



PHL 201 (3 UNITS): INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY (GE)

Section: 03
Time: TR 1:30-2:45

Spring 2019
Location: RLC 103

Professor: Dr. Eric J. Morelli
Office: BAC 120
Office Hours: MW 12:30-1:30 and by appointment
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Final Exam: May 2nd, 1:30-4:00

PLNU MISSION

TO TEACH ~ TO SHAPE ~ TO SEND

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A historical survey of selected philosophical ideas, systems, and methods, especially as these have developed in Western civilization.

It's easy to get turned around in life. It's tempting to just go with the flow, drift, submerge. Eventually, though, one has to come up for air. A nagging sense of dissatisfaction or unease, a restless desire for more, a sneaking suspicion that one's off course, the imperious demands of living, or another's care forces one out—impels one to withdraw from ordinary life and take stock, reorient oneself, and regroup for reentry.

This reflective, reorienting, and restorative withdrawal will be our goal and theme for this course. In the West it's developed as philosophy. Extricating ourselves as best we can from our transient concerns, we will study its history in the West and undertake it ourselves, read the works of its key practitioners and bring as many of their methods and

insights as we can to bear on ourselves and our social, academic, practical, creative, and interior living. In the course of our inquiry, besides philosophy itself and other things, we will investigate human nature; the notions of meaning, objectivity, knowledge, truth, and reality; intellectual conversion; God; faith and reason; wonder and doubt; soul and subject.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Anselm. *Proslogion: With the Replies of Gaunilo and Anselm*. Translated by Thomas Williams. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 2001.

Descartes, René. *Meditations on First Philosophy*. Third Edition. Translated by Donald A. Cress. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 1993.

Plato. *Five Dialogues: Euthyphro, Apology, Crito, Meno, Phaedo*. Second Edition. Translated by G.M.A. Grube. Revised by John M. Cooper. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing, 2002.

Additional Works by Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Aquinas, and Lonergan will be distributed on Canvas.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES (CLOS)

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- *describe and explain*, in outline, the history of Western philosophy and, in greater detail, the philosophies of several of its pivotal figures;
- *analyze and criticize* philosophic texts;
- *Distinguish* philosophy, philosophic questions, philosophic positions, and philosophic ways of life from other kinds of pursuits, questions, positions, and ways of life;
- *apply* philosophy to their experiences and lives within and beyond the academy;
- *inquire, speak, converse, and write* with philosophic significance and precision.

GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES (GELOS)

PLNU provides a foundational course of study in the liberal arts informed by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In keeping with the Wesleyan tradition, the curriculum equips students with a broad range of knowledge and skills within and across disciplines to enrich major study, lifelong learning, and vocational service as Christ-like participants in the world's diverse societies and cultures.

Learning: Informed by Our Faith in Christ

Students will:

- *effectively express* ideas and information to others through oral and written communication individually and in groups (Assessment: experiential, integrative assignments, group discussions, group work, reflection papers, essay exams, and term paper);
- *examine, critique* and *synthesize* information to arrive at reasoned conclusions. (Assessment: experiential, integrative assignments, group discussion, group work, reading assignments, reflection papers, essay exams, and a term paper);
- *demonstrate* the effective and responsible use of information from a variety of sources (Assessment: reflection papers and term paper);

Growing: In a Christ-Centered Faith Community

Students will:

- *understand* and *develop a greater respect for* the diversity of human nature and the array of philosophic interests, concerns, questions, and positions (Assessment: group discussions, group work, reflection papers, essay exams, and term paper);
- *examine* the complexity of human nature and philosophy in light of the reconciling work of God in Christ (Assessment: experiential, integrative assignments, group discussions, group work, reflection papers, essay exams, and term paper);

Serving: In a Context of Christian Faith

Students will:

- *engage* in acts of devotion and works of mercy informed by the Christian scriptures and tradition, rooted in local congregations, and expressed as love of God and neighbor in and beyond the classroom (experiential, integrative assignments, group discussions, group work, reflection papers, term paper).

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

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| Experiential, Integrative Assignments (IEAs); Group Activities; Reflection Papers: | 30% |
| 5 Quizzes: | 25% |
| Midterm Essay Exam: | 20% |
| Final Essay Exam: | 25% |

GRADING SCALE

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|-----|--------|-----|-------|-----|-------|
| A: | 100-93 | C+: | 79-77 | D-: | 62-60 |
| A-: | 92-90 | C: | 76-73 | F: | 60-0 |
| B+: | 89-87 | C-: | 72-70 | | |
| B: | 86-83 | D+: | 69-67 | | |
| B-: | 82-80 | D: | 66-63 | | |

PAPER AND EXAM EXPECTATIONS

In reflection and term papers, students must adhere to the style, citation, and reference guidelines set out in the Chicago Manual of Style. Additionally, all papers must be double-spaced with 1-inch margins in 12-point Times New Roman font. Papers and exams will be graded for content, clarity, grammar, spelling, and formatting. The clear, accurate, and precise use of philosophic terms is especially important. In general, an A paper or exam will have proper spelling and grammar, be written clearly, exhibit a correct grasp of and serious engagement with the subject matter, and present the fruits of original philosophic inquiry.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS AND INCOMPLETES

All assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the beginning of the class session for which they are due—including assignments posted on Canvas. Incompletes will only be assigned in extremely unusual circumstances.

