

July/August 2005 D

## NEW HORIZONS ADULT PROGRAM

Instructor: Perry Bell

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### **PHI 201-70: Introduction to Philosophy**

**Description:** An introduction to some of the main philosophy problems of traditional Western thought, including ethics, metaphysics, epistemology, political philosophy, philosophy of religion, and feminist philosophy.

**Textbook:** Bruder, Kenneth and Moore, Brooke Noel. **Philosophy: The Power of Ideas, Sixth Edition.** Mountain View, CA: Mayfield Publishing Company, 2002.

### **Course Objectives:**

1. To develop an understanding of basic philosophical theories, their significance, and their implications.
2. To improve skills in study, logical argument, research, and writing.
3. To develop the critical skills of argumentation.
4. To develop critical judgment and scholarly responsibility in the use of reference and research materials.
5. To develop a thorough understanding of the formal elements of philosophy.

### **Goals:**

1. To be conversant with Western philosophical concepts from the Greeks to present day.
2. To be able to articulate philosophical concepts that describe the journey of humanity from the Greeks to the present day.
3. To demonstrate a capability to analyze Western society vis-à-vis philosophical Constructs.

### **Methodology:**

This course is designed to teach students to reason, to study, and to understand basic philosophical theories. Lectures, discussion, and assigned readings will be used to convey the theories. Discussion, exams, and paper will help to teach students to apply logical reasoning to philosophical problems.

### **Requirements:**

1. **Class participation.** Attendance is required, and students must be prepared to discuss the readings.
2. **Reading worksheets.** Students are required to turn in reading worksheets assigned.
3. **Papers.** Two 5-8-page papers will be due during the session. One will be on "Early Philosophy" from the ancients through Aquinas. The second will be on "Modern Philosophy" from Descartes through Feminist Philosophy.
4. **Exams.** There will be two exams during the session. Both will be a mixture of exam forms, but will always include an essay component.

**Computer Problems:** Losing a document on the computer or being unable to print is not an acceptable excuse for late assignments. If you have trouble printing your document, bring it to class on a disk, and I will **try** to help you get it printed so that it is not late. Do not plan on printing your assignments just before the beginning of class—have them done well before class starts so you can work out any potential problems. A good rule to live by: **never, ever, tell a piece of machinery you are in a hurry (corollary to Murphy’s Law).**

**Plagiarism:** Any student using another person’s ideas without acknowledging the original source is guilty of plagiarism, or cheating. Plagiarism and cheating will result in failure for the class.

**Student Outcome Statements:**

1. Write 2 (or more essays of 500-700 words.
2. Analyze philosophical source material.
3. Be able to discuss intelligently the various philosophies of Western civilization.
4. Conduct research and write a research paper of approximately 2500 words.
5. Identify philosophical term.
6. Apply critical standards in written and oral analysis of philosophical models.

**Evaluation:**

1. Evaluations will be made with the following criteria:

|                                 |          |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| A. Attendance and participation | 20%      |
| B. Papers                       | 20% each |
| C. Exams                        | 20% each |
2. The grade scale is as follows:  
A: 90-100% B. 80-89% C: 70-79% D: 60-69% F: Below 60%

**Miscellaneous:**

Springfield College in Illinois provides individuals with disabilities reasonable accommodations to participate in educational programs, activities, and services. Students with disabilities requiring accommodations to participate in class activities or meet requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible.

Change in syllabus will be announced and explained.

Please no cell phones or pagers in class. Please do not bring children to class.

**CLASS SCHEDULE (We always [!!!!] start and end on time.)**

**Please bring to class for July 13 a one-page paper “What Philosophy Is to Me”**

- July 13: 6-6:30 p.m. Introductions. Introduction to the class.  
6:30-7:10 p.m. Introduction to Philosophy. Definitions. **Read Chapter 1 (pp. 1-14).**  
7:10-7:25 p.m. Break 1.  
7:25-8:35 Early Philosophy. **Read Chapter 2 (pp. 18-33).**  
8:35-8:50 Break 2.  
8:50-10 p.m. “Making Sense Out of Life.” Socrates and Plato. **Read pp. 34-74.**
- July 20: 6-7:10 p.m. “What Is Reality?” Plato. **Read pp. 342-354.**  
7:10-7:25 Break 1.  
7:25-8:35 “Metaphysics.” Plato and Aristotle.  
8:35-8:50 Break 2.  
8:50-10 p.m. “What Is It ‘To be’”? Plato and Aristotle. **Read supplementary material.**
- July 27: 6-7:10 p.m. “Eat, Drink, and Be Merry.” The Romans. **Read pp. 75-98, 250-308, plus supplementary material.**  
7:10-7:25 Break 1.  
7:25-8:35 “God, Reality, and Skepticism.” Augustine. **Read pp. 313-314, 263-278 plus supplemental material.**  
8:35-8:50 Break 2.  
8:50-10 p.m. “Natural Theology and Revealed Theology.” Aquinas. **Read pp. 431-433, plus supplemental material.**
- August 2: **PAPER 1 IS DUE!!!**  
6-7:10 P.M. “Experiencing God Directly.” The Mystics.  
7:10-7:25 Break 1.  
7:25-8:35 “Body and Mind.” Descartes. **Read pp. 103-132.**  
8:35-8:50 Break 2.  
8:50-10 p.m. “Methodical Doubt.” Descartes and Leibniz. **Read 104-111-116 and supplemental materials.**
- August 9: 6-7:10 p.m. **EXAM NUMBER 1**  
7:10-7:25 Break 1.  
7:25-8:35 “The Claims of Materialism.” Hobbes. **Read pp. 109-111**  
8:35-8:50 Break 2.  
8:50-10 p.m. “Basic Substances.” Spinoza and Conway. **Read pp. 102-117 plus supplementary materials.**  
**Take Home Final Exam Distributed.**

August 16: **RECEIVE FINAL EXAMS AND ALL PAPERS.**

6-7:10 P.M. “An Appeal to Experience.” David Hume. **Read pp. 134-138.**

7:10-7:25 Break 1.

7:25-8:35 “Human Knowledge and Idealism.” Locke and Berkeley. **Read pp. 117-123, “Pure Reason.” Immanuel Kant. Read pp. 139-158, 279-280, 150-151, 279-281.**

8:35-8:50 Break 2.

8:50-10 p.m. “Will and Representation, Good and Evil.” Hegel, Kierkegaard, Schopenhauer, and Nietzsche. **Read pp. 300-308, 309-341. 378-383. “Happiness and Liberty.” Mill and Liberalism. Read pp. 330-341. Marx. Read pp. 351-355 “Existentialism: The Dilemma of Determinism.” Read pp. 159-200, plus supplemental readings. The Pragmatic and Analytic Traditions. Read pp. 211-244. Theology and Modernism. Read pp. 357-380, plus supplemental Readings. Feminist thought. The Liberation Movements. Read pp. 444-492 plus supplemental readings. Artificial Intelligence and other 21<sup>st</sup> Century Problems. The World. Read supplemental readings.**

Papers will be graded and available August 17. I also would encourage you to make connections between the concepts we are learning and their expression in modern culture. For example, the Movie “The Matrix” would make a good example for many of these concepts. I encourage you to view the move at some point during the class. I will make reference to it and other cultural phenomena.

For class on July 13, please develop a paper on one of the thinkers of the Renaissance: Shakespeare, Descartes, Hume, or Berkeley. Write 4-6 pages on the philosophy of one.