

SYLLABUS

Course title: Introduction to Philosophy- Section: 7608

Instructor-Professor Richard Kaplan

Email: kaplanrh@wlaac.edu

Office Hours: 7pm to 8pm every Thursday or by appointment

Location: **Science Lecture Hall**

Course Begins: August 29, 2013

Course Ends: December 13,, 2013

Course hours: 3:30 pm. -6:45 p.m. on Thursday.

Location: Beverly Hills High School

Room: Science Lecture Hall

Course Description: Study of problems of knowledge, metaphysics, science and religion. This course examines such questions as the existence of God, the problem of evil, the nature of the soul and the origin of the universe.

Course Objectives:

1. The student will be able to utilize the terminology and logical concepts necessary to philosophical analysis.
2. The student will be able to sympathetically present various philosophical positions in metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, science, theology, political theory, aesthetics and related fields.
3. The student will gain a historical perspective to Western philosophy and its relation to non-western traditions of philosophy.
4. The student will be able to critically evaluate and appraise a variety of philosophical positions.
4. The student will be able to foresee implications of views and subject these implications to critical analysis.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES;.. Students will be able to evaluate philosophical theories, movements and ideas as they arise from the reading assignments and in the class discussions.

TEXTBOOK (required reading and purchase): **Ways of Wisdom, Readings on the Good Life**, (Available in Campus Bookstore or online)

Dr. Kaplan's 3 CATEGORIES OF TRUTH CHART -Strongly recommended (download from course website)

Assignments: **Read** from Ways of Wisdom: Preface, Intro and Chapter 1. and from **Aristotle-De Interpretatione –Books 1-14**, <http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/toc/modeng/public/AriInte.html>

Aristotle-Nicomachean Ethics

Ross Translation: http://www.constitution.org/ari/ethic_00.htm or <http://etext.library.adelaide.edu.au/a/aristotle/nicomachean/>

Book I (1,2,3,4 5, 7, 9, 13)

Book II (1-9)

Book VIII (1-9)

Book IX (1, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11)

Book X (6,7)

Commentary and analysis: Sparks notes: <http://www.sparknotes.com/philosophy/ethics/>

Answer the following questions for your journal:

Week I: August 29- Read Chapter 1

From Dr. Kaplan's lecture:

1. Give 3 definitions for the meaning of Philosophy
2. List and define 5 of the branches of philosophic study
3. What was the linguistic task of the pre-Socratic philosophers?
4. Define critical thinking.
5. What is the difference between induction and deduction.

From Ways of Wisdom text-read:

Preface:-

Introduction

Questions for review (page 10) 1, 4,5 & 6.

Week II & WEEK III- Read Chapter 1

Ch 1: Encountering Emptiness

Questions for review from Ways of Wisdom text:: 1, 2,3 &,5

Questions for review: from Dr. Kaplan's lectures

What did Aristotle mean by the word Eudaimonia. Relate it to the Greek words Arete, and phronesis. How does these words relate to moral and political philosophy?

Your journals (with answers to the previous week's assignment (in this case, week 1's assignments) are to be turned into Professor Kaplan every following Thursday at the end of class for his review and grading. They will be returned to you on the following Thursday.

From Dr. Kaplan's lecture:-answer the following questions:

1. Why do the Greek and Roman Stoic and Cynic philosophers trace their roots to Socrates?
2. What are the major areas of agreement between the Stoics and the Cynics?

Questions for review from Ways of Wisdom text::

1. What are the eight behavioral symptoms of value confusion, according to Raths, Harmin, and Simon?
2. What are the three forms of nihilism as described by Nietzsche? Reformulate each one in your own words.

. When asked where he is going, the narrator in "My Destination" gives two somewhat differing answers. What are these answers and how are they different?
3. In what respects are humans like animals, according to Koheleth

Weeks IV & V

Read Chapter 2-Pleasure

From Ways of Wisdom: Answer the following questions from review section:

Questions for review: 1, 3, 5, 8, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22

Weeks VI & VII.

Read Chapter 3: Detachment

From Ways of Wisdom answer the following questions from review sections:

1, 2, 3, 4 , 8, 9, 10, 1, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 , 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24.

From Dr. Kaplan's lecture:-answer the following question: What are the positive aspects of personality masks in human behavior.

Weeks VIII & IX.

Ch IV: Becoming Human

Questions for review: 1, 2, 3, 8, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 13 & 14.

From Dr. Kaplan's lecture: TBA

Weeks X & XI.

Ch V: Nature:

Questions for review: 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 & 26.

