

Phil 160D: Mind, Matter, and God

Summer Session I: June 5 – July 6 2017

Instructor: Robert Wallace, rhwallace@email.arizona.edu

Office Hours: online by appointment (Skype or chat) and on-campus by appointment in Social Sciences Room 130.

Course Description:

In this course we will explore, discuss, and critically analyze texts in the history of philosophy that deal with the topics of (you guessed it) mind, matter, and God. Specifically, we will focus on select philosophers from ancient Greece until 17th century Europe with three goals in mind: (1) developing an understanding of what philosophy is, (2) learning to grapple with problems in metaphysics and epistemology, (3) learning critical thinking and argumentative skills. Reading historical texts is difficult, but it can be extremely rewarding. In lecture and in discussion forum, we will relate these historical philosophical issues to contemporary concerns. Importantly, critical engagement with these historical texts can help us to better understand the origins of contemporary thought about the mental, the physical, and the theological.

Course goals:

This course is geared towards the development of critical thinking skills: the ability to analyze arguments, reflect on difficult ideas, and engage in rational discussion with others. Close reading skills are an important part of this development. Additionally, you will learn about some major figures in the history of Western philosophy and how to charitably engage with their work.

Required Text:

There is no required text for this course. All readings are on D2L.

Outline of the Course:

Each week, you will be expected to do the following:

- (1) Do the readings. The course is set up so you will have about 4 readings per week.
- (2) Watch the lectures for this week. Every reading will have a lecture video and PowerPoint accompanying it.
- (3) Take the weekly quiz, which will be on the readings and lectures from that week, by midnight on Sunday.
- (4) Post to the discussion forum twice during the week.

Tip: **DO NOT PROCRASTINATE.** You will not be able to get all of the readings done and watch the lectures the last few days of the week in time for the quiz. Pace yourself! Traditional classroom habits are still essential: note taking, keeping up with the readings and lectures, and actively participating in discussions online will all help you succeed in this course.

Additionally, you will need to write two short papers based on a prompt, which you will turn into the drop box on D2L. The first paper will be due at the end of the second week. The second paper will be due at the end of the fourth week.

Lastly, there will be a multiple-choice final examination, in roughly the same format as the weekly quizzes.

Most of content of the course will be available to you 24/7. There is no specific time that you need to access the lectures. The weekly quizzes for the week will be available. You are certainly allowed to read and watch ahead, just remember that the quiz for a given week must be taken during that week.

Grading Policy and Assignments:

Weekly quizzes (20% of your grade):

These short quizzes will be about the readings and lectures from this week. They will be 10 questions long, each question will be worth half a point. Quizzes will have one question per page, in randomized order. You cannot return to a question in the quiz. Quizzes for a given week will become accessible on Midnight

Discussion Posts (10% of your grade):

These should be about 150-200 word posts in response to the discussion prompt, or in response to another student's posting. You will receive .5 point for just posting, an additional half a point for showing an understanding of the readings, and a final half point for deeply engaging with the text (for a total of 1.5 points for each post).

These posts need not be fully developed thoughts, as they are meant to be a proxy for in-class discussion. If you are going to post in response to another student, please remember to be kind and thoughtful. I will absolutely not tolerate personal attacks, rude comments, or anything of the like. Your goal in these posts is to engage with the prompt and other students ideas.

Papers (45% of your grade):

You will have to write two short papers during this course. The first paper will be worth 20% of your grade and the second paper will be worth 25% of your grade. Detailed instructions for each paper will be posted on D2L. The papers should about 2-4 pages long. The assignment instructions will give you more details.

Exam (25% of your grade):

There will be a final exam in this course, worth a quarter of your grade. It will be of the same format as the weekly reading quizzes and about the same difficulty level. It will be cumulative. Nothing from the last short week will be on the exam, so don't worry!

Late Work:

Work that is handed in after the day after the deadline has passed will be marked down one full letter grade, and so on. For instance an A paper that is received within 24 hours of the deadline will receive a B, 48 hours late will receive a C, and so on. Students with an officially documented excuse will be exempt from this policy with permission from the instructor. The following *do not count* as legitimate excuses: failure to read the syllabus, sleeping in, or forgetfulness

Curving:

No grades will be curved in the course. However, as things move forward, I reserve the right to curve. It might be reasonable to curve some assignments. Additionally, the whole course may be curved depending on the grade distribution. Please do not rely on this possibility! I am merely letting you know that I am reserving the right to curve if need be.

