

MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY
Department of Philosophy

Graduate Course Descriptions -- Spring 2009 (20082)

PHIL 217 - ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

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

Section 1001 -- MW 9:35-10:50, DR. DAVID TWETTEN

In the advent of the rediscovery of the full corpus of Aristotle's writings, Aquinas developed a novel synthesis of Christian faith with aristotelian philosophy. This synthesis is only made possible by Aquinas's unprecedented doctrine of existence, which puzzlingly owes less to Aristotle than to the platonic tradition transmitted through arabic philosophy. Ironically, Aquinas's synthesis, condemned by ecclesial authorities in the thirteenth century and subsequently always suspect in the middle ages, was rediscovered in the twentieth century and taken as a model for the harmony of faith and reason. After placing Aquinas in his historical setting, the course will examine how Aquinas arrives at the central tenets of his metaphysics, natural theology, epistemology, psychology, and ethics. In addition to his doctrines on faith and reason, free will, and the end of human life, we shall focus on the real distinction between existence and essence and on how Aquinas uses it in order to establish the existence and nature of God and the immortality of the human soul. The course will also introduce the tools of research and the contemporary scholarship on Aquinas.

TEXTS: ON BEING AND ESSENCE, tr. A. Maurer; Anton, BASIC WRITINGS OF THOMAS; Kenny, AQUINAS ON MIND; Brian, THE THOUGHT OF THOMAS AQUINAS; Leo, METAPHYSICS OF BEING OF ST THOMAS IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE; Aquinas, TREATISE ON HAPPINESS.

REQUIREMENTS: Midsemester and Final Exams (50%); Seminar and Final Papers (50%)

PHIL 231 - HUME

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

Section 1002 -- TTH 9:35-10:50, DR. WILLIAM STARR

This course is a study of the philosophy of David Hume. We will primarily focus on Book I of Hume's masterpiece A TREATISE OF HUMAN NATURE. Here is where the core of Hume's epistemology and empiricism resides. We will spend considerable time studying his analysis of impressions, ideas, and relations. We will also analyze his famous position (infamous) on causation, his work on probability, belief, personal identity, and scepticism. We will also read AN ENQUIRY CONCERNING THE PRINCIPLES OF MORALS. We will read the DIALOGUES CONCERNING NATURAL RELIGION, as well a superb example of Hume applying his empiricist philosophy to the philosophy of religion, and ethics as well, if we have time.

REQUIREMENTS: Several short papers presented in class to start discussion, class participation, regular attendance, a term paper 15-25 pages in length. Whether the term paper will be presented in class will depend on the number of students in the course.

PHIL 232 - KANT

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

Section 1001 -- TTH 2:00-3:15, DR. JAVIER IBANEZ-NOE

The main objective of this course will be to provide a careful reading of two ground-works of modern philosophy, the CRITIQUE OF PURE REASON, and the CRITIQUE OF PRACTICAL REASON. Emphasis will be placed on mastering the structure and arguments of both books, but an attempt will also be made to situate Kant's thought within the history of modern philosophy.

TEXTS: CRITIQUE OF PURE REASON, CRITIQUE OF PRACTICAL REASON.

REQUIREMENTS: two papers, mid-term and final exam.

PHIL 254 - TEXT/SEMINAR ON NINETEENTH-CENTURY PHILOSOPHY:

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

Section 1001 -- TTH 12:35-1:50, DR. MICHAEL MONAHAN

[Section Title: *Hegel's Philosophy of Right*]

This course will involve a close reading of the Philosophy of Right in conjunction with some of the more important contemporary literature on Hegel's ethics and politics. Special attention will be paid to Hegel's conception of freedom, his critique of Kantian ethics, his prescriptions for the ideal polity, as well as his notion of "Ethical Life" [Sittlichkeit] and its relation to Geist. Some familiarity with Hegel's thought (especially the Phenomenology of Spirit) will be helpful, but not necessary.

TEXTS: Hegel, ELEMENTS OF THE PHILOSOPHY OF RIGHT, Knowles, THE ROUTLEDGE PHILOSOPHY GUIDEBOOK TO HEGEL AND THE PHILOSOPHY OF RIGHT, Williams, BEYOND LIBERALISM AND COMMUNITARIANISM: STUDIES IN HEGEL'S PHILOSOPHY OF RIGHT

REQUIREMENTS: One in-class presentation, one term paper, one final (essay) exam

PHIL 301 - SEMINAR:

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

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

[Section Title: Neoplatonism]

In this seminar we will carefully work through key texts in which Plotinus and other neoplatonic philosophers argued against and responded to the thought of Aristotle (as well as the Stoics). Special attention will be paid to the following problems: the number and status of the categories of being, universals, matter, nature, causation, space, time, matter, and soul. The required texts are vol. 6 of the Loeb PLOTINUS and Sorabji, THE PHILOSOPHY OF THE COMMENTATORS, vol. 1-3. Grading will be on the basis of class presentations, a short paper, and a major paper.

