Classroom, meeting days and times: Strake 107, MWF, 9:10-10:00 a.m.

Instructor:
Dr. (Matthew) Alexander Schimpf, Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy
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Office Phone: 713-525-3598
E-mail: schimpm@stthom.edu
Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:30-2:30 p.m., and by appointment on other days
Course website: https://blackboard.stthom.edu

Course Description:
As the course title indicates, we will study what it means to be a human person. This will require us to think about many particular aspects of human personhood: sensation, emotion, habits, thought, will, soul and body. To assist your understanding, the course is organized into thematic units: an introductory unit, four substantive units on body, heart, mind, and spirit, and a concluding unit that considers the being of the human person as a whole.

Prerequisites:
None. This course has no formal, academic prerequisites. But on a personal level, the willingness to actively and humbly participate in class (i.e. talk) is important. Furthermore, a functioning university email account, access to the Blackboard course management system, and the ability to print out material are all required and essential. So as not to miss any class announcements or cancellations, it is recommended that students link their university email accounts to their smart phones.

Class Format:
Many classes will begin with a brief debate about the truth or falsity of a philosophical quotation. We will then work through the assigned readings as a class in order to clarify and correct our philosophical understanding. Because the class revolves around active discussion, the use of laptops, tablets, cell phones, and any other electronic device with a screen is prohibited during class (except when academic accommodations apply).

Required Texts:
In an attempt to keep costs down, most of the texts we will use will be available at our class website on Blackboard. However, you should purchase the texts listed below in hard copy. Total costs for new books should be somewhere between $30-40, but lots of used copies in good condition should also be available. While any edition is acceptable, the page numbers of the assigned homework will refer to the exact editions listed below:
Course Requirements and Policies:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Components:</th>
<th>Total points: 100</th>
<th>Due date:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Texts</td>
<td>5 pts.</td>
<td>Daily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Quizzes</td>
<td>20 pts.</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper #1</td>
<td>15 pts.</td>
<td>September 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>15 pts.</td>
<td>October 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper #2</td>
<td>20 pts.</td>
<td>November 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>20 pts.</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>5 pts.</td>
<td>Daily</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Grading</th>
<th>Total Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>95-100 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>Very Good</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>90-94 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>87-89 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>83-86 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>80-82 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>77-79 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>73-76 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>70-72 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>Lowest Pass</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>67-69 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Lowest Pass</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>60-66 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Fail</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>Below 60 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Attendance: Strive to attend all classes and to arrive at class on time. Missing classes lowers your class participation grade (if you are not there, you are not a participant). If you arrive late to class, it will be your responsibility to see me after class to request that I mark you as present in my gradebook: as far as I am concerned, you are absent if you are absent when I take roll. Finally, if you are absent or tardy, I will not fill you in on what you missed; it will be up to you to get the notes from your classmates.

2. Participation. Class participation will be worth 5 total points (5% of your course grade). One can participate by posing questions, offering answers to questions, offering constructive comments, volunteering to read, expressing complete confusion, and so on. The bottom line: make your presence felt. Contribute to the intellectual mission of our class.

3. Texts. You are not going to be able to participate well in this course without having the assigned texts with you in class—to that end, you will be graded on it: 5 pts (5% of your course grade) will come from bringing the correct texts (in hard copy) with you to class on the day we are discussing them or I am lecturing on them. I will check this at the beginning of each class when I take attendance. Should you not be there when I check texts, it is your responsibility to see me after class and let me know that you had the appropriate text.

4. Exams. There will be two exams in the course: a midterm exam and a final exam. The midterm exam will be worth 15 pts. The final exam will be worth 20 pts. Taken together, exams comprise 35% of your course grade. Because the exams will be concerned with the focal points in the text that we have discussed in class, regular class attendance will be the best preparation possible for them. However, we will also have a review session during the class session before each exam.

The midterm exam will take place during our regular class period, probably on Wednesday, October 7. The final exam will take place in our normal classroom: date and time TBA. Note well: the day and time of the final exam are scheduled by the Registrar. This means that I have no control over them, and I am not allowed to reschedule the exam at will. Once the date for the final exam is set, make your travel plans accordingly.

