

MORAVIAN COLLEGE
PHIL 120(A): Introduction to Philosophy
FALL 2014 – T/R – 2:35-3:45pm
COMENIUS HALL ROOM 213

Instructor: Dr. Brian Foley
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Office Hours: T/R – 4-5pm

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 source readings.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course students should be capable of carefully analyzing, understanding, evaluating, and comparing some representative texts in philosophy. Students should be able to identify and explain the reasoning employed and the subsequent conclusions arrived at by the philosophers read in class and should be capable of detecting and articulating possible objections to the philosophic theories discussed throughout the course. Students should gain an understanding of the historical significance of the philosophers studied in class.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

It is expected that students shall recognize and appreciate the significance of philosophic investigation with respect to subject matter, methodology, and historical presence and influence. Specifically, students should become more knowledgeable in the areas of logic, epistemology, ethics, and metaphysics, and in the process shall learn how philosophers have contributed to the origination and subsequent development of a variety of disciplines, both academic as well as social/political. It is further expected that students shall improve their critical thinking, reading, and communicative skills, both written and oral, as they analyze, question, and resolve difficulties discovered in their readings and discussions throughout the semester.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Plato. *Protagoras and Meno*. ISBN: 9780801488658
Descartes, Rene. *Meditations on First Philosophy*. ISBN: 0268013810
Nietzsche, Friedrich. *Beyond Good and Evil*. ISBN: 0521779138

COURSE FORMAT

Each class in this course, with the exception of exam dates, will be a combination of lecture and discussion, focusing on careful analysis and accurate readings of primary source material. Due to the nature of the subject matter there will be a greater emphasis on lecturing, although all students are encouraged to participate meaningfully in class discussion and to raise questions and offer comments regularly.

GRADING AND ATTENDANCE POLICY

The course grade will be based on three in class, open book/notes, essay examinations. Each exam will constitute 1/3 of the course grade. The instructor shall use qualitative judgment in determining grades for this course. Exams are not cumulative. Students must attend classes regularly and take exams when scheduled. Tardiness and excessive absences will result in a lowered grade or failure for the course: four excused absences will be permitted, after that each absence will lower the student's final grade by five points. Make-up exams may be given or refused at the discretion of the instructor. Students who have been absent or foresee the need to be absent must make arrangements to make up any missed work. Students are responsible for all material covered in class.

COURSE OUTLINE

8/26 - 8/28	-	Introduction. Plato. <i>Meno</i> . 70a-73d1
9/2 - 9/4	-	Plato. <i>Meno</i> . 73d2-77a1, 77a1-80e1
9/9 - 9/11	-	Plato. <i>Meno</i> . 80e2-86e1, 86e2-90a1
9/16 - 9/18	-	Plato. <i>Meno</i> . 90a2-95b1, 95b2-100c
9/23 - 9/25	-	EXAM #1 - Handouts, Descartes Introduction.
9/30 - 10/2	-	Descartes. <i>Meditations</i> . 61-77, 87-97
10/7 - 10/9	-	Descartes. <i>Meditations</i> . 99-117, 119-137[22]
10/14 - 10/16	-	<i>No Class on Tuesday</i> . Descartes. <i>Meditations</i> . 137[23]-149
10/21 - 10/23	-	Descartes. <i>Meditations</i> . 151-167, 169-183
10/28 - 10/30	-	Descartes. <i>Meditations</i> . 185-199[10], 199[11]-217
11/4 - 11/6	-	EXAM #2 - Nietzsche. <i>BGE</i> . 3-11[9]
11/11 - 11/13	-	Nietzsche. <i>BGE</i> . 11[10]-24, 43-57
11/18 - 11/20	-	Nietzsche. <i>BGE</i> . 75-92, 25-42
11/25 - 11/27	-	Nietzsche. <i>BGE</i> . 151-160[262] – <i>No Class on Thursday</i>
12/2 - 12/4	-	Nietzsche. <i>BGE</i> . 160[263]-177 - EXAM #3

Students are to have completed the reading assignments prior to each class meeting on the dates listed in the course outline.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Students are expected to comply with basic principles of academic honesty in completing all course requirements. Violations of the code of academic honesty include, but are not limited to, the following actions: Using or attempting to use any form of unauthorized assistance, materials, or study aids in examinations. Each student in this class is directly responsible for understanding the ideas in these texts as they are presented and discussed in this course. Any other information regarding these philosophers and/or texts, whether obtained through articles, books, discussion with others, the internet, etc., outside of this course, will not be suitable for the writing of essay examinations in this course. Any violation(s) of this policy will result in serious academic penalties including, but not limited to, the following: failing a particular exam, failing the entire course, and in cases of plagiarism students face academic probation and/or expulsion from the college.

***Please refer to the Academic Honesty policy as explained in the Student Handbook (32-38) or online at:** <http://www.moravian.edu/studentLife/handbook/academic/academic2.html>

EMAIL POLICY

All communications should be made using Moravian College email accounts; this is to protect your privacy, and to ensure that correspondences between students and the instructor are received.

STATEMENT ON ACCOMMODATIONS

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability must contact Ms. Elaine Mara, assistant director of academic support services for academic and disability support, at the lower level of Monocacy Hall, or by calling [610-861-1401](tel:610-861-1401). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this course syllabus at any time during the semester.