PHIL 1311C: Human Person
Syllabus

Fall 2016
MWF 10:10AM - 11:00AM
Strake 201

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Required Texts:


Supplementary readings from authors including John Henry Newman and Edith Stein will be distributed via email or Blackboard.

Course Description

This course will serve as an introduction to philosophy and to the fundamental ideas of the philosophy of human nature, including the issues of life and soul, death and immortality, sense and intellectual cognition and appetite. Students should learn to analyze philosophical texts through use of *divisio*, outlines of arguments, and through writing argumentative philosophical papers. The course will begin with an introduction to logic and to the basic principles of nature through an analysis of some major Platonic dialogues. We will then turn to the basic philosophical treatment of human nature given by Aristotle and Aquinas. Third, we will briefly treat Descartes' new dualistic understanding of man. We will end with more recent considerations of the human being in his personal and sexual dimensions as given by Kant, John Paul II, and Edith Stein.

Assignments and Evaluation

2 Papers: 40% (20% each), submitted to turnitin.com
2 Tests: 30% (15% each)
Final Exam: 20%
Participation: 10%

Students will be assigned two papers of 600-900 words. They will also write two tests and a final exam. The participation grade will include a short daily reading response or text *divisio*, daily pop quizzes, and in-class participation. There will be no makeup quizzes. Absences will hurt your grade. Plagiarism will result in failure for the course. Computer and cell phone use is prohibited during class.

This syllabus is subject to revision at discretion of the professor.

Please speak with me in person if you have a documented disability that will impact your work, and register with the Counseling and Disability Services Office in Crooker Center at (713) 525-2169.
You need to buy hard copies of each text and bring them to class. Electronic texts are insufficient. Other texts, including additional readings from Lombo/Russo’s *Philosophical Anthropology*, will be assigned throughout the semester. These will be made available on Blackboard. You need to print out these texts and bring them to class.

### Schedule of Readings

| Week of Aug 22 | Introduction to Philosophy. Logic: Predicables and Categories  
M: Course Introduction.  
F: Oesterle, cc. 2 and 4 (Blackboard) |
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| Week of Aug 29 | Logic: Definition and Arguments. 4 causes.  
M: Oesterle, cc. 5-6 (Blackboard)  
W: Aristotle, *Physics* II, 1-3, 8 (online)  
| Week of Sep 5  | Introduction to Plato and Immortality of the Soul. Paper 1 Assigned.  
M: Labor Day  
W: Plato, *Apology* and *Euthyphro*  
F: *Phaedo* I |
| Week of Sep 12 | Plato: Immortality of the Soul; Divisions of the Soul.  
M: *Phaedo* II  
W: Selections, *Republic* (Blackboard)  
F: Selections, *Republic* (Blackboard) |
| Week of Sep 19 | Life and Soul. Powers of the Soul. Paper 1 Due (F).  
M: *Philosophical Anthropology*, cc. 1-3 (Blackboard)  
W: *De Anima* II.1-2; Aquinas, ST I 76.1, 5.  
F: Aquinas, ST I 77.3. *Paper 1 Due.* |
| Week of Sep 26 | Powers of Soul. Senses: Internal and External. Test (F).  
M: Aquinas, ST 78  
W: Review  
F: Test |
| Week of Oct 3  | Senses, cont. Intellect.  
M: Aristotle, *De Anima* II.5-6, 12  
W: *De Anima* III.4-8  
F: Selections, Aquinas, ST I 79, 84 |
| Week of Oct 10 | Intellect, cont. Can Beasts Think? Can Machines Think?  
M: Fall Break.  
W: Selections, Aquinas, ST I 85-86  
F: Selections, Aquinas, ST I 87-89 |
M: Aquinas, ST I 80, 82, 83  
W: Aquinas, ST I-II 9.1-3, 6  
F: Selections, *Philosophical Anthropology* |
M: Selections, Aquinas, ST I 81.2-3; I-II 22, 23, 25 (Blackboard)  
W: Selections, Aquinas, ST I-II 26, 27, 30, 32, 35 (Blackboard)  
F: Selections, Aquinas, ST I-II 40, 41, 45, 46 (Blackboard) |
Week of Oct 31  Sexuality and Transhumanism. Paper 2 Due (F)
 M: Selections, Edith Stein, Essays on Woman
 W: Selections, Edith Stein, Essays on Woman

Week of Nov 7  Aquinas, Immortality of the Soul.
 M: ST I 75.2, 6.
 W: Review
 F: Test

Week of Nov 14  Descartes and Sartre.
 M: Descartes, Synopsis of Meditations. Meditation I & II
 W: Descartes, Meditation VI
 F: Selections, Sartre, Existentialism is a Humanism and

Week of Nov 21  Human Persons and Human Beginnings.
 M: Chesterton, Everlasting Man (Blackboard)
 W: Lewis, “When Does a Human Life Begin?” (Blackboard)
 F: Wojtyla, ‘An Analysis of the Verb ‘To Use’” (Blackboard)

Week of Nov 28  Human Destiny. Contemplation and Action.
 M: Selections, Sertillanges, The Intellectual Life (Blackboard)
 W: Selections, C.S. Lewis, The Abolition of Man (Blackboard)
 F: Selections, Boethius, The Consolation of Philosophy (Blackboard)

Monday, Dec 5: Review

Monday, Dec 12: Final Exam (subject to change)