5. Assigned Readings and Quizzes. Most of the work for this class will come from your engagement with the assigned readings. On the schedule below, the reading listed for the day is the reading you should have completed prior to the class. For example, for class on Wednesday, August 26th, you should have already read the selections from Walker Percy and prepared answers to the guide questions posted on Blackboard.

To help you stay motivated to do the readings and to reward your efforts, there will be 11 or so brief pop quizzes on the readings throughout the course of the semester. You will usually have one quiz each week. Each quiz will be worth 2 pts., adding up to a total of 20 pts. (i.e. 20% of your course grade). I plan to drop your lowest quiz grade. All of these quizzes will be administered through Blackboard (under “Course Documents”) and must be completed by 9 a.m. on the day our class meets.

6. Papers. You will have two papers this semester. The first paper will be worth 15 pts. and the second will be worth 20 pts. (together, 35% of your course grade). The papers must be single-sided, double-spaced, written in Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, and follow the Chicago style for any citations. The papers will be due in class, in hard copy, on Monday, September 21st and Monday, November 16th. Topics will be distributed by the instructor.

Late papers may not be submitted via email. Rather, should you be unable to complete the paper on its assigned due date, you may turn in your late paper—again, in hard copy—at the next class meeting that you attend. I will penalize late papers by a full letter grade: i.e., a B paper will be lowered to a C, an A- to a B-, and so on.
7. **Extra Credit.** Extra credit may be earned by writing philosophical reflection papers of 1-2 pages in length on official University of St. Thomas events like lectures, sporting events, etc. (i.e. not your roommate’s 21\textsuperscript{st} birthday party). Such papers should include a detailed description of the event, as well as an explanation of a way in which the event is relevant to the philosophical topics covered in our class. Each paper is worth up to 1 pt. of extra credit, and you may earn up to 5 total points of extra credit (a possible 5% boost to your grade). Papers may be turned in at any point during the semester, but no papers will be accepted after our last “regular” class meeting on Monday, December 7\textsuperscript{th}.

**Academic Honesty:**

Every offense against academic honesty seriously undermines the teaching-learning process for which the University exists. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to:

- Cheating on an examination or test; for example, by copying from another’s paper or using unauthorized materials before or during the test (i.e. using your cell phone).
- Plagiarism, which represents as one’s own the work of another, whether published or not, without acknowledging the precise source (i.e. you copy information from a website, without indicating this fact with a footnote; or, your friend adds material to your paper while “proofreading” it on your computer).
- Knowing participation in the academic dishonesty of another student, even though one’s own work is not directly affected (i.e. “Here, copy my paper; we have different teachers, so nobody will know.”)
- Any conduct which reasonable persons in similar circumstances would recognize as dishonest in an academic setting (i.e. “If #1 is true, then sneeze. If #1 is false, then cough. Tap my foot when moving to the next question.”).

**Penalty:** The penalty for an incident of academic dishonesty may be, at the discretion of the faculty member, either a mark of zero for the work in question or the grade of “F” for the course. Per UST policy, two documented cases of academic dishonesty result in expulsion from the University.

***CLASS SCHEDULE:*** subject to change should circumstances require it (and they usually do)

***Introduction***
Monday, August 24: Introduction
Notecards
On our class: Syllabus
What philosophy is

Wednesday, August 26: The Problem: the Human Person as a Mystery
Text: Walker Percy, *Lost in the Cosmos*, “Preliminary Short Quiz”

Friday, August 28: Our Philosophical Toolkit: Distinctions
Blackboard: Excerpts from Aristotle and Aquinas on four causes, form and matter, substance and accident

Monday, August 31: Our Philosophical Toolkit: Arguments
Blackboard: “Elements of an Argument” and “Fallacies”

Wednesday, September 2: A Preliminary Answer
Blackboard: Blackboard: Lombo and Russo, “The Soul, or the Vital Principle”

***The Human Body***
Friday, September 4: Some Thomistic Thoughts on the Body
Blackboard: St. Thomas, excerpts from *Summa Theologiae*

