

Introduction to Philosophy

XXX:XXX:XXX

John M. DePoe, Course Instructor

Office: XXX EPB

Ph: XXX-XXXX

Hours:

E-mail: xxxx-xxxxx@xxxx.edu

Required Text: Steven M. Cahn, ed., *Classics of Western Philosophy*. 7th ed. Indianapolis: Hackett, 2007.

<u>Assignments</u>	<u>Grade Scale</u>												
Midterm Exam: 20%	F	D-	D	D+	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A	A+
Final Exam: 30%	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Paper/Draft: 35%													
Quizzes: 8%													
Participation: 7%													

Course Description

Using some of the most important primary texts of western philosophy, this course will introduce students to the fundamental topics and thinkers that have shaped the western tradition of philosophy. The course will read some of the writings of Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Aquinas, Descartes, Bertrand Russell, and others. Some of the topics that are covered include the existence of God, the nature of the soul, the concept of knowledge, and the nature of reality. Both critical/logical thinking and facility with philosophical content will be emphasized.

Exams

Exams will be administered in class. Exams will test students over information given in the readings and lectures. Students will be given more information in class regarding what to expect from and how to prepare for these exams. Anyone who is unsure about the nature of an exam or the material covered in it is encouraged to meet with the instructor during **office hours** or to schedule an appointment with the instructor **before the exam**.

Paper & Draft

Each student will be required to write a 6-8 page philosophy paper. Further guidelines for the paper will be given in class. The draft of the paper will count as 5% of one's overall grade. The final paper will count as 30% of one's overall grade. **ANY PLAIGARISM WILL AUTOMATICALLY RESULT IN AN UNREPLACEABLE 0 FOR THE GRADE, AND THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ASSIGN A FAILING GRADE FOR THE COURSE IN SEVERE CASES.** Students are strongly encouraged to consult the instructor for constructive help while working on papers.

Quizzes

Reading is an essential part of learning philosophy. Periodic pop quizzes will be given during classes for the purposes of checking that reading assignments are done on time. Students are encouraged to take notes on the readings, and *students will be allowed to use their own handwritten notes on pop quizzes*. The two lowest quiz grades will automatically be dropped when calculating the final grade.

Participation/Attendance

Each day of class students will be given a grade for participating in the course. Since being absent entails not participating in class, absences will count as a zero for that day's participation. Those who attend class, stay awake, take notes, show engagement with the material, and participate in discussion (both in class and online) will receive proportionate credit for that day's participation. The participation grade will also consider participation with the online discussion board on this course's website. The three lowest daily participation grades will automatically be dropped when calculating the final grade.

Minimal Passing Requirement

In order to pass the course students must meet three basic requirements: (1) to take both exams; (2) to turn in the final paper; and (3) to attend two-thirds of classes. *Those who do not meet these conditions will fail the course regardless of their overall average.*

Tentative Schedule of Readings

Week 1

Plato, *Euthyphro*

Week 2

Plato, *Meno*

Plato, *Apology*

Week 3

Plato, *Apology*

Plato, *Crito*

Week 4

Plato, *Crito*

Aristotle, *Physics*

Week 5

Aristotle, *Physics*

Week 6

Augustine, *On Free Choice of the Will*

Week 7

Augustine, *On Free Choice of the Will*

Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae*

Week 8

Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae*

MIDTERM EXAM

Week 9

René Descartes, *Meditations* (1-2)

first paper draft due

Week 10

René Descartes, *Meditations* (3-4)

Week 11

René Descartes, *Meditations* (5-6)

Week 12

George Berkeley, *Dialogues* (1)

George Berkeley, *Principles of Human Knowledge*

Week 13

Berkeley (cont'd)

Bertrand Russell, *Problems of Philosophy* (1-2)

final paper due

Week 14

Bertrand Russell, *Problems of Philosophy* (3-4)

Week 15

Bertrand Russell, *Problems of Philosophy* (5)

<u>Final Exam:</u> TBA
