

Introduction to Philosophy (Phil 100-005)

Course Syllabus Spring 2008

MW Science and Technology I 224

Instructor Dr. R. Bayer
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Office Hours by Appointment

Required Texts

Hobbes, Thomas. *Leviathan*. Ed. Richard Tuck (Cambridge University Press)
Machiavelli, Niccolo. *The Prince*. Trans. Harvey Mansfield (University of Chicago Press)
Plato. *Gorgias*. Trans. Robin Waterfield. (Oxford University Press)

Handouts to be distributed in class

Overview

This course is designed to introduce you to three texts that are foundational to the study of philosophy. The goal of the course is to make you aware of some of the ideas which have shaped Western (and to some extent world) cultural discourse. While these three works are primarily political in nature, they will also introduce you to some ideas in the disciplines of epistemology and metaphysics. In the course of my lectures, I will also bring to your attention some of the relevant political history necessary to understanding the times in which each philosopher wrote, and the governing intellectual influences. Most importantly, we shall discuss some of the continuing topics of philosophical debate, such as what philosophy is, in and of itself.

Written Assignments

The final grade will be determined from the results of two tests, an essay, and an exam. There will be two in-class tests, on February 27, and then on April 2, which together will compose 30% of the final mark. On April 28 an essay will be due worth 30% of the final mark – topics to be assigned. The final exam will compose another 30% of the grade, and there will be a 10% class participation mark. Any violations in academic honesty will be dealt with most severely. A plagiarized paper will be referred to the Honor Committee and then receive a F. If you have any questions about what plagiarism is, please ask. I also recommend that all students visit the Writing Center before submitting their paper. I plan to use the Turnitin anti-plagiarism program set up by GMU.

The Final Exam will take place on **Wednesday May 7, 1:30 - 4:15**.

Reading Schedule

(students are expected to read the material before attending class and be prepared to discuss the reading)

Wed. 1/23 Introduction to the Course

Mon. 1/28 Hobbes, Introduction and chapters 1 and 2

Wed. 1/30 Assignment, class canceled

Mon. 2/4 movie on Scientific Revolution (questions about this will appear on the test)

Wed. 2/6 Hobbes, chapters 3 – 5
Mon. 2/11 Hobbes, chapters 6 - 7
Wed. 2/13 Hobbes, chapters 10 - 11
Mon. 2/18 Hobbes, 12 - 14
Wed. 2/20 Hobbes, 15, 17, 46, Review and conclusion
Mon. 2/25 Handout on Locke
Wed. 2/27 **TEST**

Mon. 3/3 movie on Renaissance science (questions from this movie will appear on test)
Wed. 3/5 Machiavelli, Dedicatory Letter – VIII

March Break

Mon. 3/17 Machiavelli, IX – XVIII
Wed. 3/19 Machiavelli, XIX – XXVI
Mon. 3/24 Plato, Apology (handout)
Wed. 3/26 Plato, *Gorgias*, 447 – 461b
Mon. 3/31 Plato, 461 – 472
Wed. 4/2 **TEST**
Mon. 4/7 Plato, 473 – 486
Wed. 4/9 Plato, 487 – 499
Mon. 4/14 Plato, 500 – 509
Wed. 4/16 Plato, 509 – 515
Mon. 4/21 Plato, The Line and the Cave, handout
Wed. 4/23 **ESSAY DUE**, and handouts for reading
Mon. 4/28 Reading to be assigned
Wed. 4/30 Reading to be assigned
Mon. 5/5 I will be available in class for questions in preparation for the exam.

I reserve the right to make alterations to the daily schedule if necessary.