

## **ST. MARY'S COLLEGE**

### **PHI 101: INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY**

**FALL SEMESTER 2024**

**3 Credit Hours**

**PROFESSOR:** Father Paul Franks (pfranks@smac.edu)

**CLASS TIMES:** Tuesday, Thursday 1:25-2:45 PM

**LOCATION:** Room 300

**OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesday, 4:00-5:20 PM

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### **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, Socrates, selected Platonic Dialogues, and an introduction to the thought of Aristotle. The course will then provide a brief survey of philosophy after Aristotle.

### **STUDENT OUTCOMES**

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, providing a valuable and necessary context for the study of Aristotelian-Thomistic Cosmology and Psychology later in their studies.

### **REQUIRED COURSEWORK**

To obtain these outcomes the student must:

- *Read daily.* Students should take notes while reading, either in the margins or in a separate notebook.
- *Prepare questions.* Part of the notetaking process is crafting questions to ask during class. Detailed questions are welcome, but students should especially strive to craft questions that will open up the reading for them.
- *Participate in discussions.* Active participation during class will dramatically improve comprehension.

### **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.)
- *Encomium of Helen* by Gorgias (provided)

#### RECOMMENDED READING:

- Glenn, Paul J. *The History of Philosophy: A Text Book for Undergraduates*. 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.

#### CLASS SCHEDULE AND READING SCHEDULE

##### Week 1:

- 9/3: Introduction to Philosophy (*The Apology*)
- 9/5: The Roots of Philosophy (*Glenn* pp. 1-46)

##### Week 2:

- 9/10: The Nature of Philosophy (*Presocratics Reader* pp. 1-38)
- 9/12: The Presocratics (*Roochnik* pp. 1-31)  
Quiz 1: Basic Concepts and Introduction to the Presocratics
  - Class 9/12 subject to rescheduling – clash with priests' Day of Recollection

##### Week 3:

- 9/17: The Presocratics (*Presocratics Reader* pp. 38-45; 55-88)
- 9/19: The Presocratics (*Roochnik* pp. 31-49)

##### Week 4:

- 9/24: The Presocratics (*Presocratics Reader* pp. 89-143)
- 9/26: The Presocratics (*Roochnik* pp. 49-65)  
Quiz 2: The Presocratics

##### Week 5:

09/30: Assignment 1 due: Where Philosophers Disagree + Why Philosophers Disagree

- 10/1: The Sophists and Socrates (*Presocratics Reader* pp. 161-181)
- 10/3: The Sophists and Socrates (*Roochnik* pp. 66-90)

**Week 6:**

- 10/8: The Sophists and Socrates (*Roochnik* pp. 91-126)
- 10/10: *Encomium of Helen* by Gorgias  
Quiz 3: The Sophists and Socrates
  - Class 10/10 subject to rescheduling – clash with priests' Day of Recollection

**Week 7:**

- 10/15: Plato (*Roochnik* pp. 126-134)
- 10/17: Plato (*Roochnik* pp. 146-158)

**Week 8:**

- 10/22: Reading Plato (*Meno* - Part 1)
- 10/24: Reading Plato (*Meno* - Part 2)  
Quiz 4: Early Plato Dialogues

**Week 9:**

- 10/29: Reading Plato (*Meno* - Part 3)
- 10/31: No class (Mid-semester break)

**Week 10:**

- 11/5: Reading Plato (*Euthyphro* - Part 1)
- 11/7: Reading Plato (*Euthyphro* - Part 2)

**Week 11:**

- 11/12: Reading Plato (*Crito*)
- 11/14: Reading Plato (*Phaedo* pp. 93-130)  
Quiz 5: Plato's Dialogues (Meno, Euthyphro, Crito)
  - Class 11/14 subject to rescheduling – clash with priests' Day of Recollection

**Week 12:**

- 11/19: Reading Plato (*Phaedo* pp. 130-160)
- 11/21: Reading Plato (*Phaedo* pp. 160-200)

**Week 13:**

- 11/26: Aristotle (*Roochnik* pp. 158-198)

- 11/28: No class (Thanksgiving Break)

#### Quiz 6: Early Aristotle Concepts

#### Week 14:

12/2: Second Major Assignment Due (*Aeterni Patris*)

- 12/3: Aristotle (*Rochnik* pp. 198-227)
- 12/5: Philosophy after Aristotle (*Glenn* pp. 65-92)

#### Week 15:

- 12/10: Philosophia Perennis (*Glenn* pp. 93-117)
- 12/12: Final Exam Preparation
  - Class 12/12 subject to rescheduling – clash with priests' Day of Recollection

#### Final Exam:

- TBC during exam week, December 16-18

#### MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS:

- Assignment 1: *Where Philosophers Disagree + Why Philosophers Disagree*
  - Due Date: Monday, September 30, 2024
- Assignment 2: *Aeterni Patris*
  - Due Date: Monday, December 2, 2024 (before final review)

#### FINAL GRADE WEIGHTING:

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