PHIL 1311E/F: Philosophy of the Human Person
Fall 2015
1311E: MW 1:40-2:55; Strake 201
1311 F: MW 3:10-4:25; Strake 204

Dr. Thomas Osborne
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Sullivan 104B
OFFICE HOURS: MW 11:00-12:15; TThF 3:30-5:00 (and by appointment)

DESCRIPTION: This course is an introduction both to philosophy and to a philosophical way of studying the human person. Students should learn to read philosophical texts and write a short argumentative philosophical paper. The course will begin with an introduction to some basic ideas in logic and natural philosophy. Then we will consider the human person according to a philosophical order, beginning with the definition of the soul and concluding with a consideration of spirituality and immateriality. These first two parts will be roughly Aristotelian and Thomistic. Third, we will look at Descartes’ new understanding of the human soul and the nature of matter, and compare it with Aristotelian and Thomistic views.

TEXTS:


You need to buy hard copies of each text and bring them to class. Electronic texts are insufficient. Other texts will be available on Blackboard. You need to print out these texts and bring them to class.

EVALUATION: There will be two exams during the semester and a final. There will be two distinct versions of a 2-3 page (600-900 words) paper which will focus on identifying and analyzing an argument or conceptual distinction from Aristotle’s *De Anima*. You will be graded twice on this assignment. The first version is due on October 14. After revising your paper in light of instructor comments, you will be graded on the final product, which is due on November 30. The punishment for plagiarism is an “F” for the entire course. Class participation is expected. You must read the assignment if you wish to participate. Absences will hurt your grade. Assuming few absences, the breakdown will be:
In-Class Tests: 30% (15% each)
Final Exam: 20%
Paper: 25% (10% first submission, 15% final submission)
Quizzes: 15%
Participation: 10%

Civil Deportment is required (e.g., no inappropriate language, eating alone in front of others, wearing hats indoors, obnoxious comments, etc.). The use of electronic devices is prohibited unless there is a documented need. Turn off your cell phone and computer. Do not even look at them during class. You can type up your notes after class. If you touch or look at your screen during class, your device will be confiscated for the remainder of the class period. If you then, after having been caught touching or looking at a device, bring such a device to a subsequent class, you will need to leave it with the professor or in a separate area of the classroom.

DISABILITY: If you have a disability which may require special assistance, please contact Counseling Services/ Disability Services, which is located on the second floor of Crooker Center. You may call Debby Jones or Rose Signorello at (713) 525-6983 or (713) 525-3162

SCHEDULE

Monday, August 24. Logic: Predicables (Oesterle, Chapters 1-2, [Blackboard])

Wednesday, August 26. Logic: Categories (Oesterle, Chapter 3-4, [Blackboard]; Aristotle, Organon 1-4, pp. 7-8)

Monday, August 31. Logic: Definition (Oesterle, Chapters 5-6, [Blackboard]; Aristotle, Topics, I.5, pp. 191-192)

Wednesday, September 2. Logic: Arguments (Handout, [Blackboard])

Monday, September 7. Labor Day.

Wednesday, September 9. Form and Matter (Feser, 8-23; Aristotle, Physics II.1-2, pp. 236-240)

Monday, September 14. Life (Lombo/Russo, Chapter 2)

Wednesday, September 16. Soul (Lombo/Russo, Chapter 3; Feser, 131-137)

Monday, September 21. Soul (Aristotle, De Anima II.1-2, pp. 554-559; Thomas Aquinas, ST I, q. 75, art. 1 [Blackboard])

Wednesday, September 23. Review
Monday, September 28. Test

Wednesday, September 30. The Living Body (Lombo/Russo, Chapter 4)

Monday, October 5. Faculties and Powers (Lombo/Russo, Chapter 5; Feser, 137-142)

Wednesday, October 7. Faculties and Powers (De Anima, II.3, pp. 559-560; Thomas Aquinas, ST I, q. 77, art. 1, 3 [Blackboard])


Wednesday, October 14. External Senses (Lombo/Russo, Chapter 6)

Monday, October 19. Internal Senses (Lombo/Russo, Chapter 7)

Wednesday, October 21. Intellect (Lombo/Russo, Chapter 8; Feser, 142-149)

Monday, October 26. Intellect (De Anima, III.4-6, 8, pp. 589-593, 595-596)

Wednesday, October 28. Review

Monday, November 2. Test

Wednesday, November 4. Will (Lombo/Russo, Chapter 9; Feser, 149-151)

Monday, November 9. Passions (Lombo/Russo, Chapter 10)

Wednesday, November 11. NO CLASS

Monday, November 16. Sexuality (Lombo/Russo, Chapter 11)

Wednesday, November 18. Death and Immortality (Feser, 151-162; Thomas Aquinas, ST I, q. 75, art. 2, 6) [Blackboard])

Monday, November 23. Descartes, Meditations One and Two (Ariew/Cress, 9-19)

Wednesday, November 25. Thanksgiving Break.

Monday, November 30. Descartes, Meditation Six (Ariew/Cress, 40-50)

Wednesday, December 2. Dualism, Materialism, Hylomorphism (Mersenne and Descartes, Second Objections (Ariew/Cress, 70-71, 75-78 (nn. 122-123, 129-133)); Feser, 162-173)