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Fall 2015

PHIL 2311

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University of New Orleans

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PHIL 2311:History of Ancient and Medieval Philosophy (3 credits)

Fall 2015

SECTION 001: LA 372, M, W F, 3:00 p.m. – 3:50 p.m.

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Schalow
Office: UNO: LA 383
Office Hours: M, W, F, 8:30-9:00;11:00-12:00; 2:30-3:00 (and by appointment)
Office Phone: (504) 280-6815
Email: fschalow@uno.edu
Course Webpages: Accessed via Moodle

Required Texts

[1] *The Great Conversation, Vol. I: Pre-Socratic through Descartes*, by Norman Melchert (Seventh Edition). Oxford: 2014. ISBN 978-0-19-999967-5.

Course Description

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: A survey of philosophy from the early Greeks through the middle ages, including such philosophers as the Pre-Socratics, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, and Thomas Aquinas.

COURSE OVERVIEW: The course is designed to introduce the student to the origin and development of the Western philosophical tradition. The course provides a historical chronology of the the greatest philosophers who span the ancient and medieval eras: from the pre-Socratics through Aristotle, and St. Augustine through St. Thomas Aquinas. Major topics include metaphysical questions of being, the origin of the world, the existence of God, and the immortality of the soul.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successfully completing this course, students will be able to do the following:

- to recognize philosophical questions, particularly those surrounding moral controversies
- to know the key positions in ancient and medieval philosophy
- to understand and articulate the central philosophical questions that have surfaced from the early Greeks through the Middle Ages.
- work with philosophical concepts and methods, and to construct and evaluate arguments
- to participate in classroom discussion, developing and displaying an ability and readiness to defend one's own point of view while listening openly but carefully to others.
- to demonstrate a willingness to entertain criticism, formulate and reply to reasonable objections, and represent opposing views both critically and sympathetically
- to read both primary and secondary texts and analyze the arguments contained in them correctly.

Grading

Requirement		Final grade	
Analytical Paper	(16%) 16 points	A	100-89.5
First exam	(28%) 28 points	B	89.4-79.5
Second exam	(28%) 28 points	C	79.4-69.5
Third exam	(28%) 28 points	D	69.4-59.5
		F	59.4—0

Course Requirements

ANALAYTICAL PAPER: The primary reason for attending college is to begin the process of becoming a scholar by reflecting on complicated questions related to the human experience. To this end, each student is required to write an “analytical” paper, developing, examining, and critizing a key argument from one of the philosophers. A primary example would be dissecting St. Anslem’s ontological proof for God’s existence or St. Thomas Aquinas’s proof from “possibility and necessity.” The paper must be submitted in dublicate, 1) uploaded to Moodle and 2) a hardcopy delivered to the professor in class. The paper is due on Nov. 25 (Wed). The paper is worth 16% of the student’s final grade. **Late Papers:** All papers received after that date will be deducted 5 points for each day late. *The paper must be submitted in either a Word or PDF format.*

TESTS: Three tests (including the final) will be given throughout the semester. Each test counts 28% toward the student’s final grade. For students who miss an exam, see “Make-Up” policy below.

PARTICIPATION: Participating in class is encouraged, and can impact the student’s final grade in a positive way in the case of “borderline” grades.

Course Policies

ACADEMIC HONESTY Academic dishonesty undermines the academic enterprise and includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarizing, tampering with academic records or exams, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. If you’re foolish enough to do something like this, you’ll be expelled from the course with a failing grade and will be reported to the university.

ATTENDANCE Attendance is expected at all class meetings. Students who miss more than 7 classes throughout the semester will have the tally of their final grade deducted one letter, e.g., from “A” to “B”.

DISABILITY POLICY It is university policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accomodation to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activies or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities are encouraged to contract their instructors to discuss their individual needs for accommodations. If you any questions, contact the Office of Disability Serviced at UC 260, (504 280-6222 (Voice).

MAKE-UP EXAMS: Make-up exams are allowed. However, the penalty for missing a test (for whatever reason) is a deduction of 8 points from that exam. **Make-up exams will only be given during my office hours.**

Class Conduct: Each student is requires to act in a civil and respectful way.

WITHDRAWALS: You may withdraw from this course for any reason. Look in the University calander for the last day to withdraw.

WARNING!

Philosophy requires critical thinking. It is not for everyone.

Course Schedule (Subject to change)**Reading is due for the date listed. All page numbers refer to the required course text.**

Date	Section	Reading
Aug. 19	“Introduction”	
Aug. 21	The Struggle Between Myth and Reason	<i>The Great Conversation</i> , pp. 4-9
Aug. 24	The Pre-Socratics	<i>GC</i> , 10-14 (Thales)
Aug. 26	Anaximander and the Unlimited	<i>GC</i> , 12-18
Aug. 28	Parmenides and Heraclitus	<i>GC</i> , 19-30
Aug. 31	Democritus and Pythagoras	<i>GC</i> , 32-38
Sep. 2	The Sophists	<i>GC</i> , 39-51
Sep. 4	Who Was Socrates?	<i>GC</i> , 61-71
Sep. 9	The “Euthyphro”	<i>GC</i> , 73-86
Sep. 11	The Death of Socrates	<i>GC</i> , 86-113
Sep. 14	The Question of Immortality	<i>GC</i> , 114-117
Sep. 16	Review	
Sep. 18	Test #1	
Sep. 21	Plato and the Forms	<i>GC</i> , 118-134
Sep. 23	Cont.	Cont.
Sep. 25	Ethics and Politics	<i>GC</i> , 134-154
Sep. 28	Aristotle and the Question of Nature (<i>Physis</i>)	<i>GC</i> , 155-158
Sep. 30	The “Four Causes,” and “Substance”	<i>GC</i> , 159-173
Oct. 2	Being as “Substance”	<i>GC</i> (cont.)
Oct. 5	Theology, and the “Unmoved” Mover	<i>GC</i> , 176-178
Oct. 7	Cont.	<i>GC</i> , (cont.)
Oct. 9	Consultation Day and Paper Discussion	
Oct. 12	Aristotle, and the “Good Life”	<i>GC</i> , 183-196
Oct. 14	Aristotle, Ethics, and Virtue	<i>GC</i> , (cont.)
Oct. 16	Midsemester Break (Fri.)	
Oct. 19	Epicureans and the Stoics	<i>GC</i> , 197-216
Oct. 21	Review	
Oct. 23	Test #2	
Oct. 26	The Rise of Christianity	<i>GC</i> , 217-225
Oct. 28	St. Augustine	<i>GC</i> , 226-246
Oct. 30	Paper Day	
Nov. 2	The “Two Cities”	<i>GC</i> , 247-257
Nov. 4	St. Anselm, and Proving God’s Existence	<i>GC</i> , 259-263
Nov. 6	The Ontological Proof, its Structure and Form	
Nov. 9	Criticism of Proof (Guilano to Kant)	
Nov. 11	St. Thomas Aquinas	<i>GC</i> , 264-272

