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SSE 1 99

CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY
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INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY (PH100-20)
Kaneohe MCBH Wednesdays: 17:30-21:40

Description: An examination of the role, themes, arguments, and discursive styles that characterize philosophy as an intellectual discipline. Both traditional and critical theories will be considered and the role of the mytho-poetic and religious discourses will receive special attention.



Textbook: *Fundamentals of Philosophy* by David Stewart and H. Gene Blocker (Prentice-Hall, Inc. © 1996 ISBN 0-13-397696-3).

Course Format: Students will read the appropriate pages in Stewart and Blocker's *Fundamentals of Philosophy* prior to the class meeting and complete the assigned exercises to hand in at the beginning of the class (see the assignments for each meeting listed below as "For next class"). During class the instructor will present additional background information and explain the central ideas of the chapter* as well as answer all student questions. In place of comprehensive exams there will be short quizzes each week on the current material.

Grading: Grading will be based on the average of written exercises, an essay, and the average of the quizzes. Students may re-take their lowest quiz at the last class meeting. The quiz is designed to allow the student the best opportunity to demonstrate that he or she has read and understood the material in the current chapter.* Students may opt to do up to one set of extra credit exercises.

Exercises: Students receive a studyguide with questions for each topic. These are to be turned in weekly.

Essay: For each major topic in the course an essay question is listed below (except for parts 1 and 2). Students will choose one of the questions and write a 3-5 page essay answering the question. Essays will be graded according to how well the student addresses and answers the question. **Students may submit a rough draft at any time up to three weeks before the end of the course, which would be evaluated and returned to the student for corrections. The final draft, and all essays are due by the start of our last class meeting.**

Requirements: Attendance is absolutely mandatory at every meeting. In the event of an emergency, students who miss class *must* contact the instructor to arrange to take the missed quiz and to schedule make-up work due dates. The exercises for the chapter* and an essay to make up for the missed class time must be submitted as arranged with instructor to avoid a grade drop of 10%.

*Note: "Chapter" is used in this textbook to indicate a section, "Part" is used to indicate what would normally be called a chapter. We will examine one "part" each week, consisting of several extremely short "chapters."

July 7: Introduction to Philosophy

- I. WHAT IS PHILOSOPHY?
 - 1. The Activity of Philosophy.
 - 2. Philosophy and the Examined Life.
READING: Socrates, In Defense of Philosophy.
 - 4. Philosophy and the Search for Truth.
READING: David Stewart, The Philosopher as Detective.
- Special Skills Module: Reading Critically, Thinking Critically and Writing Critically
(Extra credit: Chapter 3. The Practice of Philosophy, pp. 23-33.)
Practice Quiz: Chapters 1,2 and 4
For the next class: read Chapters 5 - 8 on Logic and complete the exercises for each chapter.

July 14: Logic

II. THINKING ABOUT THINKING (LOGIC).

5. The Life of Reason.
6. Argument Forms.
7. Inductive Arguments and Scientific Reasoning.
8. Strategies for Philosophical Argument.

Quiz: Chapters 5-8

For the next class: read Chapters 9-12 on Metaphysics and complete the exercises for each chapter.

July 21: Metaphysics

III. WHAT IS REAL? (METAPHYSICS).

9. Introduction to Metaphysics. READING: Plato, Phaedo.
10. Materialism.
READING: Epicurus, First Principles of Materialism.
11. Idealism
READING: George Berkeley, Three Dialogues
12. The Mind-Body Problem.
READING: Richard Taylor, Materialism and Personal Identity.

Quiz: Chapters 9-12

(Extra credit: Chapter 13 Metaphysics and Language. READING: Ludwig Wittgenstein)

For the next class: read Chapters 14-18 on Epistemology and complete the exercises for each chapter.

July 28: Epistemology

IV. HOW DO WE KNOW? (EPISTEMOLOGY).

14. Introduction to Epistemology.
15. Appearance and Reality. READING: Plato, The Visible and the Invisible.
16. The Quest for Certainty. READING: René Descartes, Mediations.
17. Trust Your Senses. READING: David Hume, Skeptical Doubts Concerning the Operations of the Understanding.
18. A Compromise. READING: Immanuel Kant, Two Sources of Knowledge.

Quiz: Chapters 14-18

(Extra credit: Chapter 19. The Challenges of Postmodernism.)

For the next class: read 20, 22 and 23 on Ethics and complete the exercises for each chapter.

August 4: Ethics (Part 1: Teleological and Consequentialist Ethics)

V. WHAT OUGHT WE TO DO? (ETHICS).

20. Introduction to Ethical Reasoning.
22. The Morality of Self-Realization.
READING: Aristotle, The Good Life.
23. Morality Depends on the Consequences.
READING: John Steward Mill, Utilitarianism.

Quiz: Ethics part 1 (20,22,23)

(Extra credit: 21. The Need for Morality. READING: Thomas Hobbes, Leviathan.)

For the next class: read Chapter 24 and the handout on Ethics and complete the exercises for each.

August 11: Ethics (Part 2: Deontological Ethics)

24. Morality Depends on Motives.
READING: Immanuel Kant, Moral Duty.

Handout:

Quiz: Ethics part 2

For the next class: read Chapters 25-28 on Philosophy of Religion and complete the exercises for each chapter.

August 18: Philosophy of Religion

VI. PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION.

25. Introduction to Philosophy and Religion.
READING: Leo Tolstoy, A Confession.
26. Arguments for God's Existence: The Ontological Arguments.
READING: St. Anselm, The Proslogion.
27. Arguments for God's Existence: The Cosmological Arguments.
READINGS: St. Thomas Aquinas, The Five Ways; William Paley, Natural Theology.
28. The Problem of Evil.
READING: C. S. Lewis, The Problem of Pain.

Quiz: Chapters 25-28.

For the next class: read Chapters 29-32 on Philosophy of Art and complete the exercises for each chapter.

August 25: Philosophy of Art

VII. PHILOSOPHY OF ART (ESTHETICS).

29. Introduction to the Philosophy of Art.
30. The Value of Art.
READING: H. Gene Blocker, The Esthetic Attitude.
31. Art as Ideal.
READING: Kenneth Clark, The Naked and the Nude.
32. Esthetics and Ideology.
READING: Jennifer M. Jeffers, The Politics of Representation.

Quiz: Chapters 29-32.

For the next class: read Chapters 33-36 on Social and Political Philosophy and complete the exercises for each chapter.

September 1: Social and Political Philosophy

(If you are re-taking your lowest exam you must indicate this to me on September 1.)

VIII. SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY.

33. Introduction to Social Philosophy.
34. The Libertarian View of the State.
READING: John Locke, The State and the State of Nature.
35. The Egalitarian View of the State.
READING: Kai Nielsen, In Defense of Egalitarianism.
36. Justice as Fairness.
READING: John Rawls, A Theory of Justice.

Quiz: chapters 33-36

For the next class: read Chapters 37-39 on Eastern Philosophy and complete the exercises for each chapter.

September 8: Eastern Thought. LAST CLASS MEETING. ALL WORK DUE.

All work due for course: all essays, all make-up exercises, make-up essays due at start of class.

IX. EASTERN THOUGHT

37. Philosophy East and West.
38. Eastern Thought: Theories of Human Nature.
READINGS: Mencius, Xun Zi, and Dong Zhongshu.
39. Eastern Thought: The Individual and the Collective.
READINGS: The Bhagavad Gita; Lao Tzu, Tao Te Ching.

Quiz: Chapters 37-39

(Make-up Quizzes: Optional re-take of lowest quiz. by arrangement only.)