PHIL 1311 F
Philosophy of the Human Person
Spring 2018
Welder 117
TTH 9:35-10:50 am
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 & Questions (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 Crooker 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 18 January: The Problem of Doing Philosophy

Tuesday 23 January: Why we need Definitions?
Read: Plato, *Euthyphro*

Thursday 25 January: Do Definitions have Consequences?
*Euthyphro*, cont.

Tuesday 30 January: The Search for Wisdom
Read: Plato, *Apology* 17a- 24b

Thursday 01 February: Arguments
Read: Plato, *Apology* 24c- 35d.

Tuesday 06 February: Decisions
Read: Plato, *Apology* 35e- 42

Thursday 08 February: Definition of Soul: Building Blocks: Nature, Substance, Form & Matter, Four Causes
Due: 1st assignment

Tuesday 13 February: Definition of Soul: Definition by Division

Thursday 15 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 20 February: The Powers of the Human Soul: The Senses
Read: Thomas Aquinas, *ST* I, q.78, 1

Thursday 22 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.

Tuesday 27 February: Are we born with knowledge (innate) or do we have to acquire it?
Read: Thomas Aquinas, *ST* I, q.84, 6-7.

**Thursday 01 March:** How do we know the world?
Due: 2nd Assignment

**Tuesday 06 March:** Gender & the Human Body:
Read: Thomas Aquinas, *ST* III, 81, 3
http://www.newadvent.org/summa/5081.htm#article3

**Thursday 08 March:** Mid-Term Exam

12- 16 March: Spring Break

**Tuesday 20 March:** The Powers of the Soul: The Passions/Emotions I
Read: Thomas Aquinas, *ST* I, q.81, 1-3.

**Thursday 22 March:** The Passions/Emotions II
Read: Edith Stein “The Ethos of Women’s Professions” (Blackboard)

**Tuesday 27 March:** The Passions/Emotions III
Due: 3rd Assignment

29- 30 March: Easter Break

**Tuesday 03 April:** The Powers of the Soul: The Will
Read: Thomas Aquinas, *ST* I, q.82, 1-4.

**Thursday 05 April:** Is the human will free or determined?

**Tuesday 10 April:** Is the future of the human “transhuman”?
Read: Julian Huxley, “Transhumanism” (Blackboard)

**Thursday 12 April:**
Read: Steven Jensen, “The Roots of Transhumanism” (Blackboard)

**Tuesday 17 April:** Death
Read: Plato, *Crito*

**Thursday 19 April:** The Problem of Immortality
Read: Plato, *Phaedo*  57a- 69e
Due: 4th Assignment

Tuesday 24 April:
Read: Plato, *Phaedo* 70a-91

Thursday 26 April:
Read: Plato, *Phaedo* 91c-107a

Tuesday 01 May:
Read: Plato, *Phaedo* 107b-118a

Thursday 03 May:

Tuesday 15 May: Final Exam –8:30—11:00am