



**THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA
SCHOOL OF PHILOSOPHY**

Philosophy 201: The Classical Mind, Section 9
Fall, 2009
Learning Community 37

3.00 Credit Hours

Gowan 401
MWF 10:10 am – 11:00 am

Professor Brandon Zimmerman, MA

Aquinas 200C

202-319-5636 (general office number)

66zimmerman@cardinalmail.edu.cua (I check my e-mail once a day, normally in the afternoon.)

Office Hours: Tuesday, 1-5 pm, Wednesday 3-5 pm. Also by appointment.

Course Description: 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. Specifically, we will read, discuss, and reflect upon some of the most influential books ever written: Plato's *Republic*, Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*, Augustine's *Confessions*, and Thomas Aquinas' *Summa Theologicae*.

Instructional Methods: The class will be a rich mixture of class discussion, lecture, and question and answer. There will be three quizzes, two tests, a group project, an oral presentation, two short papers, and two longer papers. One paper will connect the class to the student's service learning experience. The group project will be tied to our class trip.

Required Texts

1. Plato. *The Trial and Death of Socrates*, 3rd ed. Translated by G.M.A. Grube and John M. Cooper. Indianapolis: Hackett, 2000.
2. Plato. *The Republic*, 2nd ed. Translated by Allan Bloom. Basic Books, 1968.
3. Aristotle. *The Nicomachean Ethics*, 2nd ed. Translated by Terence Irwin. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1999.
4. Saint Augustine of Hippo. *The Confessions*. Translated by John K. Ryan.
5. Saint Thomas Aquinas. *Introduction to St. Thomas Aquinas*. Edited by Anton Pegis. New York, Modern Library, 1948.

Supplemental Reading

I will distribute some required readings on Aristotle, Anselm, and Thomas Aquinas through Blackboard. There will also be additional optional readings on Plato, Aristotle, Plotinus, and Thomas Aquinas.

Course Goals: We will strive to trace a single, large theme through these works. What is the relationship between justice, happiness, and one's understanding of the divine? For example, is it better to be unjust if you can get away with it? Can you get away with it? Is civic justice based on a natural order given by God or is it arbitrary?

By examining this question, we will also learn what philosophy is and treat in passing questions about the relationship between faith and reason, the nature of law, and human virtue.

Goals for Student Learning: By the end of this course, the student will:

1. be able to live a more reflective (and happier?) life
2. be able to express himself or herself better in writing and speech
3. understand what philosophy is and its importance in personal and public life
4. have a basic understanding of some key philosophical texts and questions
5. be able to pursue further studies in philosophy
6. have imitated Socrates and St. Thomas.

Course Requirements

I. 3 Quizzes – 5%

- a. Euthyphro, Apology, bk 1 of the Republic
- b. The Four Causes, bks 1-3.5 of the Ethics
- c. The Confessions

Quizzes will consist of short answer questions, often taken from the reading guide questions, and two short essay questions (Picked from a selection of 4 or 5 that the instructor gives in advance).

II. 2 Tests – 20%

- a. Plato
- b. Aristotle

These will have the same format as the quizzes, but are twice as long.

III. Cumulative Final – 15%

The Final will have slightly more on Aquinas since there was no Aquinas paper or quiz.

IV. 3 Short Papers (300-400 words) – 10%

- a. Why is Socrates the wisest man in Athens?
- b. According to Augustine, what is the nature of evil?

V. 2 Longer Papers (800–1000 words) – 20%

a. Explain one of the five character types presented in books 8–9 of *the Republic*. Pick a character from literature or a movie and analyze him or her as one of these types. Please support your choice with research.

b. According to Aristotle, what is a virtuous act? Does your service learning experience count as a virtuous act?

VI. 1 Oral Presentation – 5%

The presentation is to be on a very specific passage in the day's reading, about a page or two. The presentation is to state why the passage is difficult or confusing, explain the passage, and explain (briefly) its importance to the chapter/work. The presentation is to end with two questions for discussions. The student must meet with the professor at least two days before the presentation in order to discuss the passage in the context of the day's reading. The professor will provide 3 example presentations before students take their turn. No presentation is to exceed 5 minutes in length.

Days in bold on the course schedule are days for possible oral presentations. The Professor will send out more detailed information on the assigned readings once class begins.

VII. Participation – 10%

This grade will depend on a student's performance in class discussions, preparedness for class, and ability to answer direct questions about the reading assignments. This grade can be adversely affected by unprofessional dress and cell phone use in class.

VII. The Socrates Project – 15%

You will be assigned to a group. On our trip to DC, you will be expected to ask at least three innocent bystanders a Socratic question, such as "What is justice?" or "What is friendship?" and record their responses. The question you ask must be one that is dealt with by one of our authors. You will then work together to assemble the answers into a Thomistic question of at least three objections, a "We say," and three replies. The view of at least one author we read must be in an objection or in "We say." Your group must meet with the professor before Thanksgiving Break to discuss your project.

VIII. Extra Credit

- a. Perfect Attendance results in the final grade being raised by 2%.
- b. Bringing all of your texts with your name written in permanent ink on the inside front cover by September 11 results in your final grade being raised by 1%.
- c. Attending a lecture in the CUA School of Philosophy lecture series and writing a 400 word abstract of the lecture, if well done, raises the final grade by 2%. The abstract must be turned in within one week of the lecture. This may only be done once.

Expectations and policies

Final Exam: The final exam for this class is *Saturday*, December 19 from 8:00 am to 10:00 am. This time is set by the university and cannot be changed. Please plan to leave CUA after all your exams are finished. Only in extremely rare cases can a student take the exam at another time (for example, you are getting married that day). The exam ends promptly at 10.