Section 1002 -- MW 12:35-1:50, DR. TIMOTHY CROCKETT

[Section Title: Locke/Leibniz]

This course will be an examination of Leibniz's philosophical classic, *New Essays on Human Understanding* (1703-5). The *Nouveaux essais* is clearly one of the most important confrontations between the philosophical traditions of Empiricism and Rationalism. In this work Leibniz comments on every chapter of Locke's famous *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*. Topics of the two books include innate ideas, the primary-secondary quality distinction, substance, relations, space and time, ideas, essences and classification, freedom and power, reason and faith, and the scope of human knowledge. The course will focus mainly on primary readings: Locke's and Leibniz's philosophical writings. However, we will occasionally read secondary literature on the various issues.

This course will be taught in seminar style. Students will be expected to do one class presentation, and to write a final critical paper. In addition, students will occasionally be asked to write short argument summaries and textual analyses, and will be asked to participate in commentary on the course readings.

TEXTS: Leibniz, Gottfried Wilhelm, *NEW ESSAYS ON THE HUMAN UNDERSTANDING*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 1996; Leibniz, *PHILOSOPHICAL ESSAYS*, Ariew and Garber, eds. (Hackett, 1989); Locke, *ESSAY CONCERNING HUMAN UNDERSTANDING* (any edition).

Section 1003 -- MW 2:00-3:15, DR. SEBASTIAN LUFT

[Section Title: Early German Idealism]

This graduate seminar is intended as a sequel to the Kant course. We will study the emergence of German Idealism in the immediate reaction to Kant's *Critiques*. Kant's transcendental philosophy instantaneously sparked a plethora of controversies not only on the part of philosophers, but also generally intellectuals, who admired, but also criticized, further developed, or transformed Kant—or at least attempted to. This inaugurated the golden era of German philosophy later known as German Idealism. This period is fascinating due to the intellectual powers at play and it was, at the same time, energized by political events, such as the French Revolution. The early phase of this movement, beginning with contemporary reactions to Kant and ending, roughly, with the publication of Hegel's *Phenomenology*, is arguably the most interesting phase of this movement, before the "power centers" in Heidelberg, Jena and Weimar (and elsewhere in Germany) had been established. Not surprisingly, this period has attracted a great deal of attention in scholarship in recent years. It is acknowledged that this was the most original and creative period in the history of this movement. We will study the classical figures of this period—Jacobi, Reinhold, Fichte, Hölderlin, Schelling—and venture into areas beyond mere epistemology: ethics (Fichte), aesthetics (Schelling), poeology (Hölderlin). Knowledge of Kant (at least one of the three *Critiques*) will be necessary.

The material to be studied in this course intends to lay a solid foundation for the comprehension of "classical" German Idealism, the emerging Romantic Movement, and the critics of Idealism (Kierkegaard, Feuerbach, Marx, Nietzsche), who are incomprehensible without this backdrop.

TEXTS:

Di Giovanni, G. & Harris, H.S., eds., *Between Kant and Hegel. TEXTS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF POST-KANTIAN IDEALISM*, Indianapolis/Cambridge: Hackett, 2000

Behler, E. ed., *PHILOSOPHY OF GERMAN IDEALISM*. New York: Continuum, 1987.

O'Connor, B. & Mohr, G., eds., *GERMAN IDEALISM. AN ANTHOLOGY AND GUIDE*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2006.

Hölderlin, F., *ESSAYS AND LETTERS ON THEORY*, trans. & ed. Pfau, Th., Albany: SUNY Press, 1988.

Other texts TBA.

REQUIREMENTS: A midterm exam and a research paper.

Section 1004 -- T 5:00-7:30, DR. NANCY SNOW

[Section Title: Health Care Ethics in a Pluralistic Society]

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course examines traditional Western approaches to health care ethics, moral deliberation and decision making in the context of clinically based health care, and the problem of justice in the allocation of health care resources. Though our focus will center primarily on Western approaches, we will consider

challenges raised by health care delivery in a multicultural society. Consequently, we will touch upon the ethics of health care from multicultural perspectives, especially as those outlooks challenge, replace, or supplement traditional Western ethical approaches. We will also study, albeit briefly, issues of global justice and intergenerational equity in the distribution of health care resources.

REQUIRED TEXTS: Tom L. Beauchamp and James F. Childress, *PRINCIPLES OF BIOMEDICAL ETHICS*, 6th ed. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2009); Norman Daniels, *JUST HEALTH: MEETING HEALTH NEEDS FAIRLY* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2008).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: One term paper of 10-12 pages in length; one case analysis and presentation of approximately 10-15 minutes in length (write-up or power point presentation to be submitted to me); and regular, substantive participation in classroom and D2L discussion. Each exercise counts for one-third of the student's final course grade. Class attendance is required. Please note that if a student stops attending class, provides no explanation, and does not respond to my queries, the student will be assigned the grade he or she has earned in the course based on the work completed. Class participation is expected. I cooperate with the Office of Disability Services. If students have special needs, they should contact me.

PHIL 302 - SEMINAR IN APPLIED/PROFESSIONAL PHILOSOPHY

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

Section 1701 -- W 5:45-8:25, 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: Material is on electronic reserve, research as directed; Kevin Gibson, *BUSINESS ETHICS: PEOPLE, PROFITS, AND THE PLANET*.

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