

# Phil 21, History of Western Philosophy: Modern, Section 5514, Spring 2017

This is an investigation into the methods and areas of interest from the History of Western philosophy from the late Renaissance through the Enlightenment (16th-18th Centuries).

## Class Meetings

Mondays and Wednesdays from 9-10:30 am in Emeritus 1509

## Instructor Contact

Miguel Balboa

mbalboa@santarosa.edu

**Office Hours:** Mondays & Wednesdays 8-8:50 am in 1513 Emeritus, Mondays 3-3:30 pm in PC 680, and by appointment.

I respond to emails usually within hours, but during rush periods weekly on Wednesdays and Fridays, at the minimum.

**Textbook:** *Classics of Philosophy 3e* by Pojman & Vaughn. ISBN-10: 9780199737291. You will also need a green book for the short essays and another for exams (no journals or loose-leaf submissions).

## Course Syllabus

**This Syllabus is arranged Alphabetically.**

Please look this or the course schedule over before emailing me. If you don't I may merely respond by having you look it up here.

## Attendance

You need to come to class and I will take roll.

Please plan to attend every class, one of the major causes for failure of a philosophy is a high rate of absence. If you are proactive, letting me know as soon as possible, we can make plans to help you succeed.

We meet twice a week for 17 weeks, and have short essays or exams scheduled nearly every week.

Miss classes and you miss what we cover for the quizzes and this often hurts performance—there are no makeups. Miss the classes where we show films and have assignments based on them and you and you miss points—there are no makeups.

Missing 30 minutes of class because you arrived late or left early is an absence.

Proper excuses are illness, funerals, visits to the doctor, job interviews, religious obligations, or verifiable transportation emergencies. Please be proactive, document them, communicate them to me, and make a plan with me to make up for the lost time.

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Tardiness may negatively affect your grade. If you are tardy four times your grade shall drop one full letter grade, for instance, from a B to a C.

## **Communicating**

The class syllabus is online and so all updates to the syllabus will be online. I will announce any important (official) changes in class and through either the SRJC email or online. So check this site and your email before classes start for the week.

You should use email to let me know about excused absences or any other official business. I will respond to emails about two or three times per week, so don't expect an immediate response, but don't worry, email is time

stamped so even if I don't get to it right away, you've done your duty, and I'll respect that.

You should use class time to ask questions about the content of the class or the schedule or the policies.

You should use office time for more private questions or if you aren't getting the material and you've already asked about it in class. I'll be happy to make an appointment with you as well.

## **Course Description**

This is an investigation into the methods and areas of interest from the History of Western philosophy from the late Renaissance through the Enlightenment (16th-18th Centuries).

You should ask "Why am I taking this class?"

Here's my answer: so that you can better understand the history of curiosity and ideas.

What this means is you are learning some foundational questions in our shared intellectual culture and some of the methods used to investigate and answer them.

To do this you'll have to read. You'll learn how to recognize the motivating questions, and to determine and evaluate the proposed methods of investigation and answers. You will also explore the relationship between historical thinkers so you can better understand how they relate to one another and to the intellectual environment in which you find yourself. You might also consider contemporary philosophical aspects of these thinkers—including logic and epistemology, metaphysics, and ethics. What's your answer? More important—what are your questions?

## **Course Schedule**

Week 1

1/18 Introduction & Overview

Week 2

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1/23 Pico & Galileo, Essay 1

Week 3

1/30 Descartes I, Discourse on the Method of Rightly Conducting the Reason,  
and Seeking Truth in the Sciences, Chapter 2, Read pp 487-491, Meditations I

Week 4

2/6 Descartes II, Read Meditations II (pp 491-5) & VI (pp 509-16), Essay 2

Week 5

2/13 Leibniz & Locke, Read Monadology (pp 629-37), Read Locke's Essay Book I  
(pp 640-644), Essay 3

Week 6

2/20 Locke (No Class 2/20), Read Locke's Essay Book II (pp 644-664), Essay 4

Week 7

2/27 Locke & Berkeley, Read Berkeley's Principles (pp 678-693), Essay 5

Week 8

3/6 Exam 1 (Midterm) 50 pts

Week 9

3/13 Hume, Read Hume's Enquiry (pp 721-48), Essay 6

Week 10

3/20 Spring Break

Week 11

3/27 Kant, Read Kant's Prolegomena (pp 818-849), Essays 7 & 8

Week 12

4/3 Hobbes, Read Hobbes' Leviathan (pp 534-557), Essay 9

Week 13

4/10 Kant, Read Kant's Foundation (pp 869-897), Essay 10

Week 14

4/17 Mill, Read Mill's Utilitarianism (pp 955-967), Essay 11

Week 15

4/24 Nietzsche, Read Nietzsche (pp 1042-63), Essay 12

Week 16

5/1 Exam 2 (Final), 50 pts

Week 17

5/8 Hegel, Read Hegel's Phenomenology (pp 923-28), Essay 13

Week 18 (Possibly)