TECHNOLOGY

The use of electronic devices will not be permitted in class. Students are expected to bring a notebook, pen or pencil, and hard copies of the assigned texts to class. If a disability prevents a student from taking notes by hand, a note-taker may be provided by the Disability Resource Center (See "PLNU Accommodations Policy" below).

FINAL EXAM POLICY

Successful completion of this class requires taking the final on its scheduled day. According to the Class Schedules site, the final for this course will be on May 2nd from 1:30-4:00. No requests for early examinations or alternative days will be approved.

PLNU COPYRIGHT POLICY

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

PLNU ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. Faculty should follow and students may appeal using the procedure in the

university catalog. See Academic Policies for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

PLNU ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

While all students are expected to meet the minimum standards for completion of this course as established by the instructor, students with disabilities may require academic adjustments, modifications or auxiliary aids/services. At Point Loma Nazarene University (PLNU), these students are requested to register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC), located in the Bond Academic Center. (DRC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2486). The DRC's policies and procedures for assisting such students in the development of an appropriate academic adjustment plan (AP) allows PLNU to comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Section 504 (a) prohibits discrimination against students with special needs and guarantees all qualified students equal access to and benefits of PLNU programs and activities. After the student files the required documentation, the DRC, in conjunction with the student, will develop an AP to meet that student's specific learning needs. The DRC will thereafter email the student's AP to all faculty who teach courses in which the student is enrolled each semester. The AP must be implemented in all such courses.

If students do not wish to avail themselves of some or all of the elements of their AP in a particular course, it is the responsibility of those students to notify their professor in that course. PLNU highly recommends that DRC students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester about the applicability of their AP in that particular course and/or if they do not desire to take advantage of some or all of the elements of their AP in that course.

PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

Regular and punctual attendance at all classes is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent from more than 10 percent of class meetings, the faculty member can file a written report which may result in de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university drop date or, after that date, receive the appropriate grade for their work and participation. See Academic Policies in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

Point Loma Nazarene University is committed to diversity in the classroom, in its publications, and in its various organizations and components. Faculty and staff recognize that the diverse backgrounds and perspectives of their colleagues and students are best served through respect for gender, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, culture, and other personal characteristics.

INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE STATEMENT

The School of Theology and Christian Ministries is committed to the equality of women and men. Recognizing that people often use language in ways that imply the exclusion or inferiority of women, the School strongly urges students to join faculty and staff in avoiding any sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussions and in writing.

CALENDAR

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| January | 10 | Introduction Reflection Paper |
| | 15 | Group Activity The Presocratics |
| | 17 | IEA Report Due Plato, <i>Five Dialogues: Apology</i> , pp. 22-44 |
| | 22 | Group Activity Plato, <i>Alcibiades 1</i> (Canvas) |
| | 24 | Quiz Plato, <i>Five Dialogues: Meno</i> 80a-86c and 96d-98c |
| | 29 | Plato, <i>Symposium</i> (Canvas) |
| | 31 | Group Activity Plato, <i>Five Dialogues: Phaedo</i> 57a-88c |
| February | 5 | IEA Report Due Plato, <i>Five Dialogues: Phaedo</i> 88c-118a |
| | 7 | Quiz Plato, <i>Republic</i> (Canvas) |
| | 12 | Aristotle, <i>Posterior Analytics</i> (Canvas) |
| | 14 | Aristotle, <i>Physics</i> (Canvas) |
| | 19 | Group Activity Aristotle, <i>Metaphysics</i> (Canvas) |

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| | 21 | Quiz Aristotle, <i>De Anima</i> (Canvas) |
| | 26 | IEA Report Due Aristotle, <i>De Anima</i> (Canvas) |
| | 28 | Midterm |
| March | 12 | Group Activity St. Augustine, <i>Confessions</i> (Canvas) |
| | 14 | St. Augustine, <i>Confessions</i> (Canvas) |
| | 19 | Group Activity St. Anselm, <i>Proslogion</i> , pp. 2-25 |
| | 21 | St. Anselm, <i>Proslogion</i> , pp. 28-46 |
| | 26 | Quiz St. Thomas Aquinas, God's Existence (Canvas) |
| | 28 | St. Thomas Aquinas, Human Nature (Canvas) |
| April | 2 | Group Activity Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> , pp. 5-23 |
| | 4 | Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> , pp. 24-59 |
| | 9 | Quiz Lonergan, Self-Affirmation of the Knower (Canvas) |
| | 11 | IEA Report Due Lonergan, Self-Appropriation (Canvas) |
| | 16 | Lonergan, Method in Metaphysics (Canvas) |
| | 23 | Reflection Paper Lonergan, Development (Canvas) |
| | 25 | Review |
| May | 2 | Final |