

PHILOSOPHY 215
HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY: JUSTICE & VIRTUE
 Southern Virginia University
 Spring Semester 2002



TIME: TR 1:00-2:15 pm (sec 1), 2:30-3:45 pm (sec 2), 9:30-10:45 am (3)
PLACE: Durham Hall 202
INSTRUCTOR: John M. Armstrong, Ph.D.; Assistant Prof. of Philosophy & Greek
OFFICE HRS: Durham Hall 303, MWF 11:00-12:15 p.m. or by appt.
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DESCRIPTION

A study of major ancient, medieval, and modern philosophers and schools of philosophy on morals and politics. Topics include the good life, the just society, and the role of government. Readings focus on primary texts from major authors of the Western tradition.

REQUIREMENTS

Attendance. Students must attend class and be on time. Only two unexcused absences will go unpenalized. Each other unexcused absence reduces the student's final overall score by two percentage points. Absences are excused only by the instructor and only in emergency circumstances. If the student wishes an absence excused, the excuse must be approved by the instructor in advance whenever possible. Fewer than two absences (excused and unexcused) will increase the student's final overall score by two percentage points per attendance. Students violating the University's dress and grooming standards may be dismissed from class and, counted absent, may return to class only when in compliance.

Short papers. Students are required to submit six one-page, double-spaced papers, but no more than one per week and at least three before the midterm exam. A short paper is to be written in response to one of the study questions provided by the instructor and is due at the beginning of the class period to which the particular study question is assigned. Each short paper requires the student to identify and discuss a philosophical argument or position and to critique it in some way. The student may turn in more than six short papers over the course of the semester in order to try to improve his or her top six scores. Students should be prepared to present their short papers in class. The short papers are worth 30% of the final grade.

Portfolio Paper. The student must write a paper of at least 1000 words. This should be an expansion of a short paper (see above). It is due April 11 and is worth 20% of the final grade. An optional draft may be submitted by April 2 to receive comments.

Exams. There are two exams, each worth 25% of the final grade. They may consist of short-answer questions, essay questions, or questions on important passages. A study guide will be distributed at least two days prior to the exam. Permission to miss an exam must be granted in advance by the instructor. Such permission will be granted only in extreme circumstances such as when the student must attend a funeral. Any make-up exam must be taken within one week of the original exam date.

GRADE SCALE

A = 93-100%, A- = 90-92%, B+ = 87-89%, B = 83-86%, B- = 80-82%, C+ = 77-79%, C = 73-76%, C- = 70-72%, D+ = 67-69%, D = 60-66%, F = 0-59%. The instructor may lower this scale if it misrepresents the level of student performance.

REQUIRED TEXT

Michael L. Morgan, ed., *Classics of Moral and Political Theory*, Third Edition (Hackett Publishing Co., 2001)

SCHEDULE

Jan 8 Introduction

CLASSICAL MORAL & POLITICAL THEORY

- ~~Jan 10~~ Plato, *Apology*
 1 ~~Jan 15~~ Plato, *Cratylus*, *Phaedo* 114d-118a
 Jan 17 Plato, *Republic* 327a-354c 32-54
 2 ~~Jan 22~~ Plato, *Republic* 357a-383c 54-74
 Jan 24 Plato, *Republic* 412b-445e 76-120
 3 ~~Jan 29~~ Plato, *Republic* 473b-480a, 502d-521b
 Jan 31 Plato, *Republic* 562a-592b
 4 ~~Feb 5~~ Plato, *Republic* 595a-621d
 Feb 7 Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* Book I 1-7
 5 ~~Feb 12~~ Aristotle, *Nic. Ethics* I 8 - II 7
 Feb 14 ~~no class~~
 6 ~~Feb 19~~ Aristotle, *Nic. Ethics* VIII 1-6; IX 4, 8-9; X 7-8
 Feb 21 Aristotle, *Nic. Ethics* X 9; *Politics* I 1-2; III 1, 4, 7; VII 1-3, 13
 7 Feb 26 Midterm Exam

VIRTUE IN THE HELLENISTIC PERIOD AND LATE ANTIQUITY

- Feb 28 Epicurus, *Letter to Menoeceus*, *Principal Doctrines*
 Mar 12 Epictetus, *Encheiridion*
 Mar 14 Augustine, *City of God* XIX 1-2, 4, 6-7, 11-13

MODERN SOCIAL CONTRACT THEORY

- ~~Mar 19~~ Hobbes, *Leviathan* Pt. I, Chs. 6, 10, 13
 Mar 21 Hobbes, *Leviathan* Pt. I, Chs. 14, 15; Pt. 2, Chs. 17-18
 4 Mar 26 Locke, *Second Treatise of Government* Chs. 1-4
 Mar 28 Locke, *Second Treatise* Chs. 5-6
 Apr 2 Locke, *Second Treatise* Chs. 7, 8, 95-99, 8.119-122, 9, 19.211-222 (optional portfolio paper draft due)

19TH CENTURY SOCIAL THOUGHT

- Apr 4 Mill, *On Liberty* Chs. 1 & 2
 2 Apr 9 Mill, *On Liberty* Ch. 2 (cont'd)
 Apr 11 Mill, *On Liberty* Chs. 3 & 4 (portfolio paper due)
 Apr 16 Marx, *Alienated Labor*
 1 Apr 18 Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morality*, Preface & First Treatise

Apr 27 Final Exam

The instructor may adjust this schedule after notifying the class.

1st Paragraph - Answer Question + Explain
 2nd Paragraph - Personal Evaluation and argument
 (Not position) Find something in contrast with the philosopher's view