

Philosophy 26: History of Philosophy, CSU-Sacramento, Spring 2020 (MW, 1:30-2:45pm, Douglass Hall 208)

Instructor: Shawn Miller, shawn.miller@csus.edu

Office Hours: W 12:30-1:15 pm

Office: 3032 Mendocino Hall

Required Text: Pojman/Vaughn, *Classics of Philosophy*, 3rd Edition (Oxford, 2010), ISBN-13: 978-0199737291

Anonymous feedback on the course can be given at any time at: shamiller.net/phil026

Catalog Description: Introduction to the history of philosophy, emphasizing such themes as the foundations of knowledge, the nature of reality, the basis of a good life and a just society, the existence of God, and the nature of self, and tracing the development of these themes from antiquity to the modern period.

Learning Objectives: As a GE Area C2 course (https://www.csus.edu/undergraduate-studies/general-education/_internal/_documents/area-c2-learning-outcomes.pdf), by the end of the term, each student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the conventions and methods of the study of the humanities.
2. Investigate, describe, and analyze the roles and effects of human culture and understanding in the development of human societies.
3. Compare and analyze various conceptions of humankind.
4. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the historical development of cultures and civilizations, including their animating ideas and values.

In addition, by the end of the term, each student will be able to:

1. Identify and distinguish the main historical traditions in western philosophy, from Pre-Socratics to the Enlightenment.
2. Identify and explain key philosophical concepts as they arise in the different historical periods, including knowledge, reality, reason, substance, identity, mind/soul, causation, experience, etc.
3. Read and comprehend key texts in the history of philosophy.
4. Write clearly and cogently on a variety of topics in the history of philosophy.
5. Apply basic philosophical concepts to discuss problems of historical significance, including the mind-body problem, the challenge of skepticism, the relation of sensation/experience to knowledge, the limitations of reason, the relation of reason to passions, the existence of god, the challenge of determinism, etc.

Accessibility: Let me know before the second day if you have a disability requiring

accommodation (documentation to SSWD, Lassen Hall 1008, 916-278-6955, see <http://www.csus.edu/sswd/index.html>) or if you must miss something for some reason.

Academic Honesty: Know the policy: <http://www.csus.edu/umannual/student/STU-0100.htm>. A tutorial on avoiding plagiarism: <https://www.northwestern.edu/provost/policies/academic-integrity/how-to-avoid-plagiarism.html>.

Computer Use: Do not use laptops, tablets, or cell/smart phones in class for activities unrelated to the class.

Grading

- **Participation:** 25% (earned via in-class writing assignments; you may miss two assignments without penalty)
- **Writing Assignment 1:** 5% (essay between 300-500 words)
- **Writing Assignment 2:** 20% (essay between 500-750 words)
- **Writing Assignment 3:** 25% (essay between 750-1,000 words)
- **Writing Assignment 4:** 25% (essay between 1,000-1,500 words)

Schedule & Readings

Week 1: No readings

Week 2: Pre-Socratics

Jan. 27: pp. 3-20

Jan. 29: continued

Week 3: Plato

Feb. 3: pp. 22-35

Feb. 5: continued

Writing Assignment 1 due on Canvas February 7

Week 4: Plato

Feb. 10: pp. 36-58

Feb. 12: continued

Week 5: Plato

Feb. 17: pp. 58-68

Feb. 19: continued

Week 6: Aristotle

Feb. 24: pp. 202-09

Feb. 26:

Week 7: Aristotle

March 2: pp. 267-308

March 4: continued

Writing Assignment 2 due on Canvas March 4

Week 8: Aristotle

March 9: continued

March 11: continued

Week 9: Epicurus

March 16: pp. 342-48

March 18: continued

Week 10: Sextus Empiricus

March 23: pp. 361-78

March 25: continued

Writing Assignment 3 due on Canvas March 27

Week 11: Spring Break

Week 12: Augustine

April 6: pp. 395-411

April 8: continued

Week 13: Augustine

April 13: pp. 424-34

April 15: continued

Week 14: Boethius & Anselm and Gaunilo

April 20: pp. 435-43

April 22: pp. 444-47

Week 15: Thomas Aquinas

April 27: pp. 454-77

April 29: continued

Week 16: William of Ockham

May 4: pp. 478-83

May 6: continued

Writing Assignment 4 due on Canvas May 8