2013

290-01 Theory of Knowledge

David Rodick
rodickd@xavier.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://www.exhibit.xavier.edu/philosophy_syllabi_fall_2013

Recommended Citation
https://www.exhibit.xavier.edu/philosophy_syllabi_fall_2013/29

This Restricted-Access Syllabus is brought to you for free and open access by the Philosophy Syllabi 2013 at Exhibit. It has been accepted for inclusion in Philosophy Syllabi Fall 2013 by an authorized administrator of Exhibit. For more information, please contact exhibit@xavier.edu.
Office Location: Hinkle 227
Telephone: (513) 745-3827
Email: rodickd@xavier.edu
Office Hours: MW 2:00 to 4:00 and by appointment.

Course Description: This course investigates issues in the theory of knowledge (epistemology) through a reading of foundational texts in the history of western philosophy.

Primary Texts:
Plato, The Apology;
Descartes,Discourse on Method and Meditations on First Philosophy;
Nietzsche, The Twilight of the Idols;

Requirements: 3 papers (5 pages) and a Final Exam

Paper I (Plato) 25%
Paper II (Descartes) 25%
Paper III (Nietzsche) 25%
Final Exam: Essay Exam (cumulative) will be administered during scheduled final exam period. 25%

Class attendance and class participation are required! Repeated unexcused absences will result in failing grade.

Course Introduction
1/7: Review Syllabus

Part I: Plato
8/26: Apology
8/28: Apology (Apology Paper Assigned)
8/30: Apology
9/4: Apology
9/6: Apology
9/9: Divided Line (DL)
9/11: DL
9/13: DL
9/16: Myth of the Cave
9/18 Myth of the Cave
9/20: Myth of the Cave
9/23: Myth of the Cave
9/25: Conclusion (*Apology Paper Due*)

**Part II: Descartes**

9/27: From the Ancients to the Moderns (Lecture)
9/30: *Discourse on Method* I
10/4: No Class
10/9: *Discourse on Method* II
10/11: *Discourse on Method* III
10/14: *Discourse on Method* IV
10/16: *Discourse on Method* V
10/18: *Discourse on Method* VI
10/21: *Meditations on First Philosophy*, Meditation I (*Meditations Paper Assigned*)
10/23: Meditation II
10/25: Meditation II
10/28: Meditation III
10/30: Meditation III
11/1: No class

**Part III: Nietzsche**

11/4: Who was Friedrich Nietzsche? (*Meditations Paper Due*)
11/6: *Twilight of the Idols*, Forward, pgs. 3-4 (*Nietzsche Paper Assigned*)
11/8: *Twilight of the Idols*, pgs. 3-4
11/11: *Twilight of the Idols*, pgs. 18-19
11/13: *Twilight of the Idols*, pgs. 18-19
11/15: *Twilight of the Idols*, pgs. 20 &32
11/18: *Twilight of the Idols*, pgs. 20 & 32

**Special Topics**

11/20: Projection
11/22: Projection
11/25: Technology
12/2: Technology
12/4: Conclusions
Course Learning Objectives:

Demonstrate ability to articulate orally and in writing:

- Reasons why the trial of Socrates is the trial of Philosophy;
- The importance of Descartes’ Wax Example in the Second Meditation and the conclusions he draws about the wax and about human knowledge?
- The argument Descartes uses to prove the existence of God as a non-deceiver in the Third Meditation and the manner in which God functions as a principle of non-deception?
- What Nietzsche means by the phrase “the twilight of the idols;” important examples of idols; and why this moment in history is both a time “cheerfulness” and “inordinate responsibility.”

Grading Policy

Grades are administered in accordance with the Registrar’s Grading Standards. See [http://www.xavier.edu/registrar/facultyandstaff/Grading-Scales.cfm](http://www.xavier.edu/registrar/facultyandstaff/Grading-Scales.cfm)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Very Important!</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Administrative Issues</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Academic Honesty:** *Plagiarism* is appropriating someone else’s words or ideas without formal acknowledgement. Go to [http://www.xavier.edu/library/xututor/plagiarism/index.cfm](http://www.xavier.edu/library/xututor/plagiarism/index.cfm)

*Any* plagiarism will result in an F for the course, and your dean will be notified of the incident. *Don’t Do IT!*

**Electronics:** Laptops, phones, iPods, and similar devices will not be used in class. Exceptions must be documented.

Any learning accommodations requested by the Office of Student Services will be supported completely.

**Late Assignments will be reduced** one letter grade for each class session assignment is late.
Classroom Etiquette

Rude and Unacceptable Behaviors:
Not having books/handouts used in class in your possession;
Coming to class unprepared;
Texting (or any use of electronic devices) during class;
Talking with others concerning matters unrelated to the class;
Tardiness;
Tuning-out;
Sleeping.

Some Suggestions:

- Arrive on time;
- Complete assigned readings;
- While waiting for class to begin, instead of talking or checking your phone, review your notes from last class;
- Choose a seat in a location other than the last row;
- Have your books on your desk ready to use;
- Consult your syllabus before class in order to understand what a particular class session will cover;
- Have questions prepared for the professor based upon a prior reading of the material;
- Engage! (Someone is paying a large sum of money for you to be here.)