



Course Title: Philosophy 1000. Knowledge, Reality, and Self.
Class Meets: MWF 8:30-9:30
Class Location:

Professor Terence Sweeney
tsweene5@villanova.edu

Office Hours: M 10:30-11:30 W 2:30-3:30. Available by appointment
Meeting space: Holy Grounds in Falvey Memorial Library

Course Description: This course is structured around questions exploring self, community, and God. We will develop a contemplative approach to ultimate questions while engaging with profound thinkers. The class will begin with introductory ideas about the nature of philosophy. It will then take up a study of the human person, the study of human community, and will culminate in considerations centered on God.

Learning Goals:

Knowledge:

- Understanding some philosophical responses to the question of personhood, community, and divinity.
- Understanding the specific contributions of Catholic/Christian philosophy including the tradition of Catholic Social Teaching.

Skills:

- Analysis: understanding and interpreting difficult philosophical texts, complex philosophical ideas, and philosophical arguments.
- Writing: clearly integrating evidence from primary source texts, understanding how those texts relate to philosophical concepts, with application to specific issues and problems.
- Communicating: articulating and defending philosophical ideas and concepts in class discussions.
- Blending rigor with uncertainty: being able to evaluate arguments and clearly express ideas, especially in areas where there are no clear answers.

Values:

- Reflection: develop an ability to move beyond purely practical questions, to also address broader issues of meaning and value.
- Creativity: willingness to explore, evaluate and apply unfamiliar ideas and concepts.
- Contemplation: developing openness to truth, philosophical questioning, and a rigorous approach to wonder. Cultivating a search for the good, the true, and the beautiful.

- Creating a classroom space shaped by the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. We will use these principles to form our community of learners.
 - Solidarity. We are in this learning space together and can share our learning with each other.
 - Subsidiarity. Each one of us takes responsibility of our own work, attendance, and contributions.
 - Participation. An active giving, sharing, and receiving that allows for a flourishing community of persons.
 - Intrinsic Human Dignity. Respecting the unique contributions of each student as coming from their inalienable dignity as a human person.
 - Common good. The common good of our classroom is a growth in wisdom as a good that is shared by each one of us in this class, on this campus, and throughout the world.

Required Texts:

Plato. *Phaedo*. Translated GMA Grube. Hackett Classics. ISBN-10: 0915144182.

Descartes. *Meditations on First Philosophy*. Translated Daniel Cress. Hackett Classics. ISBN-10: 0872201929

Augustine. *Soliloquies*. Translated Kim Paffenroth. New City Press. ISBN-10: 1565481429

Thomas Aquinas. *Faith and Reason*. Edited Stephen Brown. Hackett Classics. ISBN-10: 0872204561

John Locke. *Second Treatise on Government*. Hackett Classics. ISBN-10: 0915144867

Annie Dillard. *For the Time Being*. Vintage Books. ISBN-10: 0375703470

Anselm *Proslogion*. Trans. Thomas Williams. Hackett Classics. ISBN-10: 0872205657

Additional readings available electronically

Course Requirements:

- Participation will be measured by attendance, participation in discussion, reading quizzes, attendance of office hours, class recaps, and submission to portfolio. 15% of Grade
 - At the beginning of most classes, the professor will select a random student to give a short recap of the previous class and the current class's reading.
- Papers: You will have two papers of 4-5 pages length. The first paper will be on the nature of the self and is due on October 5. The second paper will be on community and is due on November 16. Each paper is worth 25% of the grade
 - More information will be provided for both papers.
 - Both papers *must* be brought to the Writing Center. If they are not, a letter grade will be subtracted.
 - Papers must be submitted as a hard copy during class on the day they are due
 - Late Papers. One letter grade will be deducted for each day a paper is late.

- Short reading reports.
 - You will have two 1-page reading reports. These will be assigned throughout the semester. The students who have written writing reports for each week, will be expected to help lead student discussions on the readings.
 - Your grade will depend on both your writing and your helping lead the discussion. %10 of your grade.
- Final exam: The final exam is on December **TBD**. The final exam will focus on the question of God. It will be an essay-based exam. 25% of the grade

Grading:

Grading Scale: A = 93 - 100; A- = 90 - 92; B+ = 87 - 89; B = 83 - 86; B- = 80 - 82; C+ = 77 - 79; C = 73 - 76; C- = 70 - 72; D+ = 67 - 69; D = 63 - 66; D- = 60 - 62; F = Below 60

Course Outline:

WHAT IS PHILOSOPHY?

Week 1

Introduction and Syllabus.	8/27
Augustine on Philosophy <i>Conf.</i> Book IX, <i>City of God</i> Book 8:1	8/29
Gabriel Marcel Mystery and Problem	8/31

WHAT IS THE SOUL? WHO AM I?

