PLNU School of Theology and Christian Ministry Philosophy Major Learning Outcomes, Multi-Year Assessment Plan, Signature Assignments and Rubrics

Program Learning Outcomes

- 1. Students will engage in the disciplined practice of asking questions about God, the world, and of themselves, including questions for which there may be no easy answers.
- 2. Students will differentiate among interrelated movements or figures in the history of philosophy.
- 3. Students will evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of human reasoning or experience to provide an adequate account of significant issues that relates to our human condition, the world, ethics and Christian life.

Program Learning Outcome 1: Students will engage in the disciplined practice of asking questions about God, the world, and of themselves, including questions for which there may be no easy answers.

Course Targeted for Assessment: PHL 381

Assessment Years: 2012-2013

Assignment:

William Cavanaugh's text *Torture and Eucharist* references the early Christian martyr, St. Ignatius of Antioch, who in a letter to one of his congregations..."complains about those who 'have no care for love, no thought for the widow and orphan, none at all for the afflicted, the captive, the hungry or the thirsty (231)."

Question: What does it mean to truly love another human being?

Note: In order to answer this question, be sure to reference two or three relevant and different viewpoints from the history of philosophy. As you begin, be sure to identify the basic assumptions and questions identified in the Ignatius quotation. Also, make sure to deal with the capacity of human reason to deal with this question. You may use your note-card. I will provide the paper. I expect you to write for most of the allotted time (2 hours)

Program Learning Outcome 2: Students will differentiate among interrelated movements or figures in the history of philosophy.

Course Targeted for Assessment: PHL 302 Assessment Years: 2011-2012, 2013-2014

Assignment: (final matching exam) The assessment tool is housed in PHL 302 History of Western Philosophy II and is a matching exam at the end of the semester. Students will be asked to match philosophers with quotations from primary source readings. The quotes themselves are statements central to the philosopher and relevant to the movements within the historical period covered by the course.

Scoring Rubric:

Failure (below 40%)/ Basic (40-59%)/ Proficient (60-79%)/ Excellent (80-100%)

Program Learning Outcome 3: Students will evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of human reasoning or experience to provide an adequate account of significant issues that relates to our human condition, the world, ethics and Christian life.

Course Targeted for Assessment: PHL 381

Assessment Years: 2012-2013

Assignment:

William Cavanaugh's text *Torture and Eucharist* references the early Christian martyr, St. Ignatius of Antioch, who in a letter to one of his congregations..."complains about those who 'have no care for love, no thought for the widow and orphan, none at all for the afflicted, the captive, the hungry or the thirsty (231)."

Question: What does it mean to truly love another human being?

<u>Note:</u> In order to answer this question, be sure to reference two or three relevant and different viewpoints from the history of philosophy. As you begin, be sure to identify the basic assumptions and questions identified in the Ignatius quotation. Also, make sure to deal with the capacity of human reason to deal with this question.

Scoring Rubric for Learning Outcomes 1 and 3:

*Failure: Shows minimal engagement with the topic. Failing to recognize multiple dimensions or perspectives; lacking even basic observations

Basic: Shows some engagement with the topic without elaboration; offers basic observations but rarely original insight

Proficient: Demonstrates engagement with the topic, recognizing multiple dimension and/ or perspectives; offers some insight

Excellent: Demonstrates engagement with the topic, recognizing multiple dimensions and/or perspectives with elaboration and depth, offers considerable insight

*see www.roanoke.edu for source