Grade breakdown:

Weekly Quizzes: 20%
Discussion Posts: 10%
Short Paper 1: 20%
Short Paper 2: 25%
Final Exam: 25%

I will round grades up by .5, so that a 79.5 will earn a B while a 79.5 will earn a c.

There is a possibility that final grade will be assigned on a curve that creates higher grades overall, but there is no guarantee that this will happen.

Academic Integrity:

All students must abide by the requirements of the University of Arizona Code of Academic Integrity, which can be found at <http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/codeofacademicintegrity>. Ignorance of the academic integrity policies is not a viable excuse. Bottom line; please do your own work. If you have any questions about the policy, for instance, about what would or would not constitute a violation (cheating, plagiarism, etc.) please do not hesitate to ask me!

Online Behavior:

As this course will be entirely online, you will be expected to treat your fellow classmates with respect on the discussion boards. Any disruptive or disrespectful behavior on the discussion boards is strictly prohibited. The UA Threatening Behavior by Students Policy prohibits threats of physical

harm to any member of the University community, including to oneself. See <http://policy.arizona.edu/education-and-student-affairs/threatening-behavior-students>. The University is committed to creating and maintaining an environment free of discrimination; see <http://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources/nondiscrimination-and-anti-harassment-policy>

Accessibility and Accommodations:

Our goal in this classroom is that learning experiences be as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability, please let me know immediately so that we can discuss options. You are also welcome to contact the Disability Resource Center (520-621-3268) to establish reasonable accommodations. For additional information on the Disability Resource Center and reasonable accommodations, please visit <http://drc.arizona.edu>. If you have reasonable accommodations, please plan to meet with me by appointment or during office hours to discuss accommodations and how my course requirements and activities may impact your ability to fully participate. Please be aware that the accessible table and chairs in this room should remain available for students who find that standard classroom seating is not usable.

Confidentiality

Please see: <http://www.registrar.arizona.edu/ferpa/default.htm>

Incompletes and Withdrawals

Requests for incompletes (I) and withdrawal (W) must be made in accordance with university policies. Please see: <http://catalog.arizona.edu/2013-14/policies/grade.htm> - I or <http://catalog.arizona.edu/2013-14/policies/grade.htm> - W

Policy on for-profit note-taking

There are a number of organizations that sell notes from classes to students. Using these services is strictly prohibited in this class. Anyone found to be engaged in selling or buying such notes will be in violation of the rules of academic integrity for this course. According to Section D (6) (a) of the University's Intellectual Property Policy (which is available at http://www.ott.arizona.edu/uploads/ip_policy.pdf), faculty own the intellectual property for their course notes and course materials. The instructor of a course holds the copyright to his/her lectures and course materials, including student notes or summaries that substantially reflect them. Student notes and course recordings are for individual use or for shared use on an individual basis. Selling class notes and/or other course materials to other students or to a third party for resale is not permitted without the instructor's express written consent. Violations to the instructor's copyright are subject to the Code of Academic Integrity and may result in course sanctions. Additionally, students who use D2L or UA email to sell or buy these copyrighted materials are subject to Code of Conduct Violations for misuse of student email addresses.

Course Schedule:

All Readings on D2L

Week 1, June 5- 11: Pre-Socratics and Plato

Presocratics

Plato, *Apology*

_____, *Crito*

_____, *Phaedo*

Quiz due by June 11 at 11:59PM.

Week 2, June 12-18: Plato and Aristotle

Plato, *Republic Book IV*

_____, *Republic Book VI*

Aristotle, excerpts from *Categories*

_____, excerpts from *Physics*

_____, excerpts from *Metaphysics*

_____, excerpts from *On the Soul*

Quiz due by June 18 at 11:59PM

Paper 1 due by June 18 at 11:59PM

Week 3, June 19-25 Augustine, Boethius, and Anselm

Augustine, excerpts from *Confessions*

Boethius, excerpts from *The Consolations of Philosophy*

Anselm, excerpts from *Proslogian*, and “Anselm and Guanilo Debate”

Quiz due by June 26 at 11:59PM

Week 4, June 26 – July 2: Aquinas and Descartes

Aquinas, Excerpts from *Summa Theologica*

Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy*, I-IV

Quiz due by July 2 at 11:59PM

Paper 2 due July 2 at 11:59PM

Week 5, July 3-5 Descartes

Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy*, V and VI

“Descartes and Elizabeth Debate”

Exam Due by July 6 at 11:59PM.

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