

## **PHIL 1001: Foundations in Philosophy**

Fall 2019, Section 155: MW 3:30-4:45

Instructor: D.J. Hobbs, Ph.D.

*Office:* Marquette Hall #429

*Office Hours:* Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:00-6:00; Tuesdays, 12:30-1:30; and by appointment

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**Course Description:** This course aims to help students critically engage their own experience as it relates to fundamental philosophical questions about the human condition, focusing on moral value and the meaning and purpose of human life. It aims to help students articulate their own deepest questions about these issues, and to increase their understanding of, organize, and befriend these questions in light of a variety of classical and contemporary philosophical approaches.

### **Core Learning Outcomes and Foundation Course in Philosophy**

This course is part of the Marquette University Core. This course introduces the following Core Learning Outcomes:

#### **Responsible and Ethical Communicators**

Marquette students will be able to use written, spoken, and visual communication responsibly and ethically to express ideas, create meaning, build relationships, foster understanding, and advocate for a better tomorrow.

#### **Moral and Ethical Actors**

Marquette students will be able to articulate appropriate professional and personal judgments that are rooted in an ethical and moral foundation and informed by Catholic, Jesuit thought. They will seek to analyze the sources and implications of inequity for a stronger community and a just society.

#### **Citizens with Purpose**

Marquette students will develop a sense of purpose professionally, personally, and as global citizens who demonstrate critically reflective discernment processes that are rooted in their theological, intellectual, and personal commitments.

This course advances the aims of the foundational courses and of the Core Curriculum at Marquette. Central questions and topics in Philosophy ask that students consider their roles as responsible and ethical communicators, ethical actors, and citizens with purpose. The course learning objectives, related activities, and assignments are designed to help students realize their own philosophical questions, understand how historical and contemporary philosophers ask and answer central philosophical issues, and discern different approaches and methodologies for philosophical exploration.

### **Course Learning Objectives:**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Articulate their own deepest philosophical questions: Students will be able to articulate their own fundamental questions about the nature of the human condition, moral value, and the meaning and purpose of human life in relation to a variety of philosophical approaches to these questions. Students should be able to express in writing and orally how their own experiences have made these questions relevant for them and may influence their preliminary answers to these questions.

2. Explain how past and present philosophers have asked and attempted to answer these and related questions: Students will be able to explain how a variety of philosophical approaches ask and attempt to answer questions about the nature of the human condition, moral value, and the meaning and purpose of human life and the logical connections that philosophical approaches make among these ideas (e.g., how a philosopher's understanding of human nature or the human condition bears on his or her understanding of morality and the meaning/purpose of human existence).
3. Demonstrate facility with a variety of critically reflective philosophical processes of discernment: Students will be able to demonstrate facility with a variety of critically reflective processes of discernment that philosophers use to address fundamental questions about the human condition, moral value, and the meaning and purpose of human life.

### **Course Texts:**

All course readings will be provided on d2l. Students are expected to bring copies of the readings to class, whether in print form or electronically.

**Course Requirements:** Students are expected to complete one reflection paper (1-2 pages), one perspectives paper (3-4 pages), one in-class presentation, two examinations, and one final paper (5-7 pages).

*Reflection Paper:* This one-to-two page paper is to serve as the student's reflection on one of the main themes of the course. This paper is to focus on formulating and developing a coherent and insightful philosophical question of the student's own choosing in light of one of the course readings. Specifically, students are asked to demonstrate how some aspect of the current course reading gives rise to a question that the student views as meaningful, and which can best be answered philosophically. The purpose of the reflection paper is not to attempt to answer the question, but rather to formulate it as intelligibly as possible and to demonstrate why it is worth asking. The paper must consist of at least one double-spaced page of good philosophical writing, but is to be no more than two pages in length. This paper may be turned in during any class period the student wishes, but is due *no later than* the class of Wednesday, October 9. This paper is associated with the **Curiosity Component** of the course.

*Perspectives Paper:* This three-to-four page paper is to serve as a consideration of one of the main themes of the course in light of the various perspectives contained in the course readings. Specifically, students are asked to engage critically with a philosophical question raised in the course readings and answered by two different philosophers. The purpose of the perspectives paper is to demonstrate the student's thorough knowledge of the answer given to the question by each philosopher, as well as of the reasons supporting the answer in each case. The paper must consist of at least three double-spaced pages of good philosophical writing, but is to be no more than four pages in length. The paper may be turned in during any class period the student wishes, with two limitations: It cannot be turned in until at least *one week* after the reflection paper has been turned in, and it is due *no later than* the class of Monday, November 18. This paper is associated with the **Perspectives Component** of the course.

*Presentation:* At the beginning of certain class periods, as listed in the course schedule, a group of students will give a presentation on the particular philosophical methodology employed in the current course reading. Each presentation should last roughly 5-10 minutes and should be oriented towards clarifying the *manner in which* the philosopher under discussion goes about the task of investigating and answering the questions posed in the reading, rather than the specific answers that are provided. Each

group should prepare a (properly cited) handout, PowerPoint, etc. to go along with its presentation; these files should be submitted to me via email before class. This presentation is associated with the **Methodologies Component** of the course.

*Exams:* Each exam will consist of a set of sections containing matching, multiple-choice, and/or true/false questions, one short-answer section, and one essay section. These exams will be given in class as indicated in the course schedule. The purpose of the exams is for the students to demonstrate a thorough understanding of course readings. A study guide will be provided prior to each examination.