Schopenhauer, Read Schopenhauer's World (pp 930-9)

Finals Week

Final Paper

## **Dates, Important Dates**

- Day Class Begins: Wednesday January 18th

# **Phil 21, History of Western Philosophy: Modern, Section 5514, Spring 2017**

- Day Class Ends: Wednesday May 17th (last day)
- Last Day to Add without instructor's approval: January 22nd
- Last Day to Drop and be eligible for a refund: January 29
- Last Day to Add with instructor's approval: February 5th
- Last Day to Drop without a 'W' symbol: February 5th
- Last Day to Opt for Pass/No Pass: February 26th
- Last Day to Drop with a 'W' symbol: April 23<sup>rd</sup>

NOTE: all dates listed above are superseded by SRJC's official [Academic Calendar](#), which can be found [here](#).

## **Dropping the Class**

If you decide to discontinue this course, it is your responsibility to officially drop it. A student may be dropped from any class when that student's absences exceed ten percent (10%) of the total hours of class time. I strongly advise you to contact me if you need to miss more than one class/homework deadline in a row to avoid being dropped from the class. I may drop you if you miss the first week of class as well.

## **Exams**

There will be a midterm and a final exam (toward the end of class). The material comes from the textbook, class lectures and supplemental materials listed online. If any exam is missed, a zero will be recorded as the score. It is your responsibility to take the exams on the scheduled date.

## **Extra Credit**

The only extra credit will be through participation and pop extra credit assignments (like pop quizzes but they are for extra credit).

## **Grading Policy**

There are 300 points available in this course, 100 for the short essays (mostly in-class though there may be a few take home, they are for 10 points each and there are at least twelve of them, I will keep the highest ten); 100 for the exams (50 points each ); 100 for the final essay. The grades break down as follows:

- 270+ is an A
- 240-269 is a B
- 210-239 is a C
- 200-209 is a D+

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Below 200 is an F

You can keep score using the Canvass gradebook and doing the math.

If you are taking this class Pass/No Pass you need at least 210 points to pass.

## **A Note on Grading**

I won't arbitrarily grade your work based on my particular preferences, opinions, moods, or what I want to hear.

I will grade you based on the criteria given in the guidelines and verbally in class. If you think my comments show that I misread your work, you can write a brief challenge to the grade I've given you showing how you did follow the guidelines. I will review your challenge and if I find it has merit, will adjust the grade.

I make every effort to grade your work with comments within one week, often the very next class. Occasionally, other professional obligations make this impossible.

## **A Warning on Grades**

Grades are our mutual responsibilities. Please keep track of your grades to make sure of where you stand. Calculate them yourselves and use only the grading scale above. Don't rely on the online grades and assume they are correct, sometimes the online grade book can be misleading. If you are uncertain of where you stand arrange to meet and discuss them with me in my office. I cannot discuss grades by email per College Policy.

## **Homework**

There are 300 points you can get in this class. Here's what you'll need to do to get them:

Write twelve Short Essays based on the book and lectures, worth 10 points each. (Only the highest ten Short Essays count!) Please use the same green book for all Short Essays.

Take two exams covering some basic methods and concepts, they are worth 50 points each for a total of 100 points. Please use another green book for all Exams.

Research one of the readings from the text not assigned in class.

Write a paper investigating a topic, this is worth 100 points.

In Brief:

- 10 Short Essays for 100 points
- 2 Exams for 100 points
- 1 Paper for 100 points

## **Late Policy**

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All assignments are due on the due date. I will accept no make up work.

However, I will accept late work (provided it is no more than a week or two late), with this caveat: NO late homework assignments or papers will be given full credit. Roughly, a penalty of 10% will be deducted for each week an assignment is late. For example, the first week an assignment is late 10% will be deducted from that grade, if it is two weeks late, 20% will be deducted, and so on). NOTE: Work submitted late is usually better than not submitting any work at all. Do the math.

## **Methods**

We will read.

I expect you to be active, ask questions, challenge the views presented. A classroom in philosophy is a place where you may test any and all ideas, no matter how controversial or popular, cherished or preposterous. What philosophical discussion does require is respectful listening in order to get at the idea being expressed. In philosophy, we test the ideas, not the people who hold them.

We'll have workshops using small groups, lots of writing.

You will research, in the textbook and online (find some alternate sources and websites. Be active!), write the Short Essays, writing each (for argumentation) and rewrite it (for logic and grammar) for the exams and final paper, and come to class with questions and maybe even some answers. I open every class with time for your most perplexing questions. Then I'll lecture about some philosophical concept or technique, and we might segue into a workshop on it, and continue in this fashion until we've covered the concepts well enough for the assignments.

