

MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY
Department of Philosophy

Graduate Course Descriptions – Spring 2001 (20002)

PHIL 209 - TEXT/SEMINAR ON ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY:

(PREREQUISITE(S): Consent of Dept. Chair)

Section 1001 -- MW 11:00-12:15, DR. OWEN GOLDIN

[Section Title: Aristotle's Metaphysics: Central Books]

This is a seminar on Aristotle's CATEGORIES 1-5 and METAPHYSICS Zeta, Eta and Theta (&-9).

TEXT: Reeve, SUBSTANTIAL KNOWLEDGE, and, if I can arrange an affordable reprint, Lewis, SUBSTANCE AND PREDICATION IN ARISTOTLE.

REQUIREMENTS: class presentations and one major paper. Students should have a copy of Ross' translation, which is in the McKeon collection of Aristotle's writings and, in a revised form, in the Barnes collection.

PHIL 214 - MEDIEVAL ISLAMIC THOUGHT

(PREREQUISITE(S): Consent of Dept. Chair)

Section 1001 -- M 12:35-3:15, DR. RICHARD TAYLOR

Islamic philosophical thought of the medieval period. Lectures and discussion of the Greek philosophical and Islamic theological background and of the major figures of Islamic thought (al-Kindi, al-Farabi, Ibn Sina [Avicenna], al-Ghazali, Ibn Rushd [Averroes], et alii.) Frequent specific reference will be made to the influence of Islamic philosophy on the Latin West as well as to Greek sources for Islamic philosophy. Among the topics discussed will be the development of the doctrine of essence and existence; developments of Greek tradition of philosophical psychology; the relationship of philosophy and religion and the attendant problem of religious language and its meaning; theories of political philosophy. Some seminars on selected texts and topics; course paper of ca. 20+ pp.

TEXTS: Hyman, PHILOSOPHY IN THE MIDDLE AGES; Lerner, MEDIEVAL POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY; Schimmel, ISLAM, AN INTRODUCTION; Leaman, A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO ISLAMIC PHILOSOPHY

REQUIREMENTS: Course paper of ca. 20+pp. developed from seminars; final exam with possible essay questions distributed in advance.

PHIL 217 - ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

(PREREQUISITE(S): Consent of Dept. Chair)

Section 1001 -- TTH 9:35-10:50, DR. ANDREW TALLON

By a selection of representative texts analyzed in class we will establish and critique Aquinas's positions on the dynamic structure of intelligence (affection, cognition, volition) as the experience of the embodied soul (the human person as finite spirit), the ethical and ontological nature of the personal and impersonal worlds, and God. Thus Aquinas's anthropology, ontology, ethics, and (natural) theology will be the four areas covered.

Attention will be paid to Thomas's several methods, important influences, and creative interpretations by twentieth-century Thomists such as Rousselot, Rahner, and Lonergan in dialogue with philosophers such as Kant, Blondel, Heidegger, Merleau-Ponty, Ricoeur, and Levinas.

TEXTS: There are no required books since everything is available online. There are four optional books, namely, Lonergan, UNDERSTANDING AND BEING; Torrell, ST. THOMAS AQUINAS, VOLUME 1; Rousselot, INTELLIGENCE; Rahner, HEARER OF THE WORLD.

REQUIREMENTS: Grades will come from four short papers on the four areas named above, class discussion of the texts, and a final paper. Emphasis will be on developing the ability to interpret and write on Aquinas's texts in dialogue with contemporary thought.

PHIL 232 - KANT

(PREREQUISITE(S): Consent of Dept. Chair)

Section 1001 -- MW 9:35-10:50, FR. JOHN TRELOAR, SJ

This course will be a textual analysis of THE CRITIQUE OF PURE REASON (Paul Guyer and Allen Wood, trans. and eds., Cambridge University Press, paperback) and THE CRITIQUE OF PRACTICAL REASON (in Practical Philosophy. Mary Gregor, trans. Cambridge University Press, 1996, paperback). Supplementary work will be done with the PROLEGOMENA TO ANY FUTURE METAPHYSICS (James W. Ellington trans. and ed. Hackett, 1977, paperback) and the GROUNDWORK OF THE METAPHYSICS OF MORALS (in Practical Philosophy, cited above). Anyone aspiring to be a professional philosopher should have studied these two "Critiques." The Prolegomena, and The Groundwork are probably the works one will teach undergraduates when one deals with Kant at that level of study.

TEXTS: All required - Kant, THE CRITIQUE OF PRACTICAL REASON, PRACTICAL PHILOSOPHY, THE PROLEGOMENA TO ANY FUTURE METAPHYSICS.

REQUIREMENTS: Written Work a) two short papers, 10 pages each - no more. b) Long Paper, 20 to 30 pages. This paper may be on any topic in either of Kant's two critiques. The topic will be agreed upon in consultation with the instructor. Only paper topics first chosen in consultation with the instructor will be acceptable as the final research project. c) Final Examination. Format - The examination will consist of two questions on which you will write for one hour each. There will be a selection of questions from which to choose. You will be expected to write one answer on Kantian theoretical philosophy and one on Kantian ethics.