From Dr. Kaplan's lecture:-answer the following question:

Week XII & XIII Read Chapter VI-God

From Dr. Kaplan's lecture:-answer the following questions: TBA

Questions for review: 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23 & 24.

Weeks XIV AND XV: -Read Chapter VII-Authentic Existence

From Dr. Kaplan's lecture:- VI: Read Chapter VII.

Questions for review: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24,25, 26, 27, & 28

Week XVI: Read Chapter Ch VIII: The Universe

From Dr. Kaplan's lecture:-answer the following questions: TBA

Ch VIII The Universe

Questions for review: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23 & 24.

Due date for final journal entry and Final Paper is December 13, 2013

Final paper 3 to 5 pages in length-It is composed of 3 essay questions worth 33 points each on John Locke's 1st and 2nd treatise on government (free download available on many websites). State the question and then your answer. The first page of your Final Paper and the outside front of your journal contains your Name, Course, Section # and Date.

Q. #1-After reading John Locke's 1st and 2nd Treatise on government, critically discuss Locke's rationale for the accumulation of capital. Minimum 1 page 12pt Time/Roman double spaced (no title pages).

State the pros and cons of the argument and explain why your conclusion (pro or con) is based on the best argument. Use the formal and informal fallacies in your online course resource area and the following url: <http://www.nizkor.org/features/fallacies/special-pleading.html>. Research the topic in the library and online. Remember no long quotes and identify all your sources by footnotes or references.

2-After reading John Locke's 1st and 2nd Treatise on government, critically discuss Locke's rationale for the denial of the hereditary right of an absolute monarch. Minimum 1 page 12pt Time/Roman double spaced (no title pages). State the pros and cons of the argument and explain why your conclusion (pro or con) is best argument. Use the formal and informal fallacies in your online course resource area and

following url: <http://www.nizkor.org/features/fallacies/special-pleading.html>. Research the topic in the library and online. Remember no long quotes and identify all your sources by footnotes or references.

Q. #3-After reading John Locke's 1st and 2nd Treatise on government, critically discuss Locke's rationale for capital punishment. Minimum 1 page 12pt Times/Roman double spaced (no title pages). State the pros and cons of the argument and explain why your conclusion (pro or con) is based on the best argument. Use the formal and in formal fallacies in your online course resource area and the following url: <http://www.nizkor.org/features/fallacies/special-pleading.html>. Research the topic in the library and online. Remember no long quotes and identify all your sources by footnotes or references.

Note: Final Paper is to be typed in 12 point Times-Roman font. Use Chicago, APA or MLA formatting.

WEB REFERENCE STUDY TOOL SUGGESTIONS:

See resources section of your Etudes-Ng companion website to this course.

<http://www.comms.dcu.ie/sheehan/philosophy/links.htm>

<http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/philinks.htm>

<http://plato.stanford.edu/>

Sparks notes: <http://www.sparknotes.com/philosophy/ethics/>

Aristotle-De Interpretatione –Books 1-14, <http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/toc/modeng/public/AriInte.html>

Aristotle-Nicomachean Ethics

Ross Translation: http://www.constitution.org/ari/ethic_00.htm or <http://etext.library.adelaide.edu.au/a/aristotle/nicomachean/>

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Book X (6,7)

Commentary and analysis: Sparks notes: <http://www.sparknotes.com/philosophy/ethics/>

Philosophic Language and disciplines- Utilize the following:

<http://www.epistemelinks.com/Main/Organizations.aspx?Initial=S>

You can Google other "philosophical disciplines for a plethora of websites.

Utilize:

<http://omacl.org/Hesiod/intro.html>

<http://www.wsu.edu/~dee/GREECE/PRESOC.HTM>

<http://www2.forthnet.gr/presocratics/indeng.htm>

<http://www.drury.edu/ess/History/Ancient/PresocOV.htm>

Dr. Kaplan's 3 CATEGORIES OF TRUTH CHART-Strongly recommended (download from course website resources)

TEACHING FORMAT

Interactive discussions, reading, writing, and research assignments will be required.

Each student is responsible for reading the assigned material prior to the date it is due. Participation in the weekly discussion topic(s) is vital to working out key points of the subject matter. It will also comprise a portion of your final grade.

Grading Formula:

Final paper=50% of total grade.

Journal=30% of total grade

Class attendance and participation=20% of total grade

Final paper-A minimum 3 to 5 page paper (no maximum). Chicago, APA or MLA format. 12 point Times/Roman-double spaced.

