

**Department of Philosophy**  
**PHL 303: History of Western Philosophy III**  
**19<sup>th</sup> Century Philosophy: Kant to Nietzsche**  
**Semester I, 2012**

**I. General Information**

Meetings: TR: 11:00am-12:15pm  
Room, SMEE, WESL

Professor: Rob Thompson  
Office: Smee Hall 207  
Phone: 849-2930  
Office Hours: See schedule on office door, and by appointment.  
E-mail: robertthompson@pointloma.edu

Texts: Philosophic Classics Volume IV: 19<sup>th</sup> Century Philosophy, 3/e, Baird and Kaufmann

**II. Course Description**

A survey of the major western philosophers in the 19<sup>th</sup> century with special consideration for the influence of their thought upon the modern western world.

**III. Course Learning Outcomes**

1. Students will engage in the disciplined practice of asking questions about the world, God, and of themselves including questions for which there may be no easy answers, so as to perpetuate this practice in their lives and provide a means to assess the responses others give to these questions.
2. Students will recognize and appreciate their connection as human beings to the world of ideas and the rich history of that world as found in the writings of significant 19<sup>th</sup> century western philosophical figures and movements and differentiate among them.
3. Students will recognize and appreciate the strengths and weaknesses of human reason and experience to provide an adequate account of the human, the world, ethics, and God, and appreciate how these bear on matters of Christian faith and practice, especially in conversation with philosophical notions and movements prevalent in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**VI. Course Requirements and Grading**

8% **Attendance and Participation:** Attend *every* class session. No make-ups will be allowed for any required work unless the cause of the absence is one of the following: illness, religious observance, travel due to a sanctioned university event (e.g., team sports, musical presentation—be sure to see me to get such an absence cleared *before* missing the class). The student will be responsible for the content of any missed class. Moreover, significant tardiness will count as an absence. In addition, a warm body is a minimal requirement and is not sufficient. Thus, class participation is a critical component of the course.

Per the University's attendance policy, any student who misses more than 20% of the course may be de-enrolled without appeal. In addition to no credit being gained for the course, the student may receive a failing grade on his or her transcript if de-enrollment occurs after the last day to drop a semester class. As with any course requirement, each student bears the responsibility to insure that the attendance requirement is met.

- 12% **Readings:** Read *all* of the assigned material *before* coming to class. During roll call at the beginning of each class, students will be asked to give a number between 0 and 10 (10 being highest) indicating how much of the assigned reading was carefully and thoughtfully read. The number given will be the grade that the student receives for the day. For example, if you have read carefully and thoughtfully 85% of the reading for a given day, you should represent, and will receive, an 8.5 for the day. The lowest grade will be dropped, including if you have received a zero due to missing class. Only one low score will be dropped.
- 18% **Exposition/Critical Essays:** Each student will be expected to do one exposition/critical essay on a selected philosopher. Each essay must have an exposition component, in which the salient terms are defined, the philosopher's relevant concepts are clearly fleshed out, and the point, as well as the consequence, of the view is made clear. This component of the essay should include copious textual references, including direct quotation. In addition, each essay must include a critical component, in which the student wrestles with the relevant subject and provides a critical assessment. These papers must be turned in at the beginning of the period in which they are due (within five minutes of the start of class to receive credit) and should be roughly 5-7 pages in length. The student will present his or her paper at some point during that class and will be considered *the* expert over the pertinent material. During the questioning period, the person presenting will be expected to direct us to the text when appropriate. Students presenting on the same philosopher should collaborate prior to their presentation to insure they cover different material. As always, written work must be typed, must care for grammar, flow, and the like, and must make use of inclusive language.
- Redundancy Clause:** The Exposition/Critical Essay must be tied in obvious ways to the philosopher, especially including the primary text. **McDaniel Clause:** All written work must be turned in with a reasonable font, e.g., Times New Roman.
- 20% **Mid-Term Exam:** Each student will be expected to complete either a written or an oral mid-term examination. The written exam will be a take-home, essay exam with multiple questions. The oral exam will be an oral exam over the same content. The student must inform the professor which exam he or she will complete by the date on the schedule, save for those with either a form of philosophy major/minor or religion major/minor all of whom must take an oral mid-term. The mid-term will be administered in groups and will cover the material through Kierkegaard.
- 15% **Presentation:** There will be two presentations over the reading. These will be very different than the Exposition/Critical Essay in that they will be opportunities for students to simply lead the conversation over the reading for the day. On the given days, students will be the facilitator for the class and will come with a handout of 10-12 salient quotes to share with everyone. The student will lead discussion over the reading for the day.
- 27% **Final Essay:** Each student will be expected to complete a final essay. This essay will resemble the exposition/critical essay but will represent a more "finished" research product. That is, final essays will reflect a more comprehensive approach, careful, critical engagement with primary source material, and should include research from secondary sources, including journals related to the bibliography assignment above. (While it is difficult to introduce anything other than an arbitrary requirement on the number of secondary sources incorporated, the number of sources should evidence clear and robust engagement with secondary literature.) Students must use inclusive language. As with all written work, grammar, organization, and spelling are of crucial importance. These papers may cover the same subject matter/philosopher as the student's exposition/critical essay, though this is not necessary, and must be no less than 10 pages (3000 words).

**Late work and extra credit:** No late work will be accepted. No extra credit will be given.

## V. Miscellany

1. *Academic Misconduct Policy*: Academic misconduct includes plagiarism and the use of unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any exam or other academic exercise. It also includes assisting others in any attempt to cheat. It will not be tolerated. However, respect for academic honesty is consistent with discussing the ideas of the course with others. In fact, I encourage you to discuss any and all of the course material that you find interesting outside of class. In the end, however, you must do your written work on your own. If you have any questions about academic honesty, either in general or in particular, please ask me.

A special note on plagiarism is warranted. Each student is responsible to know what plagiarism is and to avoid even the appearance of plagiarism in his or her work. No act of plagiarism, whether born of one's intention or ignorance, will be tolerated in this class. Any student caught plagiarizing will incur severe academic punishment. Such punishment will include a grade of zero for the plagiarized work, and may also include expulsion with a failing grade from the course. The student's name and an explanation of the incident will also be forwarded to the Provost of the University. Please see the University policy stated in the catalogue.

2. *Harassment Policy*: Racial, sexual, and ethnic harassment, and any other type of disruptive behavior, are not conducive to a good learning environment. These behaviors will not be tolerated. However, I encourage all students to be open to any honest and tactful discussion of issues that might arise in the context of our learning.

3. *Reasonable Accommodation Policy*: All students are expected to meet the standards for this course as set by the instructor. However, students with learning disabilities who may need accommodations should discuss options with the Academic Support Center during the first two weeks of class. The ASC will contact professors with suggested classroom needs and accommodations. Approved documentation must be on file in the ASC prior to the start of the semester.

4. *Inclusive Language Policy*: The use of inclusive language is now prevalent, even expected, throughout most sectors of our society (e.g., academia, government, business). Further, inclusive language is very often a more accurate and fair representation of the intended meaning of a person's communicative content. As such, everyone is expected to make use of inclusive language in all written work. The avoidance of such use in a given project will result in a lowering of the grade for that project. In addition, everyone is expected to make use of inclusive language during classroom discussions.