

**Phil 120B: Intro. To Philosophy**  
**Moravian College**  
**Spring 2006**

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I. Course Description

Tasks and subject matters of philosophy, including major theories of reality, knowledge, religion, morality and social justice. Attention to several classic philosophical texts as primary reading sources.

II. Course Objectives

- A. To develop the habit of considering philosophical presuppositions in agreement for or against a solution to any problem.
- B. To develop the ability to think critically and logically, and to evaluate ideas.
- C. To formulate an argument and support it with reasonable justification.
- D. To develop the ability to reflect and philosophize concerning life and its meaning.
- E. To broaden one's philosophical perspectives by studying contrasting views.
- F. To acquaint the student with a variety of philosophies and ideas both historical, and recent, that influence contemporary understandings and values.
- G. To relate the discipline of philosophy to other disciplines and to see how these disciplines impact philosophical thinking.

III. Course Materials

A. Required Books:  
*Readings on Ultimate Questions*, Nils Ch. Rauhut & Renee Smith, eds., 1<sup>st</sup> edition, Pearson Longman, New York, 2005

B. Supplementary Materials:  
Assigned reserve readings and movies will be available at Reeves Library.  
You will receive handouts as required.

IV. Course Evaluation

Students will be evaluated based on the following items:

#### A. Reflection Papers (60%)

A series of five (5) original reflection papers in which you will address specific assigned questions related to the philosophical area under study. You will address these questions with reference to the assigned readings in no more than 2- 3 pages. They will be graded on the quality of philosophical argumentation exhibited and the manner of presentation. These papers will be used as the basis for in-class discussion.

#### B. Final Paper (20%)

This will be take home exam in which you will be able to use your readings and your notes in answering. This paper should be 3-4 pages in length and will concentrate on those areas not covered in the reflection papers. As with those papers, you will be graded on the quality of your argumentation and your manner of presentation.

#### C. Class Participation (20%)

Discussion is at the heart of the philosophical enterprise, therefore active participation in the class and class discussion is required.

#### E. Grading Scale:

|      |             |
|------|-------------|
| A    | 92.5 and up |
| A-   | 89.5-92.4   |
| B+   | 87.5-89.4   |
| B    | 82.5-87.4   |
| B-   | 79.5-82.4   |
| etc. |             |

All work will receive a numerical grade. Your final grade will be rounded to the nearest whole integer.

#### V. Attendance and Honor Philosophy

Students are expected to regularly attend class. Attendance contributes to your class participation and therefore is important. If you must miss class, it is your responsibility to notify the instructor and to insure that arrangements are made to make up all missed assignments or material. You are also expected to hand in all assignments on time. If you must be late with your work, you must make arrangements with the instructor prior to the due date. Failure to do so may result in the lowering of the grade for late submission.

Students have an obligation to exhibit honesty in all their work. You will be found to have violated this obligation if you plagiarize or cheat. Any violation will result in the lowering of your grade. Plagiarizing is presenting the work of others as one's own; cheating is taking, giving or accepting illicit advantage for any course work inside or outside the classroom.



- Apr. 10      God, Good & Evil II  
                 Rauhut & Smith, 447-495
- Apr. 17      Moral Philosophy I                      **Paper #5 Due: 4/17**  
                 Rauhut & Smith, 511-569  
                 Movie: *The Lord of the Rings*
- Apr. 24      Moral Philosophy II  
                 Rauhut & Smith, 569-612
- May 1        Final Paper Due