



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

Section: 05
Time: TR 1:30-2:45

Fall 2018
Location: BAC 103

Professor: Dr. Eric J. Morelli
Office: TBD
Office Hours: TR 3:00-4:00 and by appointment
Phone: (619) 691-5272
Email: emorelli@pointloma.edu
Final Exam: December 13th, 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;
- *identify* philosophy, philosophic questions, philosophic positions, and philosophic ways of life and *distinguish* these 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)

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

9 1-2-Page Reflection Papers:	35%
Midterm Short-Answer Essay Exam:	20%
1 5-Page Term Paper:	20%
Final Short-Answer Essay Exam:	25%

GRADING SCALE

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		

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 December 13th 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

If you have a diagnosed disability, please contact PLNU's Disability Resource Center (DRC) to demonstrate need and to register for accommodation by phone at (619) 849-2486 or by e-mail at DRC@pointloma.edu. See [Disability Resource Center](#) for additional information.

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

September	4	Plato, <i>Five Dialogues: Euthyphro</i> , pp. 2-20 Reflection Paper Due
	6	Plato, <i>Five Dialogues: Apology</i> , pp. 22-44

	11	Plato, <i>Alcibiades 1</i> (Canvas)
	13	Plato, <i>Five Dialogues: Meno</i> 80a-86c and 96d-98c Reflection Paper Due
	18	Plato, <i>Symposium</i> (Canvas)
	20	Plato, <i>Five Dialogues: Phaedo</i> 57a-88c
	25	Plato, <i>Five Dialogues: Phaedo</i> 88c-118a
	27	Plato, <i>Republic</i> (Canvas) Reflection Paper Due
October	2	Aristotle, <i>Posterior Analytics</i> (Canvas)
	4	Aristotle, <i>Physics</i> (Canvas)
	9	Aristotle, <i>Metaphysics</i> (Canvas) Reflection Paper Due
	11	Aristotle, <i>De Anima</i> (Canvas)
	16	Aristotle, <i>De Anima</i> (Canvas) Reflection Paper Due
	18	Midterm
	23	St. Augustine, <i>Confessions</i> (Canvas) Reflection Paper Due
	25	St. Anselm, <i>Proslogion</i> , pp. 2-25
	30	St. Anselm, <i>Proslogion</i> , pp. 28-46 Reflection Paper Due
November	1	St. Thomas Aquinas, God's Existence (Canvas)
	6	St. Thomas Aquinas, Human Nature (Canvas)
	8	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> , pp. 5-23
	13	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> , pp. 24-59

Reflection Paper Due

15 Lonergan, Self-Affirmation of the Knower (Canvas)

20 Lonergan, Self-Appropriation (Canvas)

Reflection Paper Due

27 Lonergan, Implicit Metaphysics (Canvas)

29 Lonergan, Method in Metaphysics (Canvas)

December 4 Lonergan, Genuineness (Canvas)

6 Review

Term Paper Due

13 Final