PHIL 1311 I & J
Philosophy of the Human Person
Fall 2014
Strake 206
TTH 2:10- 3:25pm (I); 3:35- 4:50pm (J)
Dr. Mary C. Sommers
sommers@stthom.edu
713.942.5048
Office Hours: T-TH 12:00-2:00pm; Wednesday 2:00-5:00pm. Other times by appointment

REQUIREMENTS:

Mid-term (25%) and Final Exam (25%); 4 Written Assignments (40%); Class Participation & Quizzes 10%. Attendance is required. *Attending class includes having the readings for the day in one’s hands.* A fourth absence will result in a 5-10% penalty on the final grade. Attendance at UST lectures or special events (see form on Blackboard) will raise your participation grade.

The University policies requiring intellectual honesty and the penalties for plagiarism will be **strictly** enforced.

No electronic paraphernalia in class, unless you need this accommodation. Any student with a disability requiring accommodations in this course is encouraged to contact me after class or during office hours. Additionally, students will need to contact Counseling and Disability Services in Crocker Center. This office can be reached at (713) 525-2169 or 6953.

REQUIRED TEXTS:


Edith Stein “The Ethos of Women’s Professions” (Blackboard)

Julian Huxley, “Transhumanism” (Blackboard)

Steven Jensen, “The Roots of Transhumanism” (Blackboard)
SCHEDULE:

Thursday 19 January: The Problem of Doing Philosophy

Tuesday 24 January: Why we need Definitions?
   Read: Plato, *Euthyphro*

Thursday 26 January: Do Definitions have Consequences?
   *Euthyphro*, cont.

**Extra Credit: The 38th Aquinas Lecture.** 7:30 PM to 9:30 PM | Jones Hall, Fr. James V. Schall, SJ, Professor Emeritus Georgetown University: "Is Intelligence Impractical? Reflections of a 'Rigid' Thomist."

Tuesday 31 January: The Search for Wisdom
   Read: Plato, *Apology* 17a- 24b

Thursday 2 February: Arguments
   Read: Plato, *Apology* 24c- 35d.

Tuesday 7 February: Decisions
   Read: Plato, *Apology* 35e- 42

**Monday, February 27: Extra Credit: Miller Lecture.** 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM Jones Hall  J. Michael Miller, CSB, archbishop of Vancouver and former president of UST: “Has Pope Francis Changed the Church?"

Thursday 9 February: Definition of Soul: Building Blocks: Nature, Substance, Form & Matter, Four Causes
   Due: 1st assignment

Tuesday 14 February: Definition of Soul: Definition by Division

**Thursday 16 February: The Human Soul** Are human beings identified by their bodies? by their souls?
   Read: Thomas Aquinas, *ST* I, q.75, 1, 2, 4.

Tuesday 21 February: The Powers of the Human Soul: The Senses
   Read: Thomas Aquinas, *ST* I, q.78, 1
Thursday 23 February: The Powers of the Human Soul: The Intellect. Is the intellect an octopus or a sponge?

Read: Thomas Aquinas, ST I, q.79, 1&3.

13-17 March Spring Break

Tuesday 28 February: Are we born with knowledge (innate) or do we have to acquire it?

Read: Thomas Aquinas, ST I, q.84, 6-7.

Thursday 02 March: How do we know the world?

Read: Thomas Aquinas, ST I, q.85, 1-2.

Due: 2nd Assignment

Tuesday 07 March: Mid-Term Exam

Thursday 16 October: Gender & the Human Body:

Read: Thomas Aquinas, ST III, 81, 3 http://www.newadvent.org/summa/5081.htm#article3

Tuesday 21 October: The Powers of the Soul: The Passions/Emotions I

Read: Thomas Aquinas, ST I, q.81, 1-3.

Thursday 23 October: The Passions/Emotions II

Read: Edith Stein “The Ethos of Women’s Professions” (Blackboard)

Tuesday 28 October: The Passions/Emotions III

Thursday 30 October: The Powers of the Soul: The Will

Read: Thomas Aquinas, ST I, q.82, 1-4.

Tuesday 04 November: Is the human will free or determined?

Read: Thomas Aquinas, ST I, q.83, 1.

Thursday 06 November: Is the future of the human “transhuman”?

Read: Julian Huxley, “Transhumanism” (Blackboard)

Due: 3rd Assignment

Monday 10 November: The Aquinas Lecture: Prof. Rémi Brague 7:30-9:00 Jones Hall

Tuesday 11 November:
Read: Steven Jensen, “The Roots of Transhumanism” (Blackboard)

Thursday 13 November: Death
Read: Plato, Crito

Tuesday 18 November: The Problem of Immortality
Read: Plato, Phaedo 57a-69e

Thursday 20 November:
Read: Plato, Phaedo 70a-91

Tuesday 25 November:
Read: Plato, Phaedo 91c-107a

Due: 4th Assignment

Thursday 27 November: Thanksgiving

Tuesday 02 December:
Read: Plato, Phaedo 107b-118a

Thursday 04 December:
Read: Thomas Aquinas, ST I, 75, 6.

Thursday 11 December: 1311 (I): Final Exam --1:45-4:15PM

Tuesday 16 December: 1311 (J): Final Exam --1:45-4:15PM