**PHIL 1001: PHILOSOPHY OF HUMAN NATURE**

MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY

PHIL 1001-113 Fall 2016, Tues & Thurs 8:00a-9:15a at Lalumiere 396

PHIL 1001-116 Fall 2016, Tues & Thurs 12:30p-1:45p at Cudahy 108

PROFESSOR: Mr. Brett Yardley

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OFFICE HOURS: 1:45-2:45p on T/TR, 9:15-10:15a on W, or by appointment in Marquette Hall 449

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a philosophical investigation of what it means to be human and its defining characteristics, with particular emphasis on the rational life. The course deals with the following four problem areas: 1) human choice, 2) human cognition, 3) the affective, social and spiritual dimensions of the human person, and 4) the unity of the human being. A substantive treatment of classical, Christian & non-Western philosophical approaches will be included via classroom lectures, group discussion, and outside class reading & writing assignments. (*Fulfills a UCCS and Arts & Sciences College Curriculum requirement for Human Nature and Ethics; and fulfills a requirement for the Philosophy major and minor.*)

1. TEXTS
   1. **Required Textbooks:**

(FP) Martin, Robert M., and Andrew Bailey. *First Philosophy: Fundamental Problems and Readings in Philosophy.* 2nd ed. Concise Edition. Peterborough, Ont.: Broadview Press, 2012. ISBN - 9781554810574

* 1. **Other Required Readings:**

(ARES) Additional required readings in the form of URLs or PDFs as listed in the reading schedule will be made available via ARES reserves system located at <http://www.marquette.edu/library/> >> “Your Accounts” >> “Logon to ARES” OR <https://marquette.ares.atlas-sys.com/ares/ares.dll>. Use your MarqNet logon and password. Select and unlock the course using the password: “Plato”

1. KNOWLEDGE AREA OUTCOMES:

PHIL 1001 is one of the two courses in the Human Nature and Ethics knowledge area. The Learning Outcomes of this knowledge area are the following: At the completion of core studies the student will be able to:

1. Assess views of human nature in various philosophical traditions, including classic Greek and Catholic philosophical traditions.
2. Argue for one of the major ethical theories over another in terms of philosophical cogency and practical outcome.
3. Use philosophical reasoning to develop the student’s own position on central issues in human nature and ethics, for example, the relation between mind and body, the problem of freedom and determinism, the spiritual and affective dimensions of human life, the extent of human knowledge, the justification of moral judgments, and the elucidation of moral norms.

1. COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course,

1) The student will be able to state and provide reasons for basic positions concerning the relation between mind/soul and body, including the positions held by representative classical and Christian thinkers as assessed through reading quizzes, class discussion and a reflection essay.

2) The student will be able to state and provide reasons for basic positions concerning the nature and possibility of knowledge, including positions held by representative classical and Christian thinkers as assessed through reading quizzes, class discussion and a reflection essay.

3) The student will be able to state and provide reasons for basic positions concerning the nature and possibility of freedom as it relates to human choice, including positions held by representative classical and Christian thinkers as assessed through reading quizzes, discussion and a reflection essay.

4) The student will be able to state and provide reasons for basic positions concerning fundamental features of human sociality, including positions held by representative classical and Christian thinkers through reading quizzes, class discussion and a reflection essay.

5) The student will be able to state and provide reasons for the position held by a significant thinker from outside the Western tradition on one (or more) of the following problems: the relation between mind/soul and body; the nature and possibility of knowledge; the nature and possibility of free human choice; fundamental features of human sociality as assessed through reading quizzes, class discussion and a mid-term and final examination.

6) The student will be able to compare and contrast the philosophers’ positions studied in the course through reading quizzes, class discussion, the reflection essays and a mid-term and final examination.

1. GRADING
   1. **Course Grading Scale: Points**

A = 93-100% 509-550  
AB = 88-92% 481-508  
B = 83-87% 454-481  
BC = 78-82% 426-453

**Course Grading Scale: Points**

C = 73-77% 399-425  
CD = 68-72% 371-398  
D = 60-67% 327-371  
F = 0-59% 0-326

* 1. **Composition of Course & Final Grade**
     1. Weekly Reading Questions [13 quizzes -3 lowest grades dropped] x 6 possible points = 60

