

PHILOSOPHY (PHL) 364: ANCIENT & MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY

Fall 2007

Dr. M. C. Bradley

AB4 406 [MWF: 3-5, or by appointment] 936-294-1943 bradley@shsu.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

PHL 364 Ancient and Medieval Philosophy. A survey of philosophical thought from the time of the pre-Socratics to about 1500. Includes the study of the work of Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, the Hellenistic schools, and medieval philosophy through the late scholastic period. The artistic, scientific, ethical, political and general cultural ramifications of the major systems of thought are noted. Credit 3.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The aim of this course is to make the student familiar with, and conversant about, basic questions in the history of Ancient and Medieval Philosophy: hence the study of the work of pivotal figures within that history in considerable detail. Also, much of the course will be devoted to recognition of the notion of Philosophy as a *systematic* way of thinking, and tracing the influence of these thinkers' philosophical systems on Modern and Contemporary Philosophy.

REQUIRED BOOK(S)

The required book for the course is *Classics of Philosophy, 7th Edition* (edited by Cahn), Hackett Press.

EXAMINATION SCHEDULE

Examination 1: Some Pre-Socratics: **Thales, Empedocles, Parmenides** [Lecture only].

Examination 2: **Heraclitus, Pythagoras** [Lecture only].

Examination 3: **Plato: Phaedo**.

Examination 4: **Plato: Apology**.

Examination 5: **Aristotle: Metaphysics; Categories; Physics**.

Examination 6: **Aristotle: De Anima; more Metaphysics**.

Examination 7: **Epicurus: Letter to Herodotus** [Lecture only]; *Letter to Menoceus*.

Examination 8: **Sextus Empiricus: *Outlines of Pyrrhonism.***

Examination 9: **Epictetus: *Enchiridion*; Augustine: *On Free Choice; Confessions.***

Examination 10: **Anselm: *Cur Deus Homo* Thomas Aquinas: *Summa Theologica.***

[Examination 10 is the Final, and is not comprehensive.]

GRADES

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 is no curving of grades or extra credit. The professor will not drop the lowest grade.

There will be no make-up exams (except in extraordinary circumstances with documentation). All make-up exams will be deferred until the end of the semester, on or close to the day scheduled for the final exam.

Should a student miss one exam, and by choice or circumstance not make up the exam, the student's lowest grade will be substituted for that missed exam. Should a student miss a second exam for whatever reason, the student's lowest grade will replace one of the missed exams, and the score for the other will be *zero*.

The professor will only review graded exams upon their return in class. **Only at that time** will revisions (always upward) to a grade be made. This makes class attendance a virtue.

ATTENDANCE

Poor attendance will have consequences. Four to six unexcused absences will result in a demerit of an entire letter grade for the entire course. Seven or more unexcused absences will result in a demerit of two entire letter grades for the entire course.

This course will be directed as a lecture course. There are no group discussions, etc.

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.

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

Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

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.