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aim:pbroderi

and by appointment

Welcome to *PHIL11001* Introduction to Philosophy. In this class, we will consider a few important philosophical texts. Using these as examples we will consider questions such as, what is philosophy? How has philosophy been done in the past? and why has philosophy been done? The practice of philosophy has accompanied the unfolding of human history and understanding the philosophy of various times and places will help us to better understand the people and cultures for which it was written.

### 1. Learning Objectives

- Introduction to philosophy, its history and methods.
- Practice in reading difficult texts for comprehension
- Practice in expressing conclusions and opinions about philosophical topics.

(a) Grading: Grades will be computed according to either of the two following options. Students should let me know which of the two grading schemes they will use during the first week of class.

#### OPTION I: Traditional

- Problem papers are due as indicated on the schedule of classes presented below.
- Problems papers are short (2-3 page) papers in which the student is asked to try solving a presented problem. These are not research papers. All sources should be appropriately, but there is no expectation that the papers will draw on sources beyond the course text.
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- Grading will be calculated according to the following scheme.
  - Problem Papers 30% (ie. 10% each)
  - Midterm 20%
  - Final 25%
  - participation and attendance 25%

#### OPTION II: Journal based.

- Journal writers will be expect to keep a reading journal. This journal will summarise and comment on each of the reading assignments including critical comments.
- The journal should total 12 to 15 pages, minimum. Thus, it will entail at least as much writing as the traditional option. However, a continuous arguments are not required and a different sort of prose will be necessary.
- The journal entries should be presented to me on a weekly basis. They must not be hand-written, but can take any of several different forms. They could be typed, e-mailed or kept on a web-page (such as a blog).

- These journals will take different forms. I will be seriously blogging during the time of this class my own “journal” will be available at: <http://www.personal.kent.edu/~pbohanbr/weblog/index.html>
  - Journal writers will be excused from exams and problem papers. . You will, however, be responsible for any inclass or discussion assignments.
  - Journal writing grades will be calculated according to the following scheme:
    - journal quality 75%
    - participation and attendance 25%
- (b) The participation grade may include in-class activities. This activities *may* require some preparation over and above doing the assigned reading.
- (c) Texts and reading:
- Steven Cahn (eds.) 2002. *Classics of Western Philosophy*, sixth edition.
  - Other texts will be referred to in class. Any other texts which students are expected to read will be made available, either through the library or the Internet.
  - This is a reading intensive class. If you don't do the reading, you won't do well in the class.
- (d) Plan of the course (subject to revision)
- Unless otherwise stated all pages refer to our anthology.

June 14 Introduction. Course expectations. What is philosophy? The Presocratics.

16 Meno, first read through. (pp. 3-19) scan the entire dialog and try to get a sense of character, plot etc.

21 The Slave Boy Argument: A dialog within a dialog (81b – 86d), finish Meno discussion.

23 *Euthyphro* (pp. 20-28). We will be reading at least up to 5c in class aloud. This does not mean that you should skip reading it, rather be familiar enough to be able to read aloud comfortably.

28 *The Apology* (pp. 29-41)

30 Introduction to Aristotle selection from *On Interpretation* (pp. 185-191)

July 5 No class

7 The four causes of Aristotle. (selection from *The Physics* pp. 192-202) Ancient philosophy wrap-up.

12 Begin Meditations on First Philosophy. Meditations 1 (Cahn, 460 – 462, 1st column) Meditation 2 (Cahn, 462 – 466) and Meditation 3 (Cahn, 466 – 473). If possible, try to start reading these passages several days before the assigned date and cover 1 meditation a night.

14 Meditations 4, 5 and 6 (Cahn 473 – 486) Conclude Descartes

19 *Enquiry of Human Understanding* Sections I, II & III (Cahn, 734 – 742)

21 Does Hume solve Hume's problem? Section IV and V (Cahn, 742 – 748)

21 Necessary Connection, Section VII (Cahn, 757 –765) Hume on Miracles, Section X (Cahn, 777 –788)

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28

August 2

4 finish Wrap-up and Final exam.

- (e) *Peer Exercises* This class may include in-class activities that will involve sharing your work with other students. Continued enrolment in the class implies that you are aware of these activities and are willing to participate in them.
- (f) *Academic Complaints* The Philosophy Department Grievance Procedure for handling grievances is in conformity with the Student Academic Complaint Policy and Procedures set down as University Policy 3342-16 in the *University Policy Register*. For information concerning the details of the grievance procedure, please see the departmental chairperson.
- (g) *Students with Disabilities* In accordance with University policy, if you have a documented disability and require accommodations to obtain equal access in this course, please contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester when given an assignment for which an accommodation is required. Students with disabilities must verify their eligibility through the office of Student Disability Services (SDS) in the Michael Schwartz Student Services Center (672-3391).