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 a student's own work, cheating, and fabrication. The following sanctions are presented in the University procedures related to Student Academic Dishonesty (from <http://policies.cua.edu/academicundergrad/integrityprocedures.cfm>): "The presumed sanction for undergraduate students for academic dishonesty will be failure for the course. There may be circumstances, however, where, perhaps because of an undergraduate student's past record, a more serious sanction, such as suspension or expulsion, would be appropriate. In the context of graduate studies, the expectations for academic honesty are greater, and therefore the presumed sanction for dishonesty is likely to be more severe, e.g., expulsion. . . . In the more unusual case, mitigating circumstances may exist that would warrant a lesser sanction than the presumed sanction."

Please talk to the professor if you are unsure about cheating and plagiarism. Reproducing someone else's answer verbatim on a test may also constitute cheating.

Attendance Policy: Attendance is required and will be checked on a daily basis. Not attending classes causes the student to miss valuable lectures and discussion. Not attending regularly may cause the student to develop destructive habits.

From the official School of Philosophy Attendance Policy: “Attendance counts toward the assessment of the final grade in the following way: 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, a maximum of nine absences will be allowed without failure for the course due to absences. *No distinction in general is made between excused and unexcused absences.*” Three tardies count as one absence.

If you expect to miss class due to a University event (sports, music, drama), please present the professor with a letter from the proper authority explaining the absence. It is possible that make-up work could be assigned such that this absence does not count against you.

Accommodations for students with disabilities: Any student who feels she or he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss specific needs. Please contact Disability Support Services (at 202 319-5211, room 207 Pryzbyla Center) to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. To read about the services and policies, please visit the website: <http://disabilitysupport.cua.edu>.

Assessment

Grading Scale:

A	93–100	B+	87–89	C+	75–79	D	55–65
		B	83–86	C	70–74		
A-	90–92	B-	80–82	C-	65–69	F	Below 55

Papers:

Papers must be turned in at the beginning of the class in which they are due. **ONLY HARD COPIES OF PAPERS ARE ACCEPTED. NEVER E-MAIL THE PROFESSOR AN ASSIGNMENT.**

Arriving late to class results in the paper being considered one class late. Late papers are penalized one third of a grade each class they are late by. Papers must be turned in within two weeks of the due date or the student will receive an automatic F.

Papers will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. Addresses the Topic
2. Good Argumentation and support
3. Not just a paraphrase
4. Good structure, opening, closing
5. Displays Insight
6. Proper length
7. Good Grammar
8. Good Spelling
9. Good writing (flow, sentence structure)
10. Proper Citations

Criteria 1–5 will determine the basic grade (A, B, C+, C-, D); 6-10 will add or subtract from it. F are only assigned to outright disasters and plagiarisms. Papers are to be in 12 point Times New Roman font with top, bottom, left, and right margins of one inch. Citations are to be in Chicago Manual of Style format. All papers must include a word count at the end.

Quizzes and tests can be made up if the student has not exceeded four absences. They must be made up within one week of when they were held, and it is the student's responsibility to make the arrangements. Quizzes, Tests, and the Final will end promptly at the time determined by the professor.

Criteria for the other assignments will be handed out by the professor in class.

University grades:

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>.

You find your grade by logging into cardinal station. I cannot give out grades by e-mail or phone.

You must pass this class with a C to take Phil 202 next semester.

Student Resources: (Not filled in yet)

Preliminary Course Schedule
(Subject to minor alternation)

8/31 Introduction, Plato's Setting	9/2 Euthyphro	9/4 Apology
9/7 Labor Day!	9/9 Republic Bk 1 <i>Chaerophon</i>	9/11 Republic 1 cont'd Quiz #1 Short Paper due
9/14 Bk 2 Student Oral Presentations begin	9/16 Bk 3 (skim much of it)	9/18 Bk 4 Student Evaluations
9/21 Bk 5	9/23 Bk 6	9/25 Bk 7
9/28 Bk 8	9/30 Bk 9 Deadline for choosing a service project	10/2 Bk 10 <i>Myth of Er</i>
10/5 Plato Test Introduction to Aristotle	10/7 Excerpts from Physics <i>Metaphysics Excerpts</i>	10/9 Bk 1 of Ethics Plato Paper Due
10/12 Columbus Day!	10/14 Bks 2-3.5 Interim grades	10/16 Quiz # 2, Bk 3.5 Student Evaluations
10/19 Bk 4	10/21 Bk 5	10/23 Bk 6-7
10/26 Bk 8	10/28 Bk 9	10/30 Bk 10
11/2 Aristotle Test Aristotle paper due Intro to Augustine	11/4 Excerpts from New Testament. Confessions bk 1.	11/6 Confessions 2-4 continued.
11/9 bks 5-6	11/11 bk 7 <i>Plotinus, Ennead 1.6</i>	11/13 bk 8
11/16 bks 9-10 (skip part of 10)	11/18 Bk 11 Short Paper #2 due	11/20 Augustine quiz Thomas on Faith and Reason

11/23
St. Anselm, Proslogion
Deadline for meeting with
Professor about the Socrates
Project.

11/30
Aquinas on God's existence

12/7
Treatise on Law

12/14
Review Session
Course Evaluations

11/25
Thanksgiving

12/2
God's essence, goodness,
being, unity
How we talk about God

12/9
Treatise on Law

**Socrates Project is due
by 12/19, 5 pm. It can be
turned in earlier.**

11/27
Thanksgiving

12/4
God's knowledge,
will, freedom, justice,
and mercy

12/11
Treatise on Law

**Final Exam is 12/19,
8-10 am.**