Participation [5 max points] x 10 = 50

If, Thens… [7 responses -1 lowest grade dropped] x 15 possible points = 90

Cogitations [2 Essays] x 75 possible points = 150

Midterm & Final Exams [2 Exams] x 100 possible points = 200

TOTAL possible points 550

* + 1. On the Edge: If a student falls somewhere in-between grades, I round up at the half point mark (i.e., 82.49% = 82% & 82.50% = 83%). Positive participation will assist in this regard as well.
    2. Late Work: No late work will be accepted. If a problem arises, come see me as soon as possible--ideally before the assignment is due.
    3. **Disabilities: Students with disabilities should come see me as soon as possible. I will make accommodations as needed and work with you in any way necessary as long as it complies with university, college and department policy. Please consult the Office of Disability Services:** [**http://www.marquette.edu/disability-services/**](http://www.marquette.edu/disability-services/) **or (414)288-1645 located at 707 N. 11th Street. Room 503**
  1. **Class Preparation, Attendance, and Participation**
     1. Participation: Discussion is essential to a successful course, so I expect class involvement from everyone. Remaining silent effectively robs the class of your brilliant insights (after reading your papers I know you have them!). Class involvement means a) active listening with the day's reading present, b) open questioning, and c) creative discussion are expected of you. Final grading will be on range of 0-5, where 0 = never participated and 5 = consistently participated.
     2. Distractions: Keep in mind that disruptive behavior will have a negative impact on your grade. If I observe any such behavior, your participation grade for the week may be dropped by 1-2 points (not to exceed 0) based on the level of interruption for each instance of disruption.
     3. Technology: Contrary to popular trends, recent studies have demonstrated that technology does not facilitate learning and only engenders distraction(s). Therefore, unless you are pre-approved due to a legitimate reason, the use of electronic devices such as computers, phones, tablets, or any other electronic device will be considered as a distraction which will affect your participation grade. Please see me if you feel this will be a problem. Neither audio nor video recordings are allowed.
     4. “Life Happens”: I understand you have a life outside the classroom which includes events of greater importance or you simply have a “bad day”. As a result, your three lowest reading quiz grades and your one lowest “if-then” grade will be dropped. In other words you may miss up to three quizzes without penalty (i.e., I do not need written excuses, doctor’s notes, etc. for missed class). If you anticipate that you will have trouble with attendance or will miss more than one week of class (cumulatively) please come see me.
  2. **Reading Quizzes**

A fully prepared and engaged mind is essential (*prior* to class time) to wrestling with philosophical ideas and questions. Therefore, AT THE BEGINNING OF ONE RANDOM CLASS PER WEEK I will provide a quiz of 3 questions (worth 2 points each for a total of 6 points) about the readings. Quizzes consist of multiple choice, T/F, short answer and may cover any of the assigned readings.

* 1. **If, Thens…**

On given Thursdays you will receive a short “if-then” statement which will assert something about a thinker. For example, “If Descartes asserts that the soul is a separate substance, then...” In a short response (125 word minimum-200 word maximum), indicate whether the author really does hold the position I have asserted, explain why you think that, and explain what other positions, (connected with this position) the author might plausibly hold. Students hand in a printed response the following **Tuesday, at the beginning of class**. For the seven assignments, students will receive one of three scores: check + (15 pts), check (10 pts), or check – (5 pts). Late responses will not be accepted (0 pts).

* 1. **Written Cogitations**
     1. You will be assigned TWO take home reflection essays, each one after the completion of two units. Essays will be on deep questions related to class lectures which will ask you to assume the (mental) posture of “The Thinker” regarding important and relevant ideas concerning human nature and philosophy. An option of two cogitation questions (one from each covered unit) will be assigned. *After* spending a sufficient amount of time thinking, pondering, and meditating on the question in light of class readings/discussion/research you are to write no more than a 2 page, 1 inch margins, double-spaced (12pt Times New Roman) reflection. It should be clear from the essay WHAT you believe and WHY you believe with a clear argument. The short format is to ensure your thoughts are well formed and expressed concisely. You may even be forced to leave out good ideas or examples for the sake of brevity. Points will be deducted for each violation of the assignment’s parameters. Feel free to discuss your topic and argumentation with me, but I will not read a draft. Please see the grading & comment guide on D2L for philosophical writings.

**Cogitations are to be handed in via TurnItIn enabled D2L dropbox**.

* 1. **Exams**
     1. The midterm and final exam will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and essays for their respective units (the final will not be cumulative) totaling 100 points each. Any material covered in the assigned readings or in-class lectures may appear on the examinations. A review period will precede the mid-term and the final exam.

1. ACADEMIC DISHONOESTY & MISCONDUCT POLICY
   1. In this course you will be required to submit written assignments in electronic form to a dropbox on D2L enabled with plagiarism detection service called **Turnitin**. Your assignments become a permanent part of the **Turnitin** database, but will not be used for any other purpose than checking for plagiarism.
   2. Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, individual violations, helping another student with any form of academic misconduct, failing to report any form of academic misconduct, or intentionally interfering with the educational process in any manner. Faculty, staff or students who are aware of academic misconduct and fail to report it are considered complicit in these actions. If a student is in doubt as to whether an action or behavior is subject to the academic misconduct policy, he/she should consult an appropriate member of the Academic Integrity Council, faculty or staff. For more information visit the university website:  
      <http://bulletin.marquette.edu/undergrad/academicregulations/#academicintegrity>
   3. **Acts of academic misconduct include but are not limited to:**

**Cheating**

1. Copying from others for an assignment and/or during an examination, test or quiz.

2. Obtaining, or attempting to obtain, an assignment, examination, test, quiz, or answer key without authorization.

3. Using unauthorized electronic devices or materials for an assignment, during an examination or quiz.

4. Communicating answers or providing unauthorized assistance for an assignment, examination, test or quiz.

5. Using unauthorized answers or assistance for an assignment, examination, test or quiz.

6. Offering one’s own work to another person, or presenting another person’s work as one’s own.

7. Completing an assignment and/or taking an examination, test or quiz for another student, or having someone complete an assignment, take an examination, test or quiz for oneself.

