

SYLLABUS:

Dr. Richard Kaplan-Instructor

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Office Hours: T& Th 12:30pm in GC 410 or by appointment.

Course Location: GC 410

Course title: Introduction to Philosophy- Section: 7608

Course Begins: June 16, 2014

Course Ends: July 27,, 2014

Section #1682-Summer Session 2014.

10:30 am. -12:25 p.m. on M-TU-W-TH.

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)

Aristotle-Nicomachean Ethics-Books I, II, VIII, IX & X.

Aristotle-De Interpretatione –Chapters, 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5.
<http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/toc/modeng/public/AriInte.html>

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

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 pages (no maximum). Required style format: MLA. 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. Be sure to make a saved

MSWord file for your weekly Journal assignments .

NO LATE JOURNAL ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED!!!

Your journals (with questions and answers to the previous week's assignments) are to be handed into Dr. Kaplan every Monday morning class for his review and grading. They will be returned to you within one week. Your Journal must be in a folder with inside pockets on the left and right of the folder for weekly assignment storage. The Book Store has them for sale for 2 or 3 dollars. No loose pages will be accepted! Initially grading formula on your Journal assignments: a Check Plus may range from a B, B+, A- or an A. A Check may range from a C, C+ or a B-. Check Minus, may range from a D-, D, D+ or a C- . I review the all the Journal assignments at the end of the semester. This is done only to increase the possibility for the student to be given a higher grade in relationship to the Final Paper, Extra Credit and class participation/attendance grades.

Your journals (with answers to the previous week's assignment (in this case, week 1's assignments) are to be handed into Dr. Kaplan every Monday morning class for his review and grading. They will be returned to you within one week.

Class Attendance and participation are important for your overall grade.

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

Week I: June 16-Read Preface, Introcuton and Chapter 1 From Smith Text

and from Aristotle:

I. 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/>

II. De Interpretatione – <http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/toc/modeng/public/AriInte.html>

[Header](#)

[Front Matter](#)

[Treatise](#) DE INTERPRETATIONE

- [Chapter 1](#)
- [Chapter 2](#)
- [Chapter 3](#)
- [Chapter 4](#)
- [Chapter 5](#)

Chapter 1- **Chapter 1: Significant Utterances**

The preliminary section of the treatise, a terse passage famous in the history of grammar and semantics, begins by setting out the relation between words, thoughts and things. Words are symbols, i.e. conventional tokens, for thoughts, as well as 'signs' of things. Truth emerges from the correct or incorrect 'combination' or 'separation' (affirmation and negation) of these basic words in an assertion.

Keywords: [affirmation](#), [Aristotle](#), [assertion](#), [De Interpretatione](#), [grammar](#), [negation](#), [semantics](#), [symbols](#), [thoughts](#), [truth](#), [words](#)

Chapters 2 & 3- Aristotle's definitions of the basic units of significant speech and the way in which they are employed to form an assertion are seen here. Both 'signify something', but the verb possesses a crucial additional role, the 'additional signification' that its own signification and that of a 'name' are combined, thus enabling an assertion to be true or false. The verb thus contains three elements: a basic signification, a copulative function equivalent to the role of the copula 'is', and an indication of time, which forms a second type of 'additional signification'.

Keywords: [Aristotle](#), [assertion](#), [copula](#), [De Interpretatione](#), [false](#), [name](#), [signification](#), [speech](#), [time](#), [true](#), [verb](#)

Chapter 4-Phrases and Assertions: Aristotle moves on to define longer utterances, distinguishing those, which possess truth?value, from those such as prayers, which do not. Also, no single word can be an assertion, since an assertion must represent a predicate as truly holding of a subject; similarly, no part of a word can have signification. At best, the elements of a compound word can only 'tend to signify'.

Keywords: [Aristotle](#), [assertion](#), [De Interpretatione](#), [phrase](#), [predicate](#), [signification](#), [subject](#), [truth](#), [word](#)

Chapter 5- **Chapter 5: Simple and Compound Assertions**

This chapter offers two criteria for the unity of an assertion: the semantic claim that a single assertion is one which claims one thing about one thing, and the syntactic claim that an assertion may be 'one by conjunction'. After a discussion, the semantic criterion is preferred. There is also an argument that no single word can be an answer to a question, which accords with Aristotle's view of the dialectical question as the demand for the answerer to assent to one out of two assertions.

Keywords: [Aristotle](#), [assertion](#), [compound](#), [conjunction](#), [De Interpretatione](#), [dialectical question](#), [question](#), [semantic](#), [unity](#)

Answer the listed questions (for your journal) below:

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?**
 6. **What did Aristotle mean by the word Eudaimonia. Relate it to the Greek words Arete, and phronesis. How do these words relate to moral and political philosophy?**
- Define the following terms for Aristotle's de Interpretatione"**

From Aristotle's De Interpretatione define the following keywords (word followed by definition)

Chapter 1: Significant Utterances

Keywords: [affirmation](#), [assertion](#), [De Interpretatione](#), [grammar](#), [negation](#), [semantics](#), [symbols](#), [thoughts](#), [truth](#), [words](#)

Chapters 2 &

3

[false](#), [name](#), [signification](#), [speech](#), [time](#), [true](#) & [verb](#)

Keywords: [f](#)

Chapter 4-Phrases and Assertions:

[predicate](#), [subject](#) & [word](#)

Keywords: [phrase](#),

Chapter 5- Chapter 5: Simple and Compound Assertions

Keywords: [compound](#), [conjunction](#), [question](#), [semantic](#) and [unity](#).

From Ways of Wisdom Introduction (Page 10):

Questions for review: 1, 4,5 & 6.

Questions for reflection: 2, 3, 4 & 8

Questions for Discussion: 1, 3 & 4

Ch 1: Encountering Emptiness (p

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

Week II: June 23-Read Chapters II & III.

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?

Ch II: 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

Ch III: 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.

Week III: June 30-Read Chapters and V.

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

Ch IV: Becoming Human

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

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.

Week IV July 7-Read Chapter VI-God

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

Ch VI God

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.

Week V: July 14-Read Chapter VI.

Ch VII: Authentic Existence

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

Ch VII Authentic Existence

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

Due Tuesday (in class) July 23

Week VII: July 21-Read Chapter VIII.

Ch VIII: The Universe

NOTE: At the end of the Introduction and each chapter are notes and questions. Please review them. The notes are excellent reference material and may be used in class discussions.

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 Thursday (in class), July 25 (last day of actual class)

Due date for Final Paper and last Journal assignment is Thursday July 25, 2014.

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 Paper and last Journal assignment is Thursday, July 25, 2014.

Late papers will not be accepted!

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 –Chapters

, <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/>

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.

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.

The first page of you paper and the outside front of your journal contains your Name, Course, Section # and Date. Remember to back up your Journal assignments and Final Paper to your hard drive!!!

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 phone, 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 device in a classroom

listening or recording

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_10-12CatalogPolicies.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).

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 July 25th (in class) , 2014

This syllabus is subject to change.