

Point Loma Nazarene University

Philosophy 201-3: Introduction to Philosophy

Syllabus

Instructor: Mark Wright

Room: LBRT 207

Meeting Time: T, R 9:30-10:45

Semester: Spring 2018

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Text:

Steven M. Cahn and Peter Markie, *Ethics: History, Theory, and Contemporary Issues* 5th edition.

Course Description:

This course will examine the prevailing issues within the Western philosophical tradition. Particular attention will be given to the means by which philosophy can provide conceptual clarity to vital aspects of human existence. Further, the course will critique certain aspects of the philosophical agenda as related to human knowledge and the Good Life.

Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of the course the student will be able to:

- Identify and describe the aims, methods, issues and problems associated with philosophy as related to the issues of ethical/religious value formation.
- Identify, define, and/or describe the philosophical terminology and concepts commonly used to classify positions, methods/approaches associated with the topics/issues related to the philosophical quest.
- Identify and/or describe various facets and basic claims in relation to the philosophical discipline.
- Identify and/or describe the assumptions on which such basic claims rest.
- Analyze and/or critically evaluate the evidence alleged in behalf of those basic claims.
- Trace the theoretical and/or practical consequences to which those basic claims lead.

My Expectations:

1. Attend all sessions of the class. Please inform me if you will miss any of the class meetings.
2. Read the assigned readings prior to the day that we are to discuss them.
3. Each student must prepare to critically evaluate their own convictions on certain philosophical issues that we will discuss in class, being open to discussion about such convictions.

Inclusive language:

The School of Theology and Christian Ministry has adopted the following statement: The School of Theology and Christian Ministry is committed to the equality of women and men. Recognizing that people have often used the English language in ways that imply the exclusion or inferiority of women, the department urges students, faculty and staff to avoid sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussion, and in their writings.

Academic accommodations:

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 accommodations. At Point Loma Nazarene University, these students are requested to file documentation during the first two weeks of the semester with the Academic Support Center (ASC), located in the Bond Academic Center. This policy assists the University in its commitment to full compliance 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. Once the student files documentation, the ASC will contact the student's instructors and provide written recommendations for reasonable and appropriate accommodations to meet the individual learning needs of the student.

General Education Statement:

This course is one of the components of the General Education Program at Point Loma Nazarene University, under the category of "Seeking Cultural Perspectives." By including this course in a common educational experience for undergraduates, the faculty supports a survey of human endeavors from a historical, cultural, linguistic, and philosophical perspective, including developing critical appreciation of human expression--both artistic and literary.

Attendance:

It is important that you show up for each and every class. If a student misses 10% of class sessions (4 for a class that meets 3 times per week; 3 for a class that meets twice per week), that student will be sent a de-enrollment warning. When the student misses 20% of the class sessions, the student will be de-enrolled.

Grades will be based as follows:

- 1) *Mid-Term and Final: 200 points*
- 2) *Two Response Papers to Philosophers Discussed in class (3 pages, double-spaced): 25 points each. For these papers the student is to:*
 - a) *Identify and describe a particular argument made by the philosopher; citations from the philosopher must be included*
 - b) *Your critical response*

***Academic writing tips:** 1. **Introduction:** The first paragraph has a clear, well written thesis statement. The introduction clearly outlines the argument strategy being used. It includes relevant details regarding the major movements the argument will take [e.g. major authors being addressed, important data being used, major examples being highlighted, etc.]. 2. **Organization:** The essay has a clear structure. Each paragraph is concise and talks about only one idea. There are transitions between paragraphs that create a logical progression. The progression builds from premise[s] to conclusion in a way that supports the thesis. 3. **Strength of Argument:** The argument structure is very clear and premises strongly support the conclusion. No fallacies are committed. The student limited the scope of the paper enabling them to add depth to the argument.

*** Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Please consult the school catalog under the heading of Academic Honesty to learn the professor's intended policy regarding student dishonesty in academic work.**

- 3) *One Participation in Food Distribution with Mid-City Church of the Nazarene with Reflection Paper (2 pages in length): 25 points total*

Or

- One Participation in Salvation Army Bread of Life ministry: Tuesday Nights, 6-7:30 p.m. with Reflection Paper (2 pages in length): 25 points total*

The Reflection Paper is to be written about your experience of participation in the Works of Mercy while also considering the theology of Isaiah 58:1-14. The call of God to the people of God is to follow God into the heart of a world that is suffering. Consider how the theology of Isaiah challenges religious practice which excludes the call to share another's burden.

CONSULT COURSE SCHEDULE FOR ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES

Mid-City Church of the Nazarene Address:*4101 University Avenue, San Diego, Ca. 92105***Distribution Times:***Saturday Morning (8:00-9:45 a.m.), Tuesday Afternoon (2:00-3:45 p.m.), Thursday Morning (8:00-9:45 a.m.)***Salvation Army Address:****825 7th Street, San Diego, Ca. 92101****Extra Credit:***Two Extra Food Distribution/Bread of Life participation with Reflection Paper: 5 points each**One Response Paper to Philosopher discussed in class: 10 points***COURSE SCHEDULE:****Pre-Modern Philosophers**

Week One	Introduction. Plato/Socrates 1-33; 96-107 (4 th , 5 th)
Week Two 214 (5 th)	Aristotle/Epicurus/Epictetus 134-146; 178-194 (4 th); Epictetus, 203-
Week Three	Augustine/Aquinas 195-216 (4 th); 214-235 (5 th)

Modern Philosophers

Week Four	Hobbes/Butler 216-227; 228-243 (4 th); 236-275 (5 th)
Week Five	Hume/Kant 243-254; 308-316 (4 th); 276-287; 341-350 (5 th)
Week Six	Bentham/Mill 319-327; 341-360 (4 th); 353-361; 375-395 (5 th)
Week Seven	Nietzsche 362-394 (4 th); 397-429 (5 th) First Philosophy Response paper due Thursday February 22
Week Eight	Mid-Term Thursday March 01

Contemporary Philosophers

- Week Nine Camus/Sartre 397-412 (4th); 432-447 (5th)
- Week Ten Moore/Ayer 423-429; 449-455 (4th); 459-465; 485-491 (5th)
- Week Eleven Anscombe/Held/ Rawls 491-503; 724-737; 515-534 (4th) 527-539;775-788;
551-570 (5th) **Food Distribution/Bread of Life Reflection Papers Due Tuesday March 27**
- Week Twelve Harman/Sturgeon 633-656 (4th); 684-707 (5th)
- Week Thirteen Wolf/Nagel 739-760 (4th); 790-810 (5th)

Some Contemporary Moral Problems

- Week Fourteen Thomson/Marquis/Hursthouse 765-775; 786-796; 797-809 (4th);
817-827; 838-848; 849-861 (5th)
- Week Fifteen Singer/Arthur 821-839 (4th); 873-891 (5th) Hauerwas—Lecture

Finals Week— Second Philosophy Response paper and all Extra Credit due by Friday, 5 p.m.

Final Exam will be Tuesday 10:30-1:00 p.m.