8. Tampering with an assignment, examination, test or quiz after it has been graded, and then returning it for additional credit.

9. Outsourcing assignments, papers, examinations, tests, quizzes to fellow students or third parties.

10. Using purchased answers or selling answers to assignments, examinations, quizzes or papers.

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is intellectual theft by the unethical use of sources. It means use of another’s creations or ideas without proper attribution. Credit must be given for every direct quotation, for paraphrasing or summarizing any part of a work and for any information that is not common knowledge. Plagiarism is further addressed in the Academic Integrity Tutorial.

**Academic Fraud such as:**

Submitting substantial portions of the same work for credit in more than one course, or from previous institutions, without receiving permission from all instructors involved.

1. LEARNING SCHEDULE

How should we act?  
(Covered in your Ethics course)

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Why can’t we get along?

Why are we here?

Who/What am I?

What exists? How do we know?

May be subject to change

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| **Week # & Start Date** | **Tuesday** | **Thursday** |
| **Introduction** | | |
| 1 (8-30) | Syllabus Review “What does it mean to be human?” | “What is Philosophy?” (FP 1-3)  “What is an argument?” (FP 5-10)  The Semantic Triangle |
| **Unit 1:** *What exits? How do we know?* | | |
| 2 (9-6) | God’s Existence & the Problem of Evil  Logical Problem of Evil  (ARES: Rowe 112-119)  (Last Day to Drop/Add) | God’s Existence & the Problem of Evil  Evidential Problem of Evil  (ARES: Rowe 119-131) |
| 3 (9-13) | Plato, *Republic* – Forms (ARES: IWP 429-435)  Suggested: (FP 395-400)  **If-Then # 1 Due** | Aristotle, *Categories* (ARES: IWP 436-441)  Suggested: (FP 409-412) |
| 4 (9-20) | Kant, (FP, 221-231)  Suggested: (FP,214-220)  **If-Then #2 Due** | Buddhism – No Self (ARES, **1.** Rahula’s *Doctrine of No Soul* & **2.** Palmer – *Buddhist* *Conception of Human Nature*, read from *“*Buddha's ‘Theory’”up to “Monks & Laity”) |
| **Unit 2:** Who/ What am I? | | |
| 5 (9-27) | Mind-body Problem & (Substance) Dualism  Descartes, *Meditations* (FP, 120-128)  Suggested: (FP 111-119) | Dualism vs. Physicalism wrap up. (ARES: Inwagen, “Dualism and Personal Identity” 187-201) |
| 6 (10-4) | Aristotle, *On the Soul* (ARES, CSPHN 166-173)  **If-Then #3 Due** | “Is Man Just Another Animal?” (ARES: Steve Jones, video lecture) |
| 7 (10-11) | Personhood  Mary Midgley, “Is a Dolphin a person?” (FP 526-534) | Mid-Term Review  *Electronic Devices allowed!* |
| 8 (10-18)  No reading Quiz this week | **Mid-Term** | **NO Class** fall break |
| **Unit 3:** Why are we here? | | |
| 9 (10-25) | Augustine on Sin & the Will  (ARES, “Human Nature & It’s Corruption”)  **Cogitation #1 Due** | Libertarianism & Determinism (FP, Intro 333 & Ree, 337-348) |
| 10 (11-1) | Aristotle, Happiness  (Watch “Groundhog Day” BEFORE Class, ARES/Netflix/YouTube) **If-Then #4 Due** | Augustine & Aquinas on “Seeing God”  (ARES, “Aquinas on Happiness”, pages 60-66) |
| 11 (11-8) | Sartre’s Existentialism  *Humanism –*part 1, (ARES, Fieser, pp. 660-674)  Election Day! **If-Then #5 Due** | Sex & Gender  Simone De Beauvoir, *The Second Sex* (FP 623-635) |
| **Unit 4:** Why can’t we get along? | | |
| 12 (11-15) | al-Farabi, *Attainment of Happiness* (ARES, IWP, 113-118) | Hobbes “Leviathan” excerpts by Hobbes (FP, 557-574) |
| 13 (11-22)  No reading Quiz this week | Rousseau  (ARES) “Emile” by Rousseau (Stevenson pp. 109-116)  **If-Then #6 Due** | **NO Class** Thanksgiving |
| 14 (11-29) | Wollstonecraft, *Vindication of the Rights of Women,* (ARES, CSPHN 395-408)  **If-Then #7 Due** | Media & Education  Video (ARES): *MissRepresentation* |
| **Wrap Up:** Ethics Intro and Review | | |
| 15 (12-6) | Preview of Ethics:  Meta-ethics  (FP 393-394)  **Cogitation #2 Due** | Final Review  *Electronic Devices allowed!* |
| 16 (12-13)  No reading Quiz this week | **Final Exam** **for section 116 (2288)**  10:30a-12:30p in Cudahy Hall 108 | **Final Exam for section 113 (2286)**  1:00-3:00p in Lalumiere Language Hall 396 |