)
6. A service learning project (6-10hrs) and a D.C. excursion project done in conjunction with English 101, the completion of which will be assessed by the students' presence on each trip, but primarily by means of the students' responses to questions related to each (that also pertain to course content) on either a paper, a quiz, an exam, or a combination thereof.

Required Texts:

1. Aristotle. *Nicomachean Ethics*. Translated, with Introduction, Notes, and Glossary by Terence Irwin. Second Edition. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company Inc., 2000. ISBN: 0-87220-464-2.
2. Augustine. *The Confessions of St. Augustine*. Translated, with an Introduction and Notes by John K. Ryan. Image Books. Garden City, NY: Doubleday and Company Inc., 1960. ISBN: 0-385-02955-1.

3. Hacker, Diana. *A Writer's Reference*. Sixth Edition. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2007. ISBN: 0-312-45025-7.
*****This book is also required for English 101.**
4. *Introduction to St. Thomas Aquinas*. Edited with an Introduction by Anton C. Pegis. New York: McGraw Hill, 1965. ISBN: 0-07-553653-6.
5. Plato. *The Republic of Plato*. Translated with Notes and an Interpretive Essay by Allan Bloom. Second Revised Edition. New York: Basic Books Inc., 1991. ISBN: 0-465-06934-7.
6. ----- . *The Trial and Death of Socrates*. Translated by G.M.A. Grube. Revised by John M. Cooper. Third Edition. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, 2001. ISBN: 0-87220-554-1.

Grading (total of 100 points):

35%: Exams (mid-term= 10%, final exam= 25%)

35%: Papers (short paper= 10%, longer paper= 25%)

30%: Other [quizzes= 5% each (10% total), graded in-class discussions= 5% each (10% total), class participation= 10% (see participation policy below)]

Policies:

School of Philosophy Attendance Policy – The School of Philosophy maintains a uniform attendance policy for all Phil 201-202 courses. *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 three days per week (such as this course), *four* absences will be tolerated *without academic penalty*. *Each absence after the fourth will result in a reduction of two 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 (like this one), *a maximum of nine absences will be allowed without failure for the course due to absences.* One absence is equivalent to one hour of class missed. *No distinction in general is made between excused and unexcused absences.* Please note that this policy is non-negotiable. Please also note that good attendance implies punctuality. If you are late to class and are marked absent, it is your responsibility to check with me *in person after class* to see that your attendance status is revised. *Three late marks will be deemed equivalent to one absence (exceptions may be granted to students with a class that meets immediately before this one in a building on the other side of campus).*

Participation: Full credit will be awarded for the participation grade of students who are consistently attentive in class (indicated mainly by note-taking and question-asking), who successfully complete projects, write journal entries regularly, and attend five one-on-one meetings with the instructor. Each component that is incomplete will bring the participation grade down. *Class disruptions* will especially detract from the participation grade. A disruption includes any activity that detracts from the order of class proceedings and especially includes phone calls, texting, instant messaging, and speaking out of turn.

*** **Special Note:** The instructor may not notify a student when his or her attendance or participation grade is lowered, thus, it is the student's responsibility to monitor these portions of their grade and check with the instructor if they so wish.

In-class computer policy: Except for students with special needs who benefit from one, students are discouraged from using laptops or other computing devices in class. However, students who wish to use one nevertheless are required to sit in the front row. Students found to be instant messaging, e-mailing, or looking at any material inappropriate for class will be considered disruptive and their participation grade will suffer. Students viewing offensive content may be subject to further disciplinary action.

Readings and Papers: You are expected to have each assigned reading prepared before coming to class—i.e., you must not only read the reading at least once in its entirety, but you must have read it thoughtfully and/or critically. Use of *Cliff Notes*, *Monarch Notes*, *Spark Notes*, and other similar reading aids is emphatically discouraged. There are no substitutes for the required texts, and there is no substitute for the time and mental energy a student is to devote to them. Late papers will be marked down one whole letter grade (A to B, B to C, etc.) for each day they are late.

Make-up assessments: Make-up assessments (quizzes, graded discussions, and exams) are permitted only for serious reasons beyond the student's control. For instance, missing an assessment due to oversleeping would not warrant a make-up, but rather, a score of zero on that particular exam or quiz. On the other hand, a serious medical issue (provided there is a nurse's or doctor's note—no details are needed), or a student athlete having a game, would warrant a make-up.

Academic Dishonesty policy: 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.

In other words, presenting someone else’s work as your own constitutes plagiarism (whether the work of a published author, a web site, another student, etc.). It is academically dishonest and indicates a student’s unwillingness to engage in college level work. Using a “cheat sheet” or any unpermitted resource during an exam also constitutes academic dishonesty because it misrepresents one’s work and completely undermines the value of the exam. Therefore, students who plagiarize or cheat will most likely fail the course, although a different penalty may be warranted in certain cases, as explained above.

