

Point Loma Nazarene University

Social Philosophy

PHL 321

Spring 2014

MW 12:15-1:30

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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 1:45-4:30 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 examine what it means for us to be human as we exist with others.
2. To examine the way in which sociality has been utilized within the western philosophical tradition.
3. To examine concepts like justice, autonomy, the *polis*, race, gender, the Other, technology, social contract, class, power, torture, thought, bodies, community, etc.

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:

- Steven M. Cahn. *Classics of Political and Moral Philosophy* 2nd Edition ISBN# 978-0-19-979115-6
- Martin Heidegger. *Basic Writings*. Krell, Editor ISBN# 0-06-063763-3
- Hannah Arendt. *The Human Condition* 2nd edition ISBN# 0-226-02598-5
- Michel Foucault. *Discipline and Punish* ISBN# 0-394-72767-3
- Ta-Nehisi Coates. *Between the World and Me* ISBN# 978-0-8129-9354-7
- Packet to be purchased from Pat Jafry

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 material in order that you get a feel for not simply what the writer says, but *how* s/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 at the beginning of class 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. Due to the size and nature of this class in particular, dialogue will be very important. Dialogue tends to spawn new ideas and creativity, so discussion will be important. Therefore, *each* student will be expected to enter into class discussion. The extent to which this occurs (as well as the quality), along with attendance will be considered in your final grade. *You cannot pass the class* if you miss more than 6 class sessions. See the catalogue.

3. Throughout the term each of you will do one **in-class presentation**. If it is the first day discussing a figure, there should be brief and general philosophical introductions to the figure covered during that session. It may include cultural analyses that elucidate the time period surrounding a figure or figures. The presentation should mainly be an outline of the text for the day. You should reference 7-10 significant portions of the text to be covered in class. You will be responsible for the material/reading—not necessarily for the date on the schedule. You must provide a detailed list of quotations and bibliography for each member of the class.

4. 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 exams are due one week after you receive the prompt. 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.

5. Each of you will need to do a 3 page **book review** of Ta-Nehisi Coates' book, *Between the World and Me*. You will need to include a discussion of each of the following issues... the structure of the text (genre), the author himself (who is Coates?) and why does that matter?, the overarching theme/argument of the text, and a discussion of how this book has helped you understand the struggle of what it means –phenomenologically- to live as a black man in America.

6. There will be a **final paper** due on December 17 by noon in my box (Smee 200). It will be 7-9 pages, typed and double-spaced. It will need to incorporate Dorothy Day's vision of community into an analysis of any topic or figure from the class. You will need to present a thesis statement to me prior to the final paper for my approval. You may make use of any official manual 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.

7. The **grades** are based on all of these mentioned assignments. All outside assignments are due at the beginning of class. 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.

Presentation	10%
Reading	15%
Take-Home #1	16%
Take-Home #2	16%
Take-Home #3	16%
Coates Book Review	10%
<u>Final Paper</u>	<u>17%</u>
Total	100%

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 GUIDELINE:

9/3 Introduction to the course

9/8 *Classics of Political and Moral Philosophy (CPMP)* Plato pp. 31-51

9/10 *CPMP* Plato pp. 51-66

9/15 *CPMP* Aristotle pp. 173-180, 213-219*

9/17 *CPMP* Augustine pp. 289-297*

9/22 *CPMP* Hobbes pp. 375-391*

9/24 *CPMP* Hobbes pp. 391-405*

9/29 *CPMP* Locke pp. 450-470 *

10/1 *CPMP* Rousseau pp. 561-573*

10/6 *CPMP* Hegel pp. 829-844

10/8 *CPMP* Marx pp. 878-896 **Exam I Due**

10/13 **Attend Wiley Lecture –Crill Hall**

10/15 *CPMP* Mill pp. 1018-1033*

10/20 *Packet* DeBeauvoir pp. xix-xxxvi*

10/22 Heidegger *Basic Writings* pp. 311-328

10/27 Heidegger *Basic Writings* pp. 328-341 *

10/29 Arendt *The Human Condition* pp. 248-268

11/3 Arendt *The Human Condition* pp. 268-289*

11/5 Davis *Planet of Slums* (PDF) pp. 121-130*

11/10 Foucault *Discipline and Punish* pp. 3-31 **Exam II Due**

11/12 Foucault *Discipline and Punish* pp. 195-228*

11/17 *Packet* Scarry pp. 27-59*

11/19 *Packet* Butler pp. 692-702*

11/24 *Packet* Loomba pp. 150-183*

11/26 Thanksgiving

12/1 *Between the World and Me* Coates pp. 1-71 **Exam III Due**

12/3 *Between the World and Me* Coates pp. 73-152*

12/8 *Packet* Dorothy Day pp. 243-273*

12/10 Flex **Coates Book Review Due**

12/17 **Final Paper Due** by noon in my box (Smee #200)