

Course Syllabus

ST. MARY'S COLLEGE

PHI 101: INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

FALL SEMESTER 2022

3 Credit Hours

PROFESSOR: Father Paul Franks (*pfranks@smac.edu*)
CLASS TIMES: M, W, F **10.25-11.15**
LOCATION: Room 202
OFFICE HOURS: TUESDAY, 4.00-5.20PM.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

An introduction to the history and nature of Philosophy within the context of foundational works of Western philosophical literature. The course includes the study of the Presocratics of Socrates, A reading of Selected Platonic Dialogues, and an introduction to the thought of Aristotle. The course will then provide a brief survey of philosophy through the medieval, Renaissance, Modern, and Postmodern periods.

PURPOSE:

This course is designed to give the students the following:

- A general background in the history of philosophy;
- a love for philosophical inquiry and an initial encounter with the scholastic method;
- an inclination for philosophical thought, i.e., for asking “why?” seeking the highest answers;
- an intelligent appraisal of the Presocratics, Socrates, and Plato, which will provide a valuable and necessary context for the study of Aristotelian-Thomistic Cosmology and Psychology later in their studies.

COURSE REQUIRED READING:

- *An introduction to philosophy* by Paul J. Glenn (provided)
- *Retrieving the Ancients: An Introduction to Greek Philosophy* by David Roochnik
- ***A Presocratics Reader: Selected Fragments and Testimonia* Second Edition ed. Patricia Curd, Trans. Richard D. McKirahan and Patricia Curd**
- *Plato: Five Dialogues: Euthyphro, Apology, Crito, Meno, Phaedo* (Hackett Classics) John M. Cooper G. M. A. Grube (Trans.)

RECOMMENDED READING:

- Glenn, Paul J. *The History of Philosophy: A Text Book for Undergraduates*. St. Louis, MO: B. Herder Book Co., 1944.
- Glenn, Paul J. *An Introduction to Philosophy*. St. Louis, MO: B. Herder Book Co., 1944.
- Maritain, Jacques. *An Introduction to Philosophy*. Continuum Publishing, 2005.
- Thonnard. F. J. (Maziarz, Edward, trans.). *A Short History of Philosophy*. New York: Desclee & Co., 1955.

QUIZZES, TESTS, AND WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:

- Quizzes will be given in the course of each unit. They will be announced. Any quiz missed without a legitimate excuse may not be made up. Quizzes missed with a legitimate excuse must be made up within one week. The student must inform the instructor that the quiz was missed, explain the reason, and schedule a make-up quiz if possible. Each student's lowest quiz grade will be dropped at the end of the semester.
- There will be either one or two tests in addition to the semester final. The policy for making up a missed test is the same for missed quizzes, except that only for a very serious reason will the instructor permit a make-up test. Usually, a formally excused absence or a doctor's note will be necessary.
- Written assignments to be completed outside class as homework will be assigned throughout the semester. This includes at least one major essay during the course of the semester. The purpose of this work is to check the students' more profound understanding of the material and to monitor his/her comprehension of their readings.
- If it is evident to the teacher that a student has used voice-recognition technology rather than writing his / her coursework submission, he reserves the right to give a failing grade, irrespective of the understanding that may be demonstrated.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance at each lecture is considered mandatory. **A student with five or more absences without previously granted permission will risk a grade reduction or loss of credit for the course at the instructor's discretion.**

INCOMPLETE WORK:

Assigned work not handed in will be given a "0". Assigned work that is tardy may suffer a 10% grade reduction for each day the assignment is late.

CLASS PARTICIPATION:

Successful learning occurs only when the student is actively focused on the class lectures and discussions. It is the student's responsibility to assimilate new material, synthesize it with previous material, and see to it that any gaps in his/her understanding be recognized and resolved. Therefore, students are strongly encouraged to ask questions pertinent to the lecture and participate in class discussions.

If students find particular difficulties with the material or any portion of it, they should not hesitate to email or arrange a meeting with the teacher, who – since he wants nothing more than that they truly understand and profit from the class – will strive to help them in assimilating the matter to the extent possible. This should be done more than a week before the test or final exam.

Class schedule and reading schedule REVISED 09/13/2022

Week 1	9/6	Introduction	<i>The Apology</i>
	9/8	The roots of Philosophy	Glenn pp. 1-46
Week 2	9/11	The Nature of Philosophy	Presocratics Reader pp. 1-38
	9/13	The Presocratics	Roochnik pp. 1-31pp.
	9/15	The Presocratics	P. Reader pp. 38-45; 55-88
Week 3	9/18	The Presocratics	Roochnik pp. 31-49
	9/20	The Presocratics	P. Reader pp. 89-143
	9/22	The Presocratics	Roochnik pp. 49-65
Week 4	9/25	The Sophists and Socrates	P. Reader pp. 161-181
	9/27	The Sophists and Socrates	Roochnik pp. 66-90
	9/29	The Sophists and Socrates	Roochnik pp. 91-126

9/30 Assignment due: Where Philosophers Disagree + Why Philosophers disagree

Week 5	10/02	Plato	Roochnik pp. 126-134;
	10/4	Plato	
	10/6	Plato	Roochnik pp. pp. 146-158
Week 6	10/11	(Mid-semester break – no classes)	Roochnik pp. pp. 158-198
	c. 10/13	Aristotle	Roochnik pp. 198-227
Week 7	10/18	Aristotle	
	10/20	MIDTERM	
Week 8	10/25	Philosophy after Aristotle	Glenn pp. 65-92
	10/27	<i>Philosophia Perennis</i>	Glenn pp. 93-117
Week 9	11/1	(All Saints day – no classes)	Glenn pp. 118-157

	11/3	Modern Philosophy	Meno
Week 10	11/8	Reading Plato	Meno
	c. 11/10 =	Reading Plato	Crito
Week 11	11/15	Reading Plato	Euthyphro
	11/17	Reading Plato	Euthyphro
Week 12	11/22	Reading Plato	Phaedo
	11/24	Thanksgiving Break – no classes)	Phaedo
Week 13	11/29	Truth and Certitude	Glenn pp. 194-226
	12/1	Truth and Certitude	<i>Aeterni Patris</i>
	12/2	Second Major Assignment due (<i>Aeterni Patris</i>)	
Week 14	12/6	Review	
	12/8	(Immaculate Conception – no classes)	
Week 15	12/13	Review	

FINAL EXAM TBA

FINAL GRADE WEIGHTING:

- Tests: 30%
- Quizzes: 10% (drop lowest)
- Written Assignments: 30%
- Final Exam: 30%