

PM

COURSE SYLLABUS

PHL 100⁴⁰ INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

REQUIRED TEXTS

Meno by Plato, Meditations on First Philosophy by Rene Descartes, An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding by David Hume

INSTRUCTOR

William (Bill) James McCurdy

BIOGRAPHY

Bill McCurdy, a native of Idaho, has lived around the Pacific Basin most of his adult life including 15 years, teaching in East Asia, and more than 8 in Hawai'i. He has a B. A. from Idaho State University and an M. A. from the University of Hawaii, both in philosophy, and is currently a Ph. D. candidate in philosophy at UH. He is also a part-time philosophy instructor at Chaminade University. His main areas of interest are semeiotic, philosophical anthropology, classical Chinese philosophy, philosophy of film, Aristotle, Kant and C. S. Peirce. He is currently starting his own consulting company in applied semeiotic.

TELEPHONE

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LOCATION

Fort Schafter, Bldg. 220, Rm. #8

SCHEDULE

Fridays 17:30 - 21:40 p.m.

CALENDAR

April 9, 16, 23, 30 May 7, 14, 21, 28, June 4, and 11, 1999

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a study of philosophy. We will critically examine problems and arguments from each of the major branches of philosophy: metaphysics, epistemology, axiology (ethics & aesthetics), semeiotic (philosophical semantics & logic). Among the topics to be

covered will be the problem of appearance and reality, the problem of evil, the nature of knowledge, the question of the existence of god, the problem of universals, the nature of morality, and the mind-body problem. This will be done by looking closely at the ideas of Socrates, Plato, Descartes, and Hume. If time permits we will also discuss Roy Oribson's philosophy of lost love.

ASSIGNMENTS

April 9 Week One: Introduction to The Introduction to Philosophy

April 16 Week Two: Logic & Philosophy, Meno (First 13 pages)

April 23 Week Three: Meno (pp. 14-20)

April 30 Week Four: Meno (pp. 21-32), Study Terms, Take-home Essay Questions

May 7 Week Five: Review & Midterm

May 14 Week Six: Meditations on First Philosophy (Thru Meditation Two)

May 21 Week Seven: Meditations (Three, Four, & Five)

May 28 Week Eight: Meditations (Six) and An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding (Thru Section 5)

June 4 Week Nine: Enquiry (Sections 7 & 12)

June 11 Week Ten: Review & Final

GRADING

Quizzes & Short Essays 10 points each

Midterm Exam 100 points

Final Exam 100 points

(Exams will consist of two essay questions and 50 short-answer questions: True/False, Multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, matching)