Nov. 13	New Proofs for God's Existence	GC, 272-2778
Nov. 23	Natural Law Theory, Ockham's Razor and the Duns Scotus—late Scholasticism	GC, 278-291
Nov. 25	Consultation Day, Papers Due	
Nov. 30	The End of Medieval Philosophy	GC, 292-306
Dec. 2	Review	
Dec. 4	Concluding Discussion	
Dec. 9	Final Exam (Wed.), 3:00-3:50	

SYLLBABUS ATTACHEMENT (Fall, 2015)

Important Dates*

Last day to adjust schedule w/out fee 08/18/2015

Semester Classes Begin 08/19/2015

Last day to adjust schedule w/fee,

or withdraw with 100% refund 08/25/2015

Last day to apply for December commencement 09/25/2015

Final day to drop a course or resign 10/14/2015

Mid-semester examinations. 10/05-10/09/2015

Final examinations 12/07-12/11/2015

Commencement 12/18/2015

**Note: check Registrar's website for Saturday and A/B sessions, and for items not listed here:*

<http://www.registrar.uno.edu>

Fall Semester Holidays

Labor Day 09/07/2015

Mid-semester break 10/15-10/16/2015

Thanksgiving 11/26-11/27/2015

Withdrawal Policy – Undergraduate only

Students are responsible for initiating action to resign from the University (withdraw from all courses) or from a course on or before dates indicated in the current Important dates calendar. Students who fail to resign by the published final date for such action will be retained on the class rolls even though they may be absent for the remainder of the semester and be graded as if they were in attendance. Failure to attend classes does not constitute a resignation. Check the dates on the Registrar's website, <http://www.registrar.uno.edu>. Please consult The Bulletin for charges associated with dropping and adding courses.

Incomplete Policy – Undergraduate only

The grade of I means *incomplete* and is given for work of passing quality but which, because of circumstances beyond the student's control, is not complete. The issuance of the grade of I is at the discretion of the faculty member teaching the course. For all graduate and undergraduate students, a grade of I becomes a grade of F if it is not converted before the deadline for adding courses for credit (as printed in the Important Dates Calendar) of the next regular semester including summer semester.

Repeat Policy

When a student is permitted to repeat a course for credit, the last grade earned shall be the one which determines course acceptability for degree credit. A student who has earned a C or better in a course may not repeat that course unless, (1) the catalog description indicates that the course may be repeated for credit, or (2) the student's Dean gives prior approval for documented extenuating circumstances.

Graduate Policies

Graduate policies often vary from undergraduate policies. To view the applicable policies for graduate students, see the Graduate Student Handbook: <http://www.uno.edu/grad/documents/GraduateStudentHandbook2014.pdf>

Academic Dishonesty Policy

<http://www.uno.edu/student-affairs-enrollment-management/documents/academic-dishonesty-policy-rev2014.pdf>

Safety Awareness Facts and Education

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender is a Civil Rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources here: <http://www.uno.edu/student-affairs-enrollment-management/>

UNO Counseling Services and UNO Cares

UNO offers care and support for students in any type of distress. Counseling Services assist students in addressing mental health concerns through assessment, short-term counseling, and career testing and counseling. Find out more at <http://www.uno.edu/counseling-services/>. First-year students often have unique concerns, and UNO Cares is designed to address those students succeed. Contact UNO Cares through <http://www.uno.edu/fye/uno-cares.aspx>.

Emergency Procedures

Sign up for emergency notifications via text and/or email at E2Campus Notification: <http://www.uno.edu/ehso/emergency-communications/index.aspx>. All emergency and safety procedures are explained at the Emergency Health and Safety Office: <http://www.uno.edu/ehso/>.

Diversity at UNO

As the most diverse public university in the state, UNO maintains a Diversity Affairs division to support the university's efforts towards creating an environment of healthy respect, tolerance, and appreciation for the people from all walks of life, and the expression of intellectual point of view and personal lifestyle. The Office of Diversity Affairs promotes these values through a wide range of programming and activities. <http://diversity.uno.edu/index.cfm>

Learning and Support Services

Help is within reach in the form of learning support services, including tutoring in writing and math and other supplemental instruction. Visit the Learning Resource Center in LA 334, or learn more at <http://www.uno.edu/lrc/>.

Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity

UNO is an equal opportunity employer. The Human Resource Management department has more information on UNO's compliance with federal and state regulations regarding EEOC in its Policies and Resources website: <http://www.uno.edu/human-resource-management/policies.aspx>