

PHILOSOPHY 365.01
Modern & Contemporary Philosophy
3 Credit Hours Spring 2008
AB4 204

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Office Hours: MWF: 3-5 or by appointment

PHL 365 is designed to introduce the student to the history of a variety of philosophical questions from Early Modern Philosophy (roughly the 16th Century) to the present. It has no prerequisites. It is designed as a lecture course. The examinations will suit the requirements of “writing enhanced” courses. On average, over 50% of test answers will take the form of written answers, although scantron answer questions will be offered, either in whole or in part on any given test.

The objective is such that at the end of PHL 365 the student should be able to do all or most of the following:

- introduce philosophical questions and problems most peculiar to Modern Philosophy;
- define and use key philosophical terms;
- claim insight into the basic branches of Philosophy;
- note the influence of major schools of thought in the history of Philosophy;
- explain at least minimally how Philosophy was and is centrally related to other disciplines such as natural science, religion, law, etc;
- think more critically (in the constructive sense of the word).

The required text for the course is *Classics of Western Philosophy* (Hackett Press, edited by Cahn). No other supplies are required, however, all students are mightily encouraged to avail themselves of the vast amount of philosophy books available in the university library.

The professor believes it would behoove all students to attend class consistently. Four unexcused absences will result in the reduction of the grade for the course by a full letter; six such absences by two letters; seven or more, three full letters.

There are no take-home assignments as such. It is understood that students will read material *before* class, take notes diligently, and read the material sufficiently *after* class on a regular basis.

The course will proceed according to the following examination schedule:

Examination 1

René Descartes: *Meditations on First Philosophy*

Examination 2

Thomas Hobbes: *Leviathan*

Examination 3

Gottfried Leibniz: *The Monadology; Discourse on Metaphysics*
Hume: *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*

Examination 4

Immanuel Kant: *Critique of Pure Reason; Grounding of the Metaphysic of Morals*

Examination 5

Georg Hegel: *Phenomenology of Spirit (Mind)*

Examination 6

John Stuart Mill: *Utilitarianism*
[Likely a pop test, open-book test, or take-home test.]

Examination 7

Friedrich Nietzsche: *Twilight of the Idols*

Examination 8

Martin Heidegger: *Being and Time* [Lecture only]
Jean-Paul Sartre: *The Humanism of Existentialism*

The grade for the course will be the average drawn from all of the test scores and determined according to the following scale:

A = 88-100 B = 77 - 87 C = 66 - 76 D = 55 - 65 F = 0 - 54.

Given time restraints, some portions of the course may have to be omitted. Under such circumstances, all conditions of the syllabus otherwise apply.

There will be no curving of grades. **The professor will not drop the lowest grade.** There will be no outside work for extra credit. The professor will only review graded exams upon their return in class, at which time only will revisions to a grade be made.

As this is a (W) writing enhanced course, incomplete, inept, or simply sloppy grammar will be considered incorrect and subject to demerits: this includes, but is not limited to, errors in contractions, possessions, subject-verb agreement, punctuation, run-on sentences, etc.

There will be no make-up exams (except in extraordinary circumstances with documentation). Make-ups will be arranged in due course, but will likely be deferred until the end of the semester. Should a student miss one exam, the student's lowest grade will be substituted for that missed exam. Should a student miss a second exam, the score for that exam will be a zero.

Students are encouraged to speak up in class when enthused, confused, or otherwise interested for whatever reasons.

Students with learning disabilities may be accommodated after consultation with the counseling center.

Sam Houston Writing Center, located in Wilson 114, is open from 8 a.m. until 7 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Friday, and 2-7 p.m. on Sunday. You can just drop by to work with a tutor or call 936-294-3680 to schedule an appointment.

All students will be asked to evaluate the professor at some point late in the semester in a universally applied paper format.

STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made in the first fifteen days of the semester or the first seven days of a summer session in which the absence(s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

DISABLED STUDENT POLICY

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled individual shall, solely by reason of his/her handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic or Student Life program or activity. Disabled students may request help with academically related problems stemming from individual disabilities from their instructors, school/department chair, or by contacting the Chair of the Committee for Continuing Assistance for Disabled Students and Director of the Counseling Center, Lee Drain Annex, or by calling (936) 294-1720.

Visitors in the Classroom

Unannounced visitors to the class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted in the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the discretion of the instructor whether or not the visitor will be allowed to remain in the classroom.

If you need to bring a child to class, you **MUST** obtain permission prior to the class. The child **MAY** be allowed to attend, as long as the child is not disruptive and the attendance is not habitual.