Week 2

Labor Day	9/3
Plato on Wonder. Begin Plato's <i>Phaedo</i>	9/5
Plato's <i>Phaedo</i>	9/7

Week 3

Plato's <i>Phaedo</i>	9/10
Plato's <i>Phaedo</i>	9/12
Plato's <i>Phaedo</i>	9/15

Week 4

Augustine's <i>Soliloquies</i>	9/17
Augustine's <i>Soliloquies</i>	9/19
Augustine's <i>Soliloquies</i>	9/21

Week 5

Descartes's <i>Meditations</i> 1	9/24
Descartes's <i>Meditations</i> 2	9/26
Descartes's <i>Meditations</i> 2	9/28

Week 6

Iris Marion Young "Throwing Like a Girl"	10/1
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Iris Marion Young "Throwing Like a Girl"	10/3
Open	10/5
WHAT MAKES COMMUNITY?	
Week 7	
Martin Luther King "Letter from Birmingham Jail"	10/8
Martin Luther King "Letter from Birmingham Jail"	10/10
Martin Luther King "Letter from Birmingham Jail" <u>PAPERS DUE</u>	10/12
Fall Break	10/15-10/21
Week 8	
Augustine <i>City of God</i> Book XIX	10/22
Augustine <i>City of God</i> Book XIX	10/24
Augustine <i>City of God</i> Book XIX	10/26
Week 8	
Locke <i>Second Treatise on Law</i>	10/29
Locke <i>Second Treatise on Law</i>	10/31
Locke <i>Second Treatise on Law</i>	11/02
Week 10 (Intro to Catholic Social Teaching)	
CST Basic Terms; Begin Pope Benedict XVI <i>Caritas in Veritate</i>	11/5
Pope Benedict XVI <i>Caritas in Veritate</i>	11/7
Pope Benedict XVI <i>Caritas in Veritate</i>	11/9
WHO IS GOD?	
Week 12	
Anselm's <i>Proslogion</i>	11/12
Anselm's <i>Proslogion</i>	11/14
Anselm's <i>Proslogion</i>	11/16
Week 13	
Aquinas	11/19
Thanksgiving break	11/21-11/25
Week 14	
Aquinas	11/26
Aquinas	11/28
Open	11/30
Week 15	
Excerpts from <i>Laudatio Si'</i>	12/3
Annie Dillard	12/5
Annie Dillard	12/7
Week 16	
Annie Dillard	12/10
Annie Dillard	12/11

Review	12/12
Final Day of Classes	12/13
Reading Day	12/14
Final Exam	12/
Christmas Break!	12/21

POLICIES

Office of Disabilities and Learning Support Services:

Office of Disabilities and Learning Support Services: It is the policy of Villanova to make reasonable academic accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities. You must present verification and register with the Learning Support Office by contacting 610-519-5176 or at learning.support.services@villanova.edu or for physical access or temporary disabling conditions, please contact the Office of Disability Services at 610-5194095 or email Stephen.mcwilliams@villanova.edu Registration is needed in order to receive accommodations.

Academic Integrity:

All students are expected to uphold Villanova's Academic Integrity Policy and Code. Any incident of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences for disciplinary action. For the College's statement on Academic Integrity, you should consult the Enchiridion. You may view the university's Academic Integrity Policy and Code, as well as other useful information related to writing papers, at the Academic Integrity Gateway web site:
<http://library.villanova.edu/Help/AcademicIntegrity>

Attendance at all class meetings is required.

- In accordance with university policy, first year students who miss more than 6 class sessions will receive a 'Y' grade.
- Students are granted 3 excused absences. An email with an explanation of the absence is expected by 4pm of the day of the missed class. Failure to submit an email will lead to a loss of 1 point from the student's overall grade.
- Each absence in addition to these three will lead to a reduction of 2 points for the first additional absence, 4 for the second, 6 for the third, 8 for the fourth, 10 for the 5th.

Technology policy.

- Laptops are not allowed in the classroom.
 - If you have a personal need for a laptop for the purposes of notetaking, I am happy to make allowances.
- Please silence and store your cellphone.
- If I see your cell phone or laptop (in use) during a class, I will mark you as absent that day.
- On rare occasions, I may grant blanket permission to use a computer during class.

Reevaluation of papers: Students wishing a reevaluation or a re-grading of a paper are asked to read over their work and the professor's comments, write up a brief explanation of why the reevaluation is warranted and turn it in no later than one week after the paper was originally returned to the student. Papers or exams subject to reevaluation will be completely reevaluated, i.e. the grade will be refigured entirely and *may go up, down, or remain the same.*

The syllabus is subject to change.