Monday, September 7: NO CLASS (Labor Day)

Wednesday, September 9: The Fittingness of the Human Body
Blackboard: Leon Kass, excerpts from “The Human Form” in *The Hungry Soul*

Friday, September 11: External Senses
Text: James Reichmann, “Sensory Consciousness”
Monday, September 14: Internal Senses  
Text: James Reichmann, “The Internal Senses”

Wednesday, September 16: Human Sexual Powers  

Friday, September 18: Human Sexual Difference  
Blackboard: Leonard Sax, “Aggression”

***The Human Heart***
Monday, September 21: Emotions, in general  
Text: James Reichmann, “Emotions and Feelings”  
PAPER #1 DUE

Wednesday, September 23: Trained Emotions / Habituation  
Blackboard: C.S. Lewis, excerpts from The Abolition of Man

Friday, September 25: St. Thomas on the emotions  
Blackboard: St. Thomas, excepts from Summa Theologiae

Monday, September 28: The function of emotions  
Blackboard: Conrad Baars, “Emotions—Man’s Psychological Motors”

Wednesday, September 30: Review of Emotions  
Blackboard: Lombo and Russo, “Affective Dynamism”

Friday, October 2: Review of Emotions, con’t  
Blackboard: Lombo and Russo, “Affective Dynamism”

***Interlude: Midterm Exam***
Monday, October 5: Review Session for Midterm exam

Wednesday, October 7: IN-CLASS MIDTERM EXAM

Friday, October 9: NO CLASS (Prof. Schimpf at ACPA Meeting in Boston)

***The Human Mind***
Monday, October 12: NO CLASS (UST Winter Break)

Wednesday, October 14: Sensation vs. Intellection  
Text: James Reichmann, “From Sensation to Intellection”

Friday, October 16: Intellection  
Text: James Reichmann, “Intellection”

Monday, October 19: Intellection, con’t  
Text: James Reichmann, “Intellection”

Wednesday, October 21: Can Machines Think?  
Blackboard: Mortimer Adler, “Artificial Intelligence and the Human Intellect”

Friday, October 23: Language and Thought  
Text: James Reichmann, “Language”

Monday, October 26: Language and Thought  
Text: James Reichmann, “Language”
Wednesday, October 28: The Burden of Mind  
Text: Walker Percy, *Lost in the Cosmos*

Friday, October 30: The Burden of Mind  
Text: Walker Percy, *Lost in the Cosmos*

Monday, November 2: A Space Odyssey, part I  
Text: Walker Percy, *Lost in the Cosmos*

Wednesday, November 4: A Space Odyssey, part II  
Text: Walker Percy, *Lost in the Cosmos*

Friday, November 6: Relationality  
Blackboard: Lombo and Russo, “The Relationality of the Person”

Monday, November 9: Relationality  
Blackboard: Lombo and Russo, “The Relationality of the Person”

***The Human Spirit***

Wednesday, November 11: Introduction to the Free Will  
Blackboard: Stephen Covey, “Habit 1: Be Proactive”

Friday, November 13: A Case Study in Free Will  
Text: Viktor Frankl, *Man’s Search for Meaning*

Monday, November 16: A Case Study in Free Will, con’t  
Text: Viktor Frankl, *Man’s Search for Meaning*  
PAPER #2 DUE

Wednesday, November 18: Logotherapy  
Text: Viktor Frankl, *Man’s Search for Meaning*

Friday, November 20: Logotherapy, con’t  
Text: Viktor Frankl, *Man’s Search for Meaning*

Monday, November 23: St. Thomas on the Rational Appetite  
Blackboard: St. Thomas, excerpts from *Summa Theologiae*

Wednesday, November 25: NO CLASS (UST Thanksgiving Break)

Friday, November 27: NO CLASS (UST Thanksgiving Break)

***Conclusion***

Monday, November 30: Materialism

Wednesday, December 2: Dualism

Friday, December 4: Hylomorphism

Monday, December 7: In-class review session

FINAL EXAM: TBA