PHIL 253 - POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

(PREREQUISITE(S): Consent of Dept. Chair)

Section 1001 -- TTH 11:00-12:15, DR. EDDY SOUFFRANT

The liberal state is believed justified to the extent that it protects the individual's liberty. The individual's freedom to express herself however stops at the moment where she harms society or any one of its members. Our focus in the course will be to explore the constituents of the justification of negative and positive liberty. Our primary resources will Hegel, Marx, Mill, T.H. Green, Isaiah Berlin, F. A. Hayek, MacCallum, Charles Taylor.

The course will explore the history of the idea of Liberty. Some of the issues to be taken up in the class will be, for example, the moral foundation of the state, the role of the state vis-a- vis its constituency. We shall consider also the foundations of the concept of negative freedom and examine the alternatives to that powerful concept.

One of the alternatives to be looked at closely in the course will be the concept of positive freedom. And we shall end the class with an examination of at least one constructive attempt to apply some of the components of positive freedom to contemporary society.

REQUIREMENTS: the student will be required to make an in-class presentation/paper and to write a final 10-15 page paper.

PHIL 259 - PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

(PREREQUISITE(S): Consent of Dept. Chair)

Section 1001 -- TTH 12:35-1:50, DR. ANTHONY PERESSINI

We will examine some of the problems in contemporary philosophy of science - both general issues and issues specific to particular sciences. We will divide our time (approximately) equally between issues of concern to science in general and issues that arise in particular sciences. Some of the general issues we will cover concern: theories, causation, explanation, confirmation, reduction, and realism/instrumentalism. The primary areas for specific issues will be biology, physics, and mathematics. A good number of the readings for the course will be drawn from Curd & Cover (eds), PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE. We will also use Lambert and Brittan, AN INTRODUCTION TO THE PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE. The remainder of the readings will be on reserve in the library.

PHIL 289 - GERMAN PHENOMENOLOGY-EXISTENTIALISM

(PREREQUISITE(S): Consent of Dept. Chair)

Section 1001 – TTH 2:00-3:15, DR. POL VANDELDELDE

The course offers an overview and a critical evaluation of the development of phenomenology and existentialism understood in a broad sense. Four stages will be distinguished, which also cover the development of German thought in the 20th century.

1) The breakthrough of phenomenology with Edmund Husserl and his followers (Eugen Fink, Nikolai Hartmann).

2) Martin Heidegger's reformulation of phenomenology into an existential hermeneutics and later into a hermeneutics of language and poetry.

3) Hans-Georg Gadamer's synthesis of phenomenology and existentialism in a hermeneutics of the tradition.

4) Karl-Otto Apel's and Jürgen Habermas' reaction to phenomenology and existentialism in an attempt to transform philosophy into a critical discourse theory.

TEXTS: Selection of Husserl's LOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS, CARTESIAN MEDITATIONS; selection of Fink's EXISTENCE AND CO-EXISTENCE; selection of Hartmann's THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE REAL WORLD; selection of Heidegger's BEING AND TIME, ON THE WAY TO LANGUAGE, selection of Gadamer's TRUTH AND METHOD; selection of Apel's TOWARDS A TRANSFORMATION OF PHILOSOPHY, FROM A TRANSCENDENTAL SEMIOTIC POINT OF VIEW; selection of Habermas, THEORY OF COMMUNICATIVE ACTION, POSTMETAPHYSICAL THINKING.

PHIL 301 - SEMINAR:

(PREREQUISITE(S): Consent of Dept. Chair)

Section 1001 – TH 4:20-7:00, DR. JOHN JONES

[Section Title: Seminar: Human Welfare and the Common Good]

The course will focus initially on a study of Thomas Aquinas's understanding and use of the concept of the common good (bonum commune). Our task will be to examine (1) the various meanings of the "common good," (2) the metaphysical foundations of and uses of the concept (e.g., that God is the common good of the entire universe) as well as the metaphysical structure of social entities like communities, (3) the sense in which the common good is the specific good of a community (e.g., the city (civitas), and (4) the relations, metaphysical and normative, between the good of the individual and the common good.

During the latter part of the course, students will have opportunity to explore contemporary conceptualizations and use of the notion of the common good in social and political thinking.

REQUIRED TEXTS: selected primary texts from the writings of Thomas Aquinas, including DE REGIMINE (ON KINGSHIP) and relevant secondary literature such as Jaime Velez-Saenz, THE DOCTRINE OF THE COMMON GOOD OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE WORKS OF ST. THOMAS AQUINAS. Most course readings will be available in a "course packet" or on library reserve.

REQUIREMENTS: major seminar presentation/research paper; regular, brief presentations on selected texts; regular participation in class discussion.

PHIL 302 - SEMINAR IN APPLIED/PROFESSIONAL PHILOSOPHY

(PREREQUISITE(S): Consent of Dept. Chair)

Section 1001 – T 4:20-7:00, DR. KEVIN GIBSON

This seminar will study ethical issues which cut across professions and disciplines. We will begin by looking at the nature of a profession or discipline, to see whether the categorization has moral significance. We will review some selected works from classical ethical theory and how some philosophers have approached issues like lying, loyalty, whistleblowing, informed consent, confidentiality, group and individual responsibility, allocation of resources, and rights. We will apply these works to specific cases in professional settings.

TEXTS: Windt, ETHICAL ISSUES IN THE PROFESSIONS, and FOLLETT course packet.

REQUIREMENTS: Students will be expected to make presentations on the material and develop an original research paper for their final assessment.