## **Participation**

Sometimes I give credit for participation.

You might be awarded as much as 3-4% extra on your final grade. For instance, if you have averaged a C+ for your homework, midterm, and final project, but have made constant and significant positive contributions to class discussion or entries to the glossary: Terms of Critical Thinking, I may award you an additional 3-4%, raising your grade from a C+ to a B-. Of course, SRJC does not recognize pluses or minuses, but this gives you an idea of how much a grade may be boosted.

Not everyone gets credit for participating.

This can only be used to raise your grade-whatever you've earned is yours.

## **Slides**

I will not post all of them, in fact I do not anticipate using many of them for this class.

The slides used for lectures will be posted here after they've been presented in class (at least as far as I've developed them).

But some slides I use instead of a blackboard, I won't post these.

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## **Software, Required Software**

- Adobe Reader
- QuickTime Player
- Flash Player
- Open Office (or Word, note: Turnitin does not accept Google Docs or Pages—you must convert them to an acceptable format!!)

## **Special Needs**

Every effort is made to conform to accessibility standards for all instructor-created materials. Students should contact their instructor as soon as possible if they find that they cannot access any course materials. Students with disabilities who believe they need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact Disability Resources (527-4278).

## **Standards of Conduct**

Students who register in SRJC classes are required to abide by the SRJC Student Conduct Standards. Violation of the Standards is basis for referral to the Vice President of Student Services or dismissal from class or from the College. See the [Student Code of Conduct page](#).

Collaborating on or copying of tests or homework in whole or in part will be considered an act of academic dishonesty and result in a grade of 0 for that test or assignment. Students are encouraged to share information and ideas, but not their work. See these links on Plagiarism:

[SRJC Writing Center Lessons on avoiding plagiarism](#)

[SRJC's statement on Academic Integrity](#)

### **A Note on Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism is a form of cheating. If you use someone else's work and does not give them credit, it is plagiarism. If you do this will receive an F on the assignment. If you do it again you will fail the course and can be expelled from the college. If you are "suspected" of plagiarism, you will bear the burden of proof. You must be able to present rough drafts or related materials and discuss the topic intelligently. So make sure your work is original. This will help me gauge what you have learned, plus it is a courtesy to others interested in the topic.

If times get tough and you are tempted to cheat—see me— maybe I can help.

## **Student Learning Outcomes, Outcomes**

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1. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:
2. Describe the philosophical views of the major philosophers in the ancient through medieval traditions: pre-Socratics, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle and the major Hellenistic and Medieval philosophers.
3. Analyze how these philosophers' views developed as a response to the their predecessors' views.
4. Critically evaluate the arguments and viewpoints of the philosophers studied.

## Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Describe the historical and cultural contexts in which these philosophies were developed.
2. Analyze representative primary texts of the most significant philosophical literature of this period (e.g. Plato's Apology, Euthyphro, Crito and Republic. Aristotle's essays on Ethics and Friendship).
3. Describe the relationship between the ancient and medieval philosophies discussed and the major moral and philosophical issues of the present day.

## Support for Students Learning Online

For questions about this course in particular, your grades, your enrollment status, or details about assignments, please contact your instructor directly.

### Canvas Support

For immediate help with Canvas, call the Canvas Help line at **(844) 698-7484**. Also click on the **?** at the bottom left of the screen for more Canvas support options. Click "Search the Canvas Guides" for answers to commonly asked questions about Canvas.

### Technical Support

SRJC's Information Technology Department provides [technical support for students](#) covering general topics such as student email, campus WiFi, computer labs, the student portal (myCubby), etc. The [Maggini computer lab](#) provides [drop-in face-to-face support for students](#) with topics such as how to get a student email account, how to register for an online class, where your online class website is located, how to find your class homepage, how to contact your instructor, etc.

### Tutoring



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You can access online tutoring by logging into your portal (myCubby) and clicking on the "SmartThinking" links ([see screen shot here](#)). An outstanding [Writing Center](#) is also available at SRJC.

## **Textbook**

*Classic of Philosophy 3e* by Pojman & Vaughn. ISBN-10: 9780199737291

You can locate and order textbooks online via the SRJC Bookstore. If your class is based out of Petaluma, your books will be listed on the Petaluma Bookstore web site.

You will also need green book(s) or some kind of journal for writing the short essays and exams.

## **Website, Course Web Site**

We will use Canvas through SRJC.

## **Workload**

For this class there will be thirteen short essays, two exams, and one final paper, all cumulative (meaning they should show evidence that you have taken this class).

There is significant research, writing, and some rewriting.

You should budget at least three hours outside of class for every hour of class time. That means nine (9) extra hours per week for this class.