PHIL 1311: Philosophy of the Human Person (3 cr.)
Section G, Fall 2015

Classroom, meeting days and times: Rm. Strake 107, TuTh, 8:10–9:25 a.m.

Instructor:
Dr. (Matthew) Alexander Schimpf, Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy
Office location: Sullivan Hall 212—up the main staircase, then immediately turn left
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 essential. 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 a worthwhile philosophical quotation. We will then work through the guide questions 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 (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>Daily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper #1</td>
<td>15 pts.</td>
<td>September 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>15 pts.</td>
<td>October 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper #2</td>
<td>20 pts.</td>
<td>November 17</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>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading:</th>
<th>Grading Scale:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>Very Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Lowest Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Fail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></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 Thursday, October 8. 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. 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 Thursday, 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 8 a.m. on the day our class meets.

6. Papers. You will have two papers this semester. The first will be worth 15 pts., and the second will be worth 20 pts. (all 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 Tuesday, September 22 and Tuesday, November 17th. 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 such as lectures, sporting events, etc. (i.e. not your roommate’s 21st 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).

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:

a. 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).

b. 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).

c. 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.”)

d. 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***
Tuesday, August 25: Introduction
   Notecards
   On our class: Syllabus
   What philosophy is, and isn’t

Thursday, August 27: The Problem, and Our Philosophical Toolkit
   Text: Walker Percy, “Preliminary Short Quiz” in Lost in the Cosmos
   Blackboard: Excerpts on the four causes, form and matter, substance and accident

Tuesday, September 1: More Philosophical Tools, and a Preliminary Solution
   Blackboard: “Elements of an Argument” and “Fallacies”
   Lombo and Russo, “The Soul, or the Vital Principle”

***The Human Body***
Thursday, September 3: St. Thomas on the body, the Fittingness of the Body
   Blackboard: Excerpts from Summa Theologiae
   Blackboard: Leon Kass, excerpts from “The Human Form” in The Hungry Soul

Tuesday, September 8: The Fittingness of the Human Body
   Blackboard: Leon Kass, excerpts from “The Human Form” in The Hungry Soul
   Text: James Reichmann, “Sensory Consciousness”

Thursday, September 10: Sensation: External and Internal
   Text: James Reichmann, “Sensory Consciousness”
   Text: James Reichmann, “Internal Senses”

Tuesday, September 15: Human Sexual Powers
Thursday, September 17: Human Sexual Difference  
Blackboard: Leonard Sax on Aggression and Human Sexual Difference

***The Human Heart***
Tuesday, September 22: Emotions and Trained Emotions  
Text: James Reichmann, “Emotions and Feelings”  
Blackboard: C.S. Lewis, excerpts from *The Abolition of Man*  
PAPER #1 DUE

Thursday, September 24: St. Thomas on the Emotions  
Blackboard: C.S. Lewis, excerpts from *The Abolition of Man*  
Blackboard: St. Thomas, excerpts from the *Summa Theologiae*

Tuesday, September 29: The Function of the Emotions  
Blackboard: Conrad Baars, “Emotions—Man’s Psychological Motors”  
Blackboard: Lombo and Russo, “Affective Dynamism”

Thursday, October 1: Review of the Emotions  
Blackboard: Lombo and Russo, “Affective Dynamism”

***Interlude: Midterm exam***
Tuesday, October 6: Review session for the midterm exam

Thursday, October 8: IN-CLASS MIDTERM EXAM

***The Human Mind***
Tuesday, October 13: NO CLASS (UST Winter Break)

Thursday, October 15: Sensation vs. Intellection  
Text: James Reichmann, “From Sensation to Intellection”  
Text: James Reichmann, “Intellection”

Tuesday, October 20: Intellection  
Text: James Reichmann, “Intellection”  
Blackboard: Mortimer Adler, “Artificial Intelligence and the Human Intellect”

Thursday, October 22: Can Machines Think  
Blackboard: Mortimer Adler, “Artificial Intelligence and the Human Intellect”  
Text: James Reichmann, “Language”

Tuesday, October 27: Language  
Text: James Reichmann, “Language”  
Blackboard: Lombo and Russo, “The Relationality of the Person”

Thursday, October 29: The Burden of Mind  
Text: Walker Percy, *Lost in the Cosmos*

Tuesday, November 3: Space Odyssies  
Text: Walker Percy, *Lost in the Cosmos*

Thursday, November 5: Relationality  
Blackboard: Lombo and Russo, “The Relationality of the Person”
***The Human Spirit***
Tuesday, November 10: Introduction to the Free Will
   Blackboard: Stephen Covey, “Habit 1: Be Proactive”
   Text: Viktor Frankl, *Man’s Search for Meaning*

Thursday, November 12: A Case Study in Free Will, Logotherapy
   Text: Viktor Frankl, *Man’s Search for Meaning*

Tuesday, November 17: Logotherapy
   Text: Viktor Frankl, *Man’s Search for Meaning*
   PAPER #2 DUE

Thursday, November 19: St. Thomas on the Rational Appetite
   Blackboard: Excerpts from the *Summa Theologicae*

***Conclusion***
Tuesday, November 24: Materialism and Dualism

Thursday, November 26: NO CLASS (Thanksgiving break)

Tuesday, December 1: Dualism and Hylomorphism

Thursday, December 3: Review session for final exam

FINAL EXAM: TBA