

PHIL 110G Historical Introduction to Philosophy I

Fall Semester, 2021-22

Course Outline

Class Start Date & End Date

9 Sept., 2021- 9 Dec., 2021

Class Meeting Time, Location, and Room

T/Th. 2:40pm-4:05pm, St. Francis

Instructors Name: Dr. Francis Fast
Office: TBD
Office Hours: T/Th 1:00pm - 2:00pm
Telephone: TBD
Email: Francis.Fast@newman.edu
Skype: n/a

Course Description

An historical introduction to philosophy from the pre-Socratics to modern times. Topics such as the nature of God, of knowledge, of human nature, of society, of friendship, and of beauty will be studied through the close reading and discussion of representative Great Books of the Western philosophical tradition.

Course Objectives

- a) **Knowledge of major Western philosophical disciplines, especially Thomism.** - Students will demonstrate an ability to read analytically and critically assess great books in philosophy from all of the major historical periods, and to articulate the relation between the philosophical arguments studied and the implications for other disciplines, e.g. fine arts, literature, history, etc.
- b) **Skills in reading, writing and oral communication.** - Students will write argumentative essays on philosophical topics, logically assess philosophical arguments in writing and orally, and practice synthesizing the content of primary sources.

Course Assignments and Evaluation

Participation - 15%: As this class uses Socratic pedagogy, student participation in seminar discussions is required. A rubric for the participation grade will be available on the first day of class.

Short weekly assignments (0.5-1 page) - 15%: Short assignments based upon the weekly readings and discussions will be assigned at the end of the final class of each week and due at the start of the first class of each week. Each assignment should be one well-structured paragraph that develops a single idea with adequate evidence and elaboration in response to the prompt. [NB. The lowest grade from the semester in this category will be reduced in value by 50%.]

Florilegium - 10%: This is a record of key quotations and brief reflections that students will keep based upon their reading, due at the middle and end of term; you must write out by hand at least 12 passages, with a brief 1-5 sentence comment on why you choose each as a memorable text. Students must select two of these passages to commit to memory, to be quizzed at the middle and end of the semester. (Students must provide a photocopy of the page from which the original passage was drawn.)

Three short essays (3-5 pages each) - 30%: Topics in the course schedule, and rubrics will be given in class. All essays must be turned in by 5pm on the due date, via email.

Final Exam - 30%: A study guide will be offered at least one week prior to the exam.

Textbooks

Homer, *The Iliad*, trans. Robert Fagles (Penguin)
 Plato, *Republic*, trans. Allan Bloom (Basic Books)
 Seneca, *Letters from a Stoic*, trans. Robin Campbell (Penguin)
 Augustine, *Against the Academics*, trans. Peter King (Hackett)
 Boethius, *Consolation of Philosophy*, trans. Victor Watts (Oxford World Classics)
 Anselm, *Proslogion*, trans. Matthew Walz (St. Augustine's Press)

Recommended Reading

The above texts will be sufficient.

Late Submission Policy.

All assignments, unless otherwise noted, are due at the beginning of the class on the specified day. Late assignments are docked 1/3 of a letter grade (e.g. B to B-) per day, excluding Sundays and Holy Days, up to a maximum of 5 days after which the assignment will be deemed incomplete.

Course Schedule

Sep 9	Introduction to course, <i>Iliad</i> 1-6	First class.
14	<i>Iliad</i> 7-12	Assignment 1 due (2%)
16	<i>Iliad</i> 13-18	
21	<i>Iliad</i> 19-24	Assignment 2 due (2%); first participation grade given (2.5%)
23	<i>Euthyphro</i>	
28	<i>Republic</i> I	Assignment 3 due (2%)
30	<i>Republic</i> II	
Oct 5	<i>Republic</i> III	Oct 4: ESSAY 1 due (10%); second participation grade given (2.5%)
7	<i>Republic</i> IV	
12	<i>Republic</i> V	Assignment 4 due (2%)
14	<i>Republic</i> VI	
19	<i>Republic</i> VII	Assignment 5 due (2%)
21	<i>Republic</i> IX	Florilegium due. Completion check and memorization quiz. (5%)
26	Seneca, <i>Letters</i>	Assignment 6 due (2%)
28	Seneca, <i>Letters</i>	
Nov. 2	Augustine, <i>Against the Academics</i>	Assignment 7 due (2%)
4	Augustine, <i>Against the Academics</i>	Third participation grade given (5%)
9	The Solemn Festival of Reading Week	
11	Remembrance Day	
16	Augustine, <i>Against the Academics</i>	Assignment 8 due (2%)
18	Boethius, <i>Consolation of Philosophy</i> I	
23	Boethius, <i>Consolation of Philosophy</i> II	Nov 22: ESSAY 2 due (10%)
25	Boethius, <i>Consolation of Philosophy</i> III	
30	Boethius, <i>Consolation of Philosophy</i> IV	
Dec 2	Boethius, <i>Consolation of Philosophy</i> V	
2	Anselm, <i>Proslogion</i>	Florilegium due. Completion check and memorization quiz. (5%)
9	Review class/ <i>Proslogion</i>	Dec 8: ESSAY 3 due (10%), fourth participation grade given (5%)

As published	Final Exam	Final Exam (30%)
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Essay Prompts

ESSAY 1 (Oct 4)

How does Socrates argue that Justice and Piety must be something in themselves, rather than something dependent on the wills of the powerful? Does Homer also share this insight, or does he ultimately think that the gods/heroes determine what is just?

