

PHILOSOPHY (PHL) 261
INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY Summer 2008
DR. M. C. BRADLEY (Bradley@shsu.edu)
AB4 406 936-294-1943 Office hours: MWF: 2:30 – 4:30 or by appointment

At the conclusion of this course the student should be able to do all of the following: Recognize basic philosophical questions and problems; define and use key philosophical terms; claim insight into the basic branches of Philosophy; identify major “schools” in the history of Philosophy; explain 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 text for this course is *Philosophic Classics: From Plato to Derrida*, (Baird & Kaufmann, eds.).

EXAMINATION I

Plato: *Republic* (The Divided Line/On the Essence of Justice/The Philosopher-King/The Decline of the City);

EXAMINATION II

Plato: *Euthyphro* (On the Essence of Piety).

EXAMINATION III

Aristotle: *Metaphysics, On the Soul*

EXAMINATION IV

Aristotle: “Great Chain of Being;” *Nicomachean Ethics*

EXAMINATION V

Epicurus: *Letter to Menoceus*

EXAMINATION VI

Augustine: *On Free Will; Confessions* (On Time and Eternity).

EXAMINATION VII

Descartes: *Meditations on First Philosophy* (I-IV)

EXAMINATION VIII

Hobbes: *Leviathan*.

EXAMINATION IX

Nietzsche: *Twilight of the Idols*

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.

There will be no curving of grades. The lowest grade will be dropped; *however*, it will be replaced by the second-lowest grade.

Any missed exam must be made up. Make-up exams will be given on a designated day or days near very end of the semester, and can take a form considerably different from the exam offered *per* the usual schedule.

As this is a (W) writing enhanced course, egregious grammar will be considered incorrect.

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 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.

This course will be directed as a lecture course. However, each student should feel free to interrupt a lecture at any time should he or she be confused, curious, or particularly enthusiastic about a topic. Questions, comments, and constructive class participation are encouraged. Do not be shy or afraid to ask questions.

SHSU believes all students should attend class consistently. Poor attendance will give the professor just cause to reduce the grade for the course by entire letters: Four or more unexcused absences, a decrease by one full letter; six or more, two full letters. 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. Writing tutors will work with you one-on-one to help you generate a draft, organize a draft, or revise a draft of any assignment. You can just drop by to work with a tutor or call 936-294-3680 to schedule an appointment.

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.

Q-DROPS

A Q-drop is a drop made after the last date for tuition refunds (12th class day for fall/spring; 4th class day for summer) but before the date for which a drop would result in the grade of 'F' as published in the Academic Calendar.

Students will be allowed no more than five Q-drops during their academic career at Sam Houston State University. Classes that are dropped prior to the Q-drop date will not count toward the limit. Students who have used their limit of five Q-drops will need to petition their respective dean to drop a class. If the dean refuses to grant permission to drop a class, a student will be required to remain in the class.

This limit will take effect with the start of the fall 2004 semester. Any drops accumulated prior to the fall 2004 semester will not be included in the five Q-drop limit, nor will Q-drops from other universities.