

Philosophy 201 (Sec. 07) - The Classical Mind
The Catholic University of America
School of Philosophy
Syllabus, Fall 2013

Meeting Time: M/W/F 9:10 - 10:00 AM

Classroom: McGivney 012

Credit: 3 Hours

Instructor: Andrew Romiti, M.A.
90Romiti@cardinalmail.cua.edu

Office Hours: Tues. 3:30 – 4:30 in Starbucks (Pryzbyla Center)

Course Description and Objectives

This course is an introduction to philosophy, using the original writings of several philosophers from the ancient and medieval periods, with a more general consideration of the history of philosophy. The course will consist of reading and discussing important philosophical texts for the sake of investigating fundamental questions that are of significance to all human beings. By considering the attempts to address such questions that have been made by famous philosophers, we will be able to clarify our own opinions and come to greater knowledge.

The goal of the course, therefore, is to become familiar with primary texts of the Western philosophical tradition in order to gain a better understanding of our own lives and world. At the conclusion of the course, students will have learned how to approach a philosophical text and how to engage with it in writing and in discussions with others. This, in turn, will prepare them for a continued engagement with philosophy in both their academic career and personal life.

FYE Information—Learning Community 07

This course is one part of a larger First Year Experience. *The Classical Mind* and *Writing: Logic and Rhetoric*, *The Modern Mind* and *Faith Seeking Understanding* all require you to think about how we know ourselves, the world, and God and how we act in light of that knowledge. We think and act better in the company of friends, Aristotle said, and so we will grapple with these questions together as a learning community. Together we will read, discuss and write about fundamental questions and ideas in the well-founded hope that the search for truth will make us better, more complete human beings. What we're doing is risky because answers to these questions have real implications for how we live our lives.

Our Learning Community team includes an Embedded Librarian and your Undergraduate Advisor. The Embedded Librarian will be part of course planning and our go-to resource for information literacy. Your Undergraduate Advisor is available to help with concerns both academic and non-academic. Each is a valuable resource for you as you navigate your first year. Your Undergraduate Advisor is there to assist with classes, getting plugged in, connecting with other students and more. Your embedded librarian can help you navigate the many avenues of knowledge open to you at the university. Get to know all of these folks and look to them for help. Their contact information and office hours are listed below:

Embedded Librarian:
Anne Leshner
Leshner@cua.edu

Undergraduate Advisor:
Marisa Pierson
piersonm@cua.edu
Pryzbyla 204 – The Wing

LC Dinner: TBD
D. C. Excursion: TBD

Required Texts

1. Plato. Five Dialogues: Euthyphro, Apology, Crito, Meno, Phaedo. Translated by G.M.A. Grube. Revised by John M. Cooper. Second Edition. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, 2002. ISBN: 0-87220-633-5.
2. Aristotle. Nicomachean Ethics. Translated, with Introduction, Notes, and Glossary, by Terence Irwin. Second Edition. Indianapolis: Hackett Publishing Company, Inc. 2000. ISBN: 0-87220-464-2.
3. Augustine. The Confessions of St. Augustine. Translated, with an Introduction and Notes, by John K. Ryan. Image Books. Garden City, NY: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1960. ISBN: 0-385-02955-1.
4. Thomas Aquinas. Summa Contra Gentiles: Book One: God. Translated, with an Introduction and Notes, by Anton C. Pegis. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 1975. ISBN: 0-268-01678-X.
5. Hacker, Diana and Nancy Sommers. The Bedford Handbook. Eighth Edition. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2010. ISBN: 0-312-65269-0.

Course Requirements and Grading Breakdown (out of 100 points)

- Participation (20%) – This includes (1) coming to class well-prepared and (2) actively engaging during class. Being well-prepared consists primarily in having completed the assigned reading for the day in a careful and thoughtful manner. Actively engaging in class consists in paying attention to what is going on in the classroom and taking part in all discussions. You will not be able to play an active role in the discussions without having done the reading well, and therefore active engagement is in fact dependent on being well-prepared; the two go hand-in-hand.
- Papers
 - 1st Short Paper (2 pages) – Plato (10%)
 - 2nd Short Paper (2-3 pages) – Aristotle (15%)
 - Longer Paper (3-5 pages) – Topic of Your Choosing (20%)
- Midterm and Final Exam (15% and 20% respectively) – There will be a Midterm Exam at the interim of the semester and a Final exam at the end.

Attendance Policy

The School of Philosophy maintains a uniform attendance policy for all Phil 201-202 courses: *“Attendance is required and will be checked on a daily basis. Attendance counts toward the assessment of the final grade in the following way. For classes meeting three days per week (such as this one), four absences will be tolerated without academic penalty. Each absence after the fourth will result in a reduction of two points of the total 100 points for the course up until the tenth absence, which results in failure for the course. For such a course (as this one), a maximum of nine absences will be allowed without failure for the course due to absences. No distinction in general is made between excused and unexcused absences. Even if a student is granted excused absences, he/she may not exceed the total number of allowed absences.”*

Three late arrivals will count as one absence. If more than twenty minutes of class is missed, it will be counted as an absence. If you are late, it is your responsibility to make sure you have been marked as late and not absent before you leave the classroom.