ESSAY 2 (Nov 22)

Choose one author we have read prior to Augustine (or one perspective that Augustine himself addresses) and discuss what they think it means to be wise. Elaborate specifically a) the extent to which they think we can understand the world, and b) how our capacity to understand shapes, in turn, how we ought to lead our lives. What would Augustine say about their view?

ESSAY 3 (Dec 8)

According to Boethius, what is philosophy and how does it console us? How do its consolations compare with those available to mortals in the Iliad? Does Boethius have any fundamental insight into human nature that Homer lacks?

General Academic Information

Course Attendance

No credit will be given for a course if the student has been absent, for any reason whatever, from one-third or more of the lectures and/or seminars scheduled for the term. Likewise, no credit will be given if term assignments or other assignments are or remain incomplete.

Leave of Absence and Policy for Incompletes

Extensions to an incomplete grade may be granted in extenuating circumstances, but may not exceed 16 weeks following the end of the course. Students who fail to complete course work by the agreed deadline will have a grade assigned which is based on work completed.

Academic Integrity

Acts of academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating, etc.) are subject to an appropriate penalty. The grade "F" may be assigned to a student guilty of such acts by the professor of the course in which the infraction occurred. A second offense against academic integrity renders the student liable to automatic dismissal from NTC. Further details are available in the Student Handbook in the Academic Misconduct Policy.

Academic Grievances

Students may appeal grades received; the procedure is outlined in the Student Handbook in the Grade Appeal Policy. For other grievances, students will refer to the Student Grievances Policy also outlined in the Student Handbook.

NOTE: The GPA is computed on the basis of cumulative grade point (letter) values, not percentage values. All courses are included in this calculation except those exceeding degree requirements and/or received as transfer credits from other recognized institutions.

Grading System

Undergraduate Studies		
Grade Meaning	Grade	Grade Point
Excellent	A+	4.0
	A	4.0
	A-	3.7
Good	B+	3.3
	B	3.0
	B-	2.7
Adequate	C+	2.3
	C	2.0
	C-	1.7
Marginal	D+	1.3
	D	1.0
Fail	F	0.0

Graduate Studies		
Grade Meaning	Grade	Grade Point
Excellent	A+	4.0
	A	4.0
	A-	3.7
Good	B+	3.3
	B	3.0
	B-	2.7
Adequate	C+	2.3
	C	2.0
	C-	1.7
Fail	D+	1.3
	D	1.0
	F	0.0

Written Assignments - Style and Format

Newman Theological College requires that all written work be submitted in acceptable academic format and style. Please note the following regulations:

Regulations

Research papers, book reports, article summaries, reflection papers, and essays should be double-spaced, printed on one side only, and submitted on white, 8.5" x 11" paper.

A standard type style, such as Times New Roman, with a 12-point font size, must be used. The instructor will specify the most recent edition of the style manual to be used:

1. Kate Turabian, "A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations" (Chicago: University of Chicago Press).
2. Joseph Gibaldi & William Ahters, eds., "MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers" (New York: Modern Language Association of America).
3. American Psychological Association "Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association" (Washington: APA Publications).

Copies of these standard references may be purchased in the NTC bookstore.

Ignorance of standard form is not considered an acceptable excuse for deviation from required standards of format and style.

Academic Regulations

The following Academic Regulations are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Changes in Registration: Add/Drop/Withdraw Notice
- Course Work
- Final Examination Schedule
- Incomplete Grade Policy
- Inclusive Language

Related Academic Matters

The following Related Academic Matters are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Grade Reports & Posting
- Glossary of Academic Terms

Other Related Policies

The following policies are located in the Student Handbook for your reference:

- Academic Misconduct Policy
- Grade Appeal Policy

Recording of Lectures

Audio or video recording of lectures, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior consent of the instructor. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Student Accessibility Services:

A student with special needs that could affect their performance in class should contact their professor during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. They should also register with Student Services by contacting Sr. Zoe Bernatsky at 780-392-2450 ext. 2213; email zoe.bernatsky@newman.edu

Bibliography (May be distributed in class.)