*Final Paper:* The final paper is to be 5-7 pages in length. More details on this paper will be given later in the semester, but all papers will focus on the student taking up and defending his or her own answer to one of the central philosophical questions discussed throughout the course. Students are expected to formulate their own paper topic (within the guidelines to be given later) and are required to discuss their final papers with the instructor well in advance of the due date. I will also be available to read preliminary drafts. The final paper will be due on Wednesday, December 11.

*Grading Policy:* The breakdown of the final grade for the course is as follows:

Reflection Paper: 10% of total grade  
Perspectives Paper: 15% of total grade  
Presentation: 10% of total grade  
Exam #1: 15% of total grade  
Exam #2: 20% of total grade  
Final Paper: 25% of total grade  
Participation (to be assessed through in-class discussions): 5% of total grade

The grading scale is as follows:

A: 100% – 94%  
A-: 93% – 90%  
B+: 89% – 87%  
B: 86% – 83%  
B-: 82% – 80%  
C+: 79% – 77%  
C: 76% – 73%  
C-: 72% – 70%  
D+: 69% – 67%  
D: 66% – 63%  
F: 62% or below

### **Course Policies:**

*Attendance:* As per the university undergraduate attendance policy, students are responsible for attending all class meetings for courses in which they are registered. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class period. Repeated absences will lower the student's participation grade.

*Missed Exams:* Students will only be permitted to make up missed examinations with good reason; see instructor for details. If you know ahead of time that you will not be present at the scheduled time for an examination, inform the instructor as soon as possible. Similarly, if you miss an examination due to an unforeseen difficulty, inform the instructor of the reason for your absence as soon as possible.

*Late Papers:* The various papers for the course are due as listed in the descriptions of the assignments above and in the course schedule. *No late papers will be accepted.*

*Staples:* All papers for the course are to be submitted in hard copy and are to be stapled properly (paperclips, etc., do not count). Any paper that is turned in without a staple will result in an automatic deduction of 3 percentage points from the assignment grade.

*Students with Disabilities:* Any student with a relevant disability should contact the Office of Disability Services as soon as possible so that they can make the proper academic accommodations for you. The Office of Disability Services at Marquette is here to help any student with a disability succeed in the classroom, but they must be notified of your disability before they can help. The ODS can be reached by telephone at 414.288.1645 or by email at [ods@marquette.edu](mailto:ods@marquette.edu).

*Policy on Electronic Devices:* Electronic devices used to take lecture notes or access course materials are permitted in class. Use of electronic devices for other purposes (e.g., entertainment or communication) is not permitted. Cell phones, etc., are to be silenced for the duration of class.

*Statement on Academic Dishonesty:* Academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated. Examples include, but are not limited to: cheating (copying answers or using unauthorized electronic devices during an examination, presenting another person's work as one's own, etc.), plagiarism (unethical use of unauthorized sources, using another's ideas or words without proper attribution, etc.), and academic fraud (submitting substantial portions of the same work for more than one course without receiving permission from all instructors involved, etc.). If you have questions about whether something counts as academic dishonesty, feel free to ask. Please acquaint yourselves with the University's policies concerning academic dishonesty at:  
<http://bulletin.marquette.edu/undergrad/academicregulations/#academichonestypolicy>.

**Course Schedule:**

DATE:	TOPIC:	ASSIGNMENT:
8/26	Introduction: Course Overview	None
8/28	Introduction: What is Philosophy?	None
9/2	Labor Day	No Class
9/4	Class Canceled	No Class
9/9	What is Truth?	<i>Plato</i> : "The Allegory of the Cave"
9/11	Immortality and the Soul	Presentation #1: The Socratic Method <i>Plato</i> : <i>Phaedo</i>
9/16		
9/18	The Soul and the Body	Presentation #2: The Aristotelian Method Aristotle: <i>On the Soul</i> , Book 2, §1-6 and §12 <i>On the Soul</i> , Book 3
9/23		
9/25	Souls in Catholicism	Presentation #3: The Thomistic Method Aquinas: <i>Summa Theologica</i> , "Treatise on Man," Questions 75 and 84
9/30		
10/2	Minds and Bodies	Presentation #4: The Cartesian Method Descartes: <i>Meditations on First Philosophy</i> , Meditations 1 and 2
10/7		
10/9	Skepticism	Hume: <i>Treatise</i> , Book I, Part IV, Sect. I "Of Scepticism with Regard to Reason" Reflection Paper Due
10/14	Review for Exam #1	None
10/16	Exam #1	None
10/21	Happiness and Purpose	Aristotle: <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book 1
10/23		
10/28	Freedom and Identity	Presentation #5: The Existential Method Sartre: "Existentialism is a Humanism"
10/30		
11/4	Community and Meaning	Presentation #6: The Confucian Method Confucius: <i>Analects</i> , Books 1-4 and 7-8
11/6		
11/11	Value and the Lifeworld	Presentation #7: The Phenomenological Method Husserl: <i>Ideas I</i> , §27-30 Harman: <i>Heidegger Explained</i> , pp. 61-71
11/13		
11/18		Perspectives Paper Due
11/20	Review for Exam #2	None
11/25	Exam #2	None
11/27	Thanksgiving Break	No Class
12/2	The Challenge of Values	Nietzsche: <i>Beyond Good and Evil</i> , C. 1, §1-11 Nietzsche: "The Eternal Recurrence," I.2.26-43

12/4	What Now?	None
12/11	Course Final	Final Paper due at 5:30

This schedule is subject to revision as needed. The exact pace of the course will depend on how quickly we are able to cover the essential points of each topic.