Journal (Answers to weekly questions from the corresponding chapter in your Smith text. Listed in the assignment section of your Etudes-NG Intro to Philosophy course shell) and personal philosophical reflections related to weekly material. Discuss and analyze. It is important to first type in the question and then follow with the answer(s). Remember, 1st paragraph, i.e., thesis, particular supporting sentences and paragraphs and conclusion (reinforcement of thesis). 12 point Times/Roman-double spaced.

Class Attendance and participation.

EXTRA CREDIT: up to 30 points. E.g. Mask making representing a philosophic concept with a 1 page academic paper explaining the mask and its relationship to the philosophic concept. Other categories: Dance, poetry, music, mathematics, physics, biology

etc. Please get approval from Dr. Kaplan before beginning your project. Chicago , APA or MLA format. 12 point Times/Roman-double spaced

PLAGARISM: You must cite any author's work you have utilized in your journal and final paper (CHICAGO, APA OR MLA FORMATS). Intellectual dishonesty will result in an F grade in the course and may be reported to the Academic Dean. I appreciate you utilizing your own writing style to express your concepts. If you are an undergraduate student writing like a great scholar...it looks mighty suspicious. I use turnitin.com.

Guidelines to Writing a Philosophy Paper:

<http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/writing.html>

<https://pantherfile.uwm.edu/cbagnoli/www/paperguidelines.html>

You may wish to Utilize WLAC'S writing lab online and in the library building.

Class Policies

Attendance:

Because class discussions and group work are an integral part of this course, attendance is mandatory. Up to 2 absences are allowed. After that, you could be dropped. Students are expected to attend every class meeting, to arrive on time and stay throughout the class period. Excessive absenteeism will lower your grade, as well as walking in and out of class. 3 tardies = 1 absence. Students may be dropped from class for excessive tardiness, or for failure to attend class the first day or during the entire first week of the class.

Walking In and Out of Class :

When you arrive to class, make sure you have used

the restroom, had a chance to eat, check your

messages, etc. Walking in and out is rude and

disruptive. If you need to leave early, or have some

other problem, you need to notify me in advance.

Any student who makes a habit of walking in and

out of class may be asked to leave.

Preparedness:

You are expected to arrive on time. You will come

to each class session prepared. You will have your

books, binder, pens/pencils, any work that is due,
and you will be prepared to discuss all
readings/assignments.

Cell Phones, iPods, etc. :

Turn them off and put them away when class begins!

Although it may not seem possible, you can
survive without talking and texting on your cell ph
one, or listening to your iPod, for a little over an
hour. Talking and texting on cell phones not only
distract you, but they are a distraction for me and
your peers. Distractions interrupt/disrupt the class and I will not tolerate interruptions.
You will be asked to leave if this occurs.

Problems?

If you have a problem, do not let it snowball. Contact me immediately. Students are expected to
ask questions and obtain help from instructor via email and/or during office hours.

Refer to the course website/blog for more information on UMOJA policies.

College Policies:

Student Conduct

According to code 9803.15, disruption of classes or college activities is prohibited and will not be
tolerated. Refer to the catalog and the Standards of Student Conduct in the Schedule of Classes for
more information.

Recording Devices

State law in California prohibits the use of any electronic listening or recording device in a classroom
without prior consent of the instructor and college administration. Any student who needs to use
electronic aids must secure the consent of the instructor.

If the instructor agrees to the request, a notice of consent must be forwarded to the Vice President of Academic Affairs for
approval (WLAC

College Catalog). For more information refer to the attached link:

[http://www.wlac.edu/academics/pdf/WLAC_10-12Catalog
Policies.pdf](http://www.wlac.edu/academics/pdf/WLAC_10-12CatalogPolicies.pdf)

Campus Resources:

Office of Disabled Student Programs and Services

(D

SP&S)

Heldman Learning Resources Center (HLRC), Room 119

| (310) 287-4450.

West Los Angeles College recognizes and welcomes it

s responsibility to provide an equal educational

opportunity to all disabled individuals. The Office

of Disabled Students Programs and Services

(DSP&S) has been established to provide support services

for all verified disabled students pursuing a

college education. DSP&S students may qualify for:

priority registration, registration assistance,

special parking permits, sign language interpreters

and assistive technology (WLAC College Catalog).

Instructional Support (Tutoring) & Learning Skills Center

Heldman Learning Resources Center (HLRC) | (310) 28

7-4486

Improve your reading, language, vocabulary, spelling,

math fundamentals and chemistry knowledge with convenient,

self-paced computer-aided courses in the Learning Skills Center.

Course ends on December 12, 2013

This syllabus is subject to change.