

AZUSA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

PHIL 220: Introduction to Philosophy

Fall Term 2008

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APU Mission Statement:

Azusa Pacific University is an evangelical Christian community of disciples and scholars who seek to advance the work of God in the world through academic excellence in liberal arts and professional programs of higher education that encourage students to develop a Christian perspective of truth and life.

Philosophy Department Mission Statement:

The philosophy program exists to help undergraduate students become complete people who reason and think reflectively about responses to the world, liberated from inadequate concepts and actions. In specific, the program equips its majors to become effective and faithful philosophers, well prepared for further philosophical education as well as for a range of professional careers, by exposing them to the history and methods of philosophy, inspiring them to see philosophy as a tool for the discipleship of the mind, motivating them to explore philosophy further, and training them in advanced philosophical topics and analytical, reflective and expressive skills.

Course Description:

This course helps students understand the world better by studying significant interpretations of the self, the world, and God that have been offered by thinkers past and present—the major concerns of philosophy. *Meets general studies core requirements in heritage and institutions.*

Required Textbook:

All assigned readings are handouts.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course the student should be able to:

1. identify key thinkers, terms and issues in philosophy
2. comprehend the relationship between philosophical and theological thinking
3. analyze and evaluate philosophical arguments
4. construct basic philosophical arguments

Evaluation:

Students will:

1. take two exams that cover philosophical terms and arguments (Course Objectives 1, 2, 3)
2. write one paper (4-5 pages in length double-spaced and appropriately referenced) on an argument for God's existence. The student will consider one of the traditional proofs for God's existence—the ontological, cosmological, teleological or moral proof—summarize the argument, and evaluate the argument. Students will be evaluated on their ability to (1) state a clearly formulated thesis (2) define their terms appropriately (3) summary of others' arguments, (4) clarity of expression (5) appropriate grammar and style, and (6) their ability to construct their own arguments (Course Objectives 1,2,3).
3. will periodically turning weekly assignments on the readings (Course Objectives 1,2,3,4)

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|-------------------|------------------|
| Weekly assignment | 20 points |
| God Paper | 20 points |
| Exam #1 | 30 points |
| <u>Exam #2</u> | <u>30 points</u> |
| Total | 100 points |

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|----|--------------|
| A | 95-100 |
| A- | 92-94 |
| B+ | 89-91 |
| B | 86-88 |
| B- | 83-85 |
| C+ | 80-82 |
| C | 77-79 |
| C- | 74-76 |
| D+ | 71-73 |
| D | 68-70 |
| F | 67 and below |

Student Expectations:

Students are expected to:

1. attend class faithfully
2. be prepared for class by doing assignments punctually and participating when requested to do so
3. respect other regardless by
 - a. not reading extraneous materials in class
 - b. not working on their laptops in class
 - c. by turning off cell phones, pagers and beepers in class
 - d. by staying awake and attentive in class
 - e. by not interrupting
4. not plagiarizing or cheating in any way

Faculty Expectations:

The faculty member is expected to:

1. prepare for class faithfully and arrive punctually
2. respect students by listening attentively and thoughtfully
3. return past assignments before collecting new ones

Course Policies:

1. Attendance is critical for this course since philosophy is an activity engaged in by a community of thinkers. For every 1 unexcused absences the final grade will be lowered by on half letter grade
2. Late papers or assignments are not accepted.
3. No extra credit will be offered.
4. Students with special learning needs must notify the instructor the first week of class to insure that the course can accommodate these needs.
5. In case of absence, the student must notify the instructor **prior** to the class period if the absence is to be considered “excused” (e.g., illness or family emergency).
6. Early exams are not permitted so schedule your breaks accordingly.
7. The instructor reserves the right to adjust the schedule according to the progress the class makes and any unforeseen exigencies.

SCHEDULE:

| SESSION | TOPIC |
|---------|--|
| 1 | Introduction to the Course. |
| | EPISTEMOLOGY: |
| 2 | ASSIGNMENT: Descartes' <i>Meditations 1-5</i> & Plato's <i>Allegory of the Cave</i> |
| 3 | The Problem of Knowledge in the Rationalist Tradition; ASSIGNMENT: Locke's <i>Essay on Human Understanding</i> |
| 4 | Problem of Knowledge in Rationalism and Empiricism; ASSIGNMENT: Hume's <i>Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding</i> , Ayer's <i>Language Truth, and Logic</i> . |
| | GOD: |
| 5 | The Existence of God. ASSIGNMENT: Anslem's, <i>Proslogium</i> , Aquinas <i>Summa Theologiae</i> Ia, question 2; Descartes' <i>Meditation 3</i> |
| 6 | God continued. Problem of Evil and counter-arguments. ASSIGNMENT: Hume's <i>Dialogues on Natural Religion</i> |
| 7 | God Continued. Divine Attributes & Freedom and Foreknowledge. ASSIGNMENT: TBA |
| | ETHICS |
| 8 | EXAM #1. Ethical Theories. ASSIGNMENT: Mill's <i>Utilitarianism</i> , Kant's <i>Foundations of the Metaphysics of Morals</i> . |
| 9 | Ethical Theories. ASSIGNMENT: Aristotle's <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> and Aquinas' <i>Treatise on Law</i> |
| 10 | Ethical Theories. ASSIGNMENT: TBA |
| | SCIENCE, PHILOSOPHY & THEOLOGY |
| 11 | The Galileo Affair. ASSIGNMENT: Galileo's <i>Letter to the Grand Duchess Christina</i> . |
| 12 | Darwin & Evolution. ASSIGNMENT: TBA |
| 13 | Divine Action, Miracles, and Prayer |
| 14 | EXAM #2 |

Select Bibliography:

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