Grading scale (based on the university grading system):

| <i>Grade</i> | <i>Meaning</i> | <i>GPA Equivalent</i> | <i>Corresponding Percentage</i> |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| A | Excellent | 4.00 | 95-100% |
| A- | | 3.70 | 93-94 |
| B+ | | 3.30 | 90-92 |
| B | Good | 3.00 | 83-89 |
| B- | | 2.70 | 80-82 |
| C+ | | 2.30 | 77-79 |
| C | Satisfactory (minimum to graduate) | 2.00 | 70-76 |
| C- | | 1.70 | 66-69 |
| D | Lowest Passing | 1.00 | 60-65 |
| F | Failing | 0.00 | Below 60% |
| I | Incomplete | | |
| W | Withdrawal | | |
| F | Administrative Failure | | |

Support for students seeking additional assistance (These offices exist to help you!):

For tutoring (*pending the instructor’s referral*), additional advising (including advice on how to choose a major), and workshops (on reading, study skills, time management, and other topics):

The Center for Academic Success
 201 Pryzbyla Center
 202-319-5655
 e-mail: cua-academic@success.cua.edu
 web site: success.cua.edu

For students seeking help writing papers:

Writing Center
 111 O’ Boyle Hall
 202-319-4286
cua-writingcenter@cua.edu
 web site: english.cua.edu/wc/

For students with disabilities:
 Disability Support Services

207 Pryzbyla Center
 202-319-5211
 e-mail: cua-disabilityservices@cua.edu
 web site: disabilitysupport.cua.edu

Note: Students requiring accommodations due to a disability should register with this office early in the semester, which will privately inform the instructor of the student's needs. This is the only way in which accommodations can be officially granted.

For students who seek counseling (free counseling, not just for major crises):

Counseling Center
 127 O'Boyle Hall
 202-319-5765
 Web site: counseling.cua.edu

Schedule of Topics, Assignments, and Assessments:

(Regular assignments, *to be completed before their corresponding classes*, are underlined. Quizzes, graded discussions, papers, and exams are in **bold**.)

Week 1

M 8/31: Introduction: What is philosophy?
 W 9/2: Plato's *Apology*: Who are Plato and Socrates? What is Socrates' story? What is wisdom?
 F 9/4: Plato's *Apology* continued.

Week 2 (Mon Sept 7- Labor Day, no class):

W 9/9: Plato's *Republic*, Book I: What is justice? Why be just at all?
 F 9/11: *Republic* I

Week 3:

M 9/14: *Republic* II: What is justice? What is the best city? What is the role of art in society?
 W 9/16: *Republic* IV: What is justice? What is the soul?
 F 9/18: *Republic* IV continued & Quiz 1

Week 4:

M 9/21: *Republic* V: What is the role of women in the city? How are the guardians to live?
 W 9/23: *Republic* VI: Who should rule? What is philosophy? What is knowledge?
 F 9/25: **Graded Discussion 1 (students with last names in first half of alphabet are assessed)**

Week 5:

M 9/28: *Republic* VII (to 521b only): What is justice? How do we learn? What is truth? What is its source? What is real? What is divine? Who should rule?
 W 9/30: *Republic* VIII: What are the different forms of government?
 F 10/2: **Graded Discussion 2 (second half of alphabet)**

Week 6:

M 10/5: *Republic* X: What is justice? What is the role of art in society? Why be good? What is the good life? What is death?
 W 10/7: Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* Book I: Who is Aristotle? Why should one act well? What is the good life? What is happiness? How is Aristotle critical of Plato?
 F 10/9: *Nicomachean Ethics* I

Week 7 (Interim grades submitted; Mon Oct 12-Columbus Day, no class):

W 10/14: *Nicomachean Ethics* II (Chs 8 & 9 only) and III (Ch 1 only): What is virtue? When are we culpable?
 F 10/16: *Nicomachean Ethics* V: What is Justice? **First paper due**

Week 8:

M 10/19: Nicomachean Ethics VIII: What is friendship?

W 10/21: Nicomachean Ethics X: What is the good life? What is contemplation? What is wisdom?

F 10/23: Cumulative Review

Week 9:

M 10/26: **Graded Discussion 3 (first half of alphabet)**

W 10/28: **Mid-term exam**

F 10/30: St. Augustine. Confessions, Book I: Who is Augustine? What is self-reflection?

Week 10 (Mon Nov 2- All Soul's Liturgy):

M 11/2: Confessions II: Who is Augustine? Why do we act wrongly just for the sake of it sometimes?

W 11/4: Confessions VII: What is Platonism for Augustine? Who is Christ?

F 11/6: Confessions VII continued

Week 11:

M 11/9: Confessions VIII: What is conversion?

W 11/11: Confessions IX: Who is Augustine's mother and what was her impact on the great thinker?

F 11/13: Confessions X: What is memory? What is the mind? Who is Christ?

Week 12:

M 11/16: Confessions X continued

W 11/18: Confessions XI: How did God create the world? What is time? What is eternity?

F 11/20: **Graded Discussion 4 (second half of alphabet)**

Week 13 (Wed Nov 25-Thanksgiving Recess begins):

M 11/23: Optional Reading: Pegis' Introduction: Introduction to St. Thomas Aquinas

Week 14:

M 11/30: Who is St. Thomas Aquinas? (continued)

W 12/2: Aquinas, Summa Theologicae I, Question ii, Articles 1-3 (pgs 20-27 in Pegis): The Five Ways: What is God and does God exist?, **Quiz 2**

F 12/4: ST I, Qii continued

Week 15:

M 12/7: ST I/II, Q xc, (pgs 609-627 in Pegis): "On the Essence of Law"

W 12/9: "On the Essence of Law" continued

F 12/11: Cumulative Review Part 1, **Final paper due**

Week 16:

M 12/14: Last day of classes, Cumulative Review Part 2

W 12/16: 1:30-3:30PM **Final exam**