

CLASSIC AND EARLY MODERN PHILOSOPHY

Course Outline

Course Number: HUMN2

Classic and Early Modern Philosophy is the first of a two-part introductory philosophy course. The primary goal of the course is to introduce students to the great tradition and story called western philosophy, and to provide a perspective on its history through a study of philosophy's central concerns and challenges. In this course students learn about the origins of philosophical inquiry and the rise of key concerns/problems: What is truth? (epistemology): What is the nature and source of the world? (metaphysics): What is the good life? (ethics): What is being, and what does it mean? (ontology). Students experience first hand philosophy's self-imposed rigour (its inquiry method) as they learn to read philosophical texts and develop their analytic and critical thinking skills. Finally, students gain an understanding and appreciation of philosophy's influence and role.

Learning Sequence:

Week	Topics, Resources, Learning Activities	Assessment
Week 1	Introduction: The Movie Matrix and Plato's The Cave (Ignorance and Wonder) Seeking Truth and the Good	Readings: TGC Philosophy—pp 1-67 Performance Assessment
Week 2	Socrates and Sophists, Rhetoric/Truth Socratic Dialogues Plato's Phaedrus	TGC-pp1-67 Phaedrus text Performance Assessment
Weeks 3-4	Plato's Phaedrus & Republic Poetic and Philosophic Mythos, Logos, Theos Eidos/Idealism The Good & Justice	Readings: TGC-pp117-156 Performance Assessment, Intro paper
Weeks 5-6	Aristotle's Categories & Metaphysics (Books 1 & 7) Reason made Science Perception and Knowing, the Material World Substance/Realism—	Readings: Greek Philosophy—pp285-291 & pp307-320 & 345-357, TGC-pp157-185 Performance Assessment Test
Week 7	Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics eudaemonia principle (happiness, well being)	Greek Philosophy pp.384-408 TGC-pp186-198 Performance Assessment, Major Essay (Week 7)

Week 08	Reading Week	TGC-pp228-248, pp272-284 Performance Assessment
Week 9	St. Augustine—Great Chain of Being Thomas Aquinas—Existence and Essence	TGC-pp 228-265, Performance Assessment Major Essay (or Week 9)
Week 10	Medieval to Modern Rene Descartes' Mediations philosophical doubt	TGC-pp 299-319, pp 322-360 Performance Assessment
Week 11	Rene Descartes' Mediations philosophical certainty	TGC-pp322-360 Performance Assessment
Week 12	Empiricism—Locke and Berkeley	TGC-pp 364-399 Performance Assessment
Week 13	David Hume's—Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding (selected readings)	TGC-pp401-428, Performance Assessment
Week 14	David Hume's—Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding (selected readings)	TGC-pp401-428 Performance Assessment
Week 15	Wrap Up	Final Essay

Learning Resources:

Melchert, Norman. The Great Conversation: Volume I and II

Plato. Phaedrus

Assessment Plan:

Item/Date:	Percent:	Description:
Week 13	35	Major Essay
Weekly	30	Performance Assessment
Week 15	35	Final Essay

