

Point Loma Nazarene University
HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY I
PHL 301
Fall 2014
Mondays 3:00-5:45

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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 1:15-2:45, or by appointment

PLNU MISSION:

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 becomes an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we aspire to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

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. (Learning, Growing)
2. Students will differentiate among interrelated movements or figures in the history of philosophy. (Learning)
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. (Learning, Growing, Serving)

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To develop and widen an openness towards the pursuit of wisdom.
2. To nurture creative and reflective thinking by reading significant primary texts within the Western philosophical tradition.
3. To examine what it means for us to be human.
4. To introduce several philosophical issues found in the ancient and medieval western tradition including human knowledge, the nature of desire, the ancient Greek notion of health, the relationship of the soul to the body, the relationship of human beings to nature and (G)od, and the meaning of a *good* human life.
5. To wrestle, and I mean wrestle, with these issues as they relate to our lives.

ACADEMIC ACCOMODATIONS:

All students are expected to meet the minimum standards for this course as set forth by the instructor. Students with learning disabilities who may need accommodations should first discuss options and services with the Academic Support Center (ASC) during the first two weeks of the semester. The ASC, in turn, will contact professors with official notification and suggested classroom accommodations, as required by federal law. Approved documentation must be provided by the student and placed on file in the ASC prior to the beginning of the semester.

INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE:

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.

TEXTBOOKS:

1. Plato, *Five Dialogues*, 0-87220-633-5
2. Aristotle, *De Anima*, 0-87975-610-1
3. Augustine, *City of God*, 978-0140448948
3. Anselm, *Proslogion* 0-87220-565-7

PROCEDURE/REQUIREMENTS:

1. We will be reading from some of the most significant **texts** in the history of Western thought. It is vitally important that you become acquainted with the primary material in order that you get a feel for not simply what the writer says, but how *he* makes you think. I want you to be thoughtful and critical of what each of the thinkers writes, as well as of what I say in class. A significant portion of your grade will be based upon the amount of **reading** you do. You will be asked to give a report each day on your reading progress (scale of 0-10). For example, an 8.5 means that you read carefully and thought about carefully 85% of the assigned reading for that day.

2. Regular and punctual **attendance** is required for the full benefit of this class. If you are late it is your responsibility to see me after class in order that your attendance may be recorded. Any three tardies will be recorded as one absence. Dialogue tends to spawn new ideas and creativity, so discussion will also be important. Therefore, *each* student will be expected to enter into class discussion. The extent to which this occurs, along with attendance, will be considered in your final grade. *You cannot pass the class* if you miss more than three weeks of class (six sessions). See the catalogue.

3. Throughout the term each of you will do one **LONG in-class presentation**. This means that you are responsible for the chosen class day. It should include a brief and general philosophical introduction to the reading/figure(s) covered. The presentation should *mainly* be an outline of the text(s) for the day. You should reference 12-15 significant portions (quotations or specific page/text reference) of the text to be covered in class. You must provide a detailed quotation list and bibliography for each member of the class.

4. There will be two **papers**. The first will be less formal than the last. It will require an interpretation of any four fragments of any two **Pre-Socratic** thinkers (not limited to those discussed in class). It will be 3 pages in length and is due in September 22nd. For the **final paper**, you will need to come up with a topic and an argument for me by November 17th. You may choose your paper topic from among those covered in class. The topic should relate what you plan on doing in your final paper. It should contain a thesis statement and an argument justifying your method and finally, a projection of how this might be accomplished (description). Each paper is subject to my approval. The paper will be 8-9 pages in length and due Friday December 19th by noon in my box (Smee #200). The final paper will serve as the final “exam.” It will be explicative, but will allow *minimal* secondary sources. A works cited page (on top of the minimal page requirements) will be required. It will be a formal paper. So, please follow guidelines given in any of the manuals of style. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in either zero credit for the assignment and a full grade reduction for the class or failure of the course all together (this is up to my discretion). Both will result in a letter to the Provost to be placed in your academic record.

5. There will be 3 Take-Home Exams due throughout the semester. Each of the exams will cover the material just prior to the reception of the exam (including the material covered on the day of the reception of the exam). The first exam will cover Socrates and Plato. The second will cover Aristotle. The third will cover the medieval folks. You absolutely may not use outside sources for the exams. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in either zero credit for the assignment and a full grade reduction for the class or (more likely) failure of the course all together (this is up to my discretion). Both will result in a letter to the Provost to be placed in your academic record.

6. The **grades** are based on all of these mentioned assignments. All outside assignments are due at the beginning of class. I will not accept late work. I will give no make-up exams unless you have an excused absence (doctor’s note required) AND have notified me in advance. All make-up exams must be taken with-in one week of the exam. Do not expect to be able to make-up the exam unless I have written or spoken this to you explicitly.

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| CLASS PARTICIPATION | 5% of final grade |
| READING | 10% |
| PRE-SOCRATICS PAPER | 10% |
| PRESENTATION | 15% |
| SOCRATES/PLATO EXAM | 16% |
| ARISTOTLE (<i>De Anima</i>) EXAM | 15% |
| MEDIEVAL EXAM | 13% |
| <u>FINAL PAPER</u> | <u>16%</u> |
| TOTAL | 100% |

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| 100-94% A | 79-77% C+ | 63-60% D- |
| 93-90% A- | 76-74% C | 59-0% F |
| 89-87% B+ | 73-70% C- | |
| 86-84% B | 69-67% D+ | |
| 83-80% B- | 66-64% D | |

SCHEDULE:

9/3 Introduction to the course

9/15 Pre-Socratics

9/22 *Apology* **Pre-Socratic Paper Due**

9/29 *Meno**

10/6 *Phaedo**

10/13 *Phaedo**

10/20 *De Anima* I **Socrates/Plato Exam Due**

10/27 *De Anima* II*

11/3 *De Anima* III*

11/10 *City of God* **Aristotle Exam Due**

11/17 *City of God**

11/24 *Proslogion**

12/1 Thomas *Summa Theologica**

12/8 Thomas *Summa Theologica*/Flex

12/15 **Medieval Paper Due**

12/19 **Final Paper Due**