Ways of Knowing

Phil 2200-15 ◊ Fall 2012
English Building 168 ◊ MWF 12:00pm – 12:50pm

Instructor: Matthew Homan
Office: Social Sciences Building, Room #4120
Office Hours: MWF 10:55am – 11:55am, and by appointment
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Course Description

Introduction to the nature of philosophy – its characteristic methods and concerns – and also to the history of philosophy through an examination of different major philosophers and philosophies.

Required Texts

Plato, *Five Dialogues*, 2nd edition
ISBN-10: 0872206335
Confucius, *The Analects of Confucius*, trans. by Chichung Huang
ISBN-10: 0195112768
ISBN-10: 0711229643
René Descartes, *Discourse on Method and Meditations on First Philosophy*, 4th edition
ISBN-10: 0872204200
ISBN-10: 0872202291

Recommended Texts

Harry Frankfurt, *The importance of what we care about* (Cambridge University Press, 1995)
ISBN: 0 521 33611 2

Course Objectives

- Achieve basic understanding of:
  - what philosophy is, including fundamental philosophical concerns and characteristic methods
  - some of the major figures in the history of philosophy, and continuities and discontinuities across time periods and cultures.
- Develop and improve:
  - textual comprehension and analysis
  - critical thinking
  - clarity of oral and written communication
Assessment and Policies

Participation: 10% (5% attendance; 5% active participation in class)
In-class Exam #1: 15%
In-class Exam #2: 15%
Take-home Essay Exam #1: 15%
Take-home Essay Exam #2: 15%
Final: 30%

A = 90-100 = Excellent  (4 quality points per credit)
B = 80-89 = Good       (3 quality points per credit)
C = 70-79 = Satisfactory (2 quality points per credit)
D = 60-69 = Passing, but less than Satisfactory (1 quality point per credit)
F = < 60 = Failing      (0 quality points)

Late Assignments incur a deduction of one letter grade for every session late.

Attendance counts for 5% of the overall grade for the course. You are allowed two unexcused absences. Each unexcused absence after that drops your attendance grade by 0.5%. So, 3 unexcused absences results in a 4.5% attendance grade; 4 results in a 4% attendance grade; and so on down to 0% for 12 unexcused absences or more. In general, arrive on time (which means a minute or two, at least, before class is scheduled to begin).

No eating in class.

Academic integrity: No student shall receive, attempt to receive, knowingly give or attempt to give unauthorized assistance in the preparation of any work required to be submitted for credit (including examinations, laboratory reports, essays, themes, term papers, etc.). Unless specifically authorized, the presence and/or use of electronic devices during an examination, quiz, or other class assignment is considered cheating. Engaging in any behavior which a professor prohibits as academic misconduct in the syllabus or in class discussion is cheating. When direct quotations are used, they should be indicated, and when the ideas, theories, data, figures, graphs, programs, electronic based information or illustrations of someone other than the student are incorporated into a paper or used in a project, they should be duly acknowledged. No student may submit the same, or substantially the same, paper or other assignment for credit in more than one class without the prior permission of the current professor(s).

Schedule

8/17 Course Overview and Introduction
8/20 Euthyphro, pp. 5-14 (beginning-9e)
8/22 Euthyphro, pp. 14-22 (10-end)
8/24 Apology, pp. 23-29 (17a-24b)
*In-class Dialogue Project*

8/27 Apology, pp. 29-39 (24b-35d)
8/29 Apology, pp. 39-44 (35e-42a)
8/31 Phaedo, pp. 93-106 (57-69e)

9/3 **No Class** (Labor Day)
9/5 Phaedo, pp. 106-123 (70-84b)
9/7 Phaedo, pp. 123-130 (84c-91c)

9/10 Phaedo, pp. 130-146 (91c-107d)
9/12 Phaedo, pp. 152-155 (115a-118a)
9/14 **In-class Exam #1**
     *Bring Blue Books*

9/17 **Archives and Rare Books Tour**
     *Class meets at Library*
9/19 Descartes, *Discourse on Method*, Part 1, pp. 1-6
9/21 Descartes, *Discourse on Method*, Part 2, pp. 6-13

9/26 Descartes, *Discourse on Method*, Part 4, pp. 18-22
9/28 Descartes, *Meditation I*, pp. 59-63

10/1 Descartes, *Meditation II*, pp. 63-69
10/3 Descartes, *Meditation II*, pp. 63-69
10/5 Correspondence with Princess Elisabeth, pp. 61-71

10/8 Correspondence with Princess Elisabeth, pp. 91-4; 106-111
10/10 Correspondence with Princess Elisabeth, pp. 180-1
10/12 **In-class Exam #2**
     *Bring Blue Books*
     *Last day to withdraw without academic penalty*

10/19 Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, Section V, pp. 25-37

10/22 Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, Section VIII, pp. 53-69
10/24 Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, Section X, pp. 72-77
10/26 Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, Section X, pp 78-90

10/29 Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, Section XII, pp. 102-111
10/31 Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, Section XII, pp. 111-114
11/2 Analects of Confucius
11/5 Analects of Confucius  
**Take-home Essay Exam #1 due (upload to Vista before start of class)**  
11/7 Analects of Confucius  
11/9 Analects of Confucius  

11/12 Tao Te Ching  
11/14 Tao Te Ching  
11/16 Tao Te Ching  

11/19 Tao Te Ching  
11/21 **No Class** (Fall Break)  
11/23 **No Class** (Fall Break)  

11/26 Frankfurt, “On bullshit”  
**Take-home Essay Exam #2 due (upload to Vista before start of class)**  
11/28 Frankfurt, “On bullshit  
11/30 Frankfurt, “The importance of what we care about”  

12/3 Frankfurt, “The importance of what we care about”  
12/5 **Review**  

**12/10 Final Exam: 1:00pm-3:00pm**