Course Title: Philosophy of the Person
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How is the human person different from all other sentient creatures? What is the difference between creating and making? Does the human person have a moral responsibility to do that which is right? What are the elements of an argument? What is a valid argument? Can the human person prove the existence of God without the aid of Scripture? Through our readings and discussions these are a few of the questions that we will explore in this course.

Texts:  
Plato Five Dialogues, G.M.A. Grube  
Aristotle For Everybody, Mortimer Adler

Grading:  
Exam 1 30 Possible Points  
Exam 2 30 Possible Points  
Essay 30 Possible Points  
Final Examination 60 Possible Points

140 Points = Course Grade of A  
135 Points = Course Grade of A-  
130 Points = Course Grade of B+  
125 Points = Course Grade of B  
120 Points = Course Grade of B-  
115 Points = Course Grade of C+  
110 Points = Course Grade of C  
105 Points = Course Grade of C-  
90 Points = Course Grade of D

Examination Policy: If the student should miss an examination, the professor reserves the right to administer a different examination and schedule it for a later date.

Attendance Bonus: Role will be taken at the beginning of each class. Students that have only 1 absence will receive 5 extra points added to their course grade. Students that have only 2 absences will receive 4 extra points added to their course grade. Students that have only 3 absences will receive 3 extra points added to their course grade. Absences from class due to university sanctioned events will be excused.

Academic Accommodation: Any student with a disability requiring accommodations in this course will need to contact Counseling and Disability Services in Crooker Center. This office can be reached at 713.525.2169.
Course Schedule

Week 1  1/22 - 1/24  Reading:
        A, pages 3 - 19;
        Holy Bible: Genesis, chapters 1 & 2;
        "On Man", Mortimer Adler;
        "Art is the Signature of Man", G. K. Chesterton;
        "In God's Image", Pope John Paul II.
        Topics:
        Definition by genus and difference;
        Aristotle's definition of man;
        The three acts of the human mind;
        Is man different in kind or different in degree from all
        other sentient creatures?

Week 2  1/29 - 1/31  Reading:
        A, pages 24 - 48;
        "Creation Ex Nihilo", Derek Thomas;
        "The Image Within", Michelangelo;
        "Origen of Art", Martin Buber.
        Topics:
        Making Something from Nothing (bara);
        Making Something from Something (asah);
        Natural and Artificial Events.

Week 3  2/05  Topics:
        The Four Causes.

Week 4  2/12 - 2/14  Reading:
        "An Introduction to Socrates", Peter Kreeft;
        P, pages 21 - 44, Apology.
        Topics:
        1. Socrates' Defense
           Slander of the past
           Slander of the present
           The Oracle at Delphi
           Explanation of his mission.
        2. Penalty Phase
           Penalty that Socrates' accusers suggest
           Penalty that Socrates suggests
        3. Closing Remarks
           To those voting to convict Socrates
           To those voting to acquit Socrates
Week 5  2/19 - 2/21
Reading:
P, pages 45 - 57, Crito;
"Letter from Birmingham Jail", Martin Luther King Jr.;
"Black Man In A White Man's Court", Nelson Mandela.
Topics:
Crito's arguments for why Socrates should escape;
Socrates' response to Crito's arguments;
Discussion with The Laws;
Dr. King's principles and methodology of nonviolence;
Mandela's willingness to sacrifice his life for his beliefs.

Week 6  2/26 - 2/28
Reading:
A, pages 69 - 126;
Selection from The Abolition of Man, C.S. Lewis
"A Gift for Each Other", Pope John Paul II
Topics:
Exam 1;
Man's ultimate end;
Wants and Needs;
Needs of the Body; Needs of the Soul.

Week 7  3/05 - 3/07
Reading:
A, pages 129 - 167;
Topics:
Two kinds of Argument;
Premise and Conclusion;
Assumptions, Contradictions, and Theorems.

Week 8  3/12 - 3/14
Spring Break

Week 9  3/19 - 3/21
Topics:
Truth, Validity, and Soundness;
Categorical Propositions.

Week 10  3/26 - 3/28
Topics:
Quality, Quantity, and Venn Diagrams;
The traditional Square of Opposition.

Week 11  4/02 - 4/04
Topics:
The Categorical Syllogism;
Proving validity and invalidity using the Venn-Diagram method.
Week 12  4/09 - 4/11  Topics:
The Categorical Syllogism;
Proving validity and invalidity using the Venn-Diagram method.

Week 13  4/16 - 4/18  Topics:
Exam 2;
Arguments that attempt to prove the existence of God.

Week 14  4/23 - 4/25  Topics:
Essay Due;
Arguments that attempt to prove that God does not exist.

Week 15  4/30 - 5/02  Topics:
The Book of Job;
Final Exam Review.

Final Examination  To be announced

The content of this course schedule is subject to change at the discretion of the professor.