Classroom Rules

- Students should arrive to class on time. Students who arrives late should enter the classroom in such a manner as to cause the least disruption and inconvenience to others.
- Barring a medical emergency, there should be no reason for anyone to leave the room during class. We only meet for 50 minutes and all non-class related business should be handled ahead of time.
- The use of electronic devices (cell phones, laptops, gaming devices, etc.) is prohibited during class. Anyone caught using such a device will be asked to leave and will be marked absent for the day. Cell phones should be turned off before class begins; this means no text messaging during class.
- No food in the classroom; eat your breakfast before coming to class.

Make-up Assessments

Make-up exams will be allowed only for serious reasons beyond the students control. Please note the date and time of the final exam now (Wednesday, December 11th 8 am – 10 am), as this is set by the University and cannot be changed. Do not make any plans that conflict with the final exam.

Papers

All papers are to be double-spaced and written in “Times New Roman” 12 point font. Papers must be submitted in hard copy during the class in which they are due. Late papers will be penalized one letter grade per class-day they are late (e.g. from A- to B-).

Academic Honesty Policy

Academic honesty is expected of all CUA students. Faculty are required to initiate the imposition of sanctions when they find violations of academic honesty, such as plagiarism, improper use of one’s own work, cheating, and fabrication. For undergraduate students the presumed sanction for academic dishonesty will be failure for the course. Circumstances may warrant a more serious sanction, such as suspension or expulsion. In exceptional cases, mitigating circumstances may warrant a lesser sanction than the presumed sanction. For the complete texts of the University policy and procedures regarding Student Academic Dishonesty, including requirements for appeals, see <http://policies.cua.edu>. Also, consult the School of Philosophy “Statement on Plagiarism.”

Campus Resources

When needed, be sure to take advantage of student support services offered by: Mullen Library----visit the Information Desk (319-5070); The Writing Center, 202E Pryzbyla Center, north wing (319-4286); the Tutoring Center 202 Pryz (319-5655); the Counseling Center [personal] (319-5765) 127 O’Boyle Hall; the Center for Academic Success 201 Pryzbyla Center (319-5655), which provides a variety of workshops to assist study and learning, including test-taking and time management; and the Undergraduate Advising Center 204 Pryzbyla Center (319-5545).

Note: Accommodations will be made for students with learning disabilities according to the needs specified for each student by the Office of Disability Support Services (207 Pryzbyla Center; 202 319-5211; <http://disabilitysupport.cua.edu>) provided that the instructor has received this information in sufficient time to make the accommodations.

Grading Scale

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>GPA Equivalent</i>	<i>Corresponding Percentage</i>
A	Excellent	4.00	94-100%
A-		3.70	90-93
B+		3.30	87-89
B	Good	3.00	84-86
B-		2.70	80-83
C+		2.30	77-79
	Satisfactory		74-76
C	(minimum to graduate)	2.00	
C-		1.70	70-73
D	Lowest Passing	1.00	61-69
F	Failing	0.00	Below 60%
I	Incomplete		
W	Withdrawal		

Schedule (Please note: this schedule is subject to change.)

Week 1

M 8/26: Introduction to Class and Philosophy

W 8/28: Introduction to Plato

F 8/30: Plato *Apology*

Week 2

M 9/2: Labor Day – No Class

W 9/4: Plato *Apology*

F 9/6: Plato *Crito*

Week 3

M 9/9: Plato *Crito*

W 9/11: No Class – Convocation 9:00am (Required)

F 9/13: Plato *Phaedo*

Week 4

M 9/16: Plato *Phaedo*

W 9/18: Plato *Phaedo*

F 9/20: Plato *Phaedo*

— 1st short paper due

Week 5

M 9/23: Plato *Phaedo*

W 9/25: Plato *Phaedo*

F 9/27: Plato *Phaedo*

Week 6

M 9/30: Plato *Phaedo*

W 10/2: Plato *Phaedo*

F 10/4: Midterm Exam

Week 7

M 10/7: Aristotle *Ethics* I

W 10/9: Aristotle *Ethics* I

F 10/11: Aristotle *Ethics* I [Midterm – Interim Grades Due]

Week 8

M 10/14: Columbus Day – No Class

T 10/15: Aristotle *Ethics* II

W 10/16: Aristotle *Ethics* II

F 10/18: Aristotle *Ethics* III

Week 9

M 10/21: Aristotle *Ethics* VII

W 10/23: Aristotle *Ethics* VII

F 10/25: Aristotle *Ethics* VII

Week 10

M 10/28: Aristotle *Ethics* VIII

W 10/30: Aristotle *Ethics* VIII

F 11/1: Aristotle *Ethics* IX

— 2nd short paper due

Week 11

M 11/4: Aristotle *Ethics IX*

W 11/6: Augustine *Confessions I*

F 11/8: Augustine *Confessions I*

Week 12

M 11/11: Augustine *Confessions II*

— Topic for longer paper due

W 11/13: Augustine *Confessions II*

F 11/15: Augustine *Confessions III*

Week 13

M 11/18: Augustine *Confessions VIII*

W 11/20: Augustine *Confessions VIII*

F 11/22: Aquinas *SCG 1-3*

Week 14

M 11/25: Aquinas *SCG 4-9*

— Longer paper due

W 11/27: Thanksgiving Break – No Class

F 11/29: Thanksgiving Break – No Class

Week 15

M 12/2: Aquinas *SCG 10-9*

W 12/4: Aquinas *SCG 13*

F 12/6: Final Review

Final Exam: Wednesday December 11th 8 am – 10 am