290-03 Theory of Knowledge

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Course Description: This course investigates significant issues in the theory of knowledge through reading foundational texts in western philosophy.

Required Texts:
Plato, *The Apology*;
René Descartes, *Discourse on Method* and *Meditations on First Philosophy*;
Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Twilight of the Idols*;
Martin Heidegger, *The Age of the World Picture*. (Handout)

Requirements:
1 Paper: 5 pages (Plato)
4 Exams (including final)
Each requirement worth 20%.

Class attendance and class participation are required! Repeated unexcused absences will adversely affect your grade.

Course Introduction
8/25: Review Syllabus
Introduction to Plato’s “Divided Line”

Plato
8/27: Divided Line (DL): 509d – 511e
8/29: DL
9/3: Myth of the Cave (MC): 514a – 516d
9/5: Myth of the Cave: 516e – 517e
9/8: Myth of the Cave: 518a – 518d
9/10: Review
9/12: Exam (DL & MC)
9/17: Apology: 21e – 24b
9/19: Apology: 28d – 33b
9/22: Apology: 36b - 42
9/24: Apology: Review

Descartes

9/26: Discourse on Method (DM) I
9/29: DM II
10/1: DM III Plato Paper Assignment Due in Class
10/3: DM IV
10/6: DM V
10/8: DM VI
10/13: Review DM
10/15: Meditations
10/17: One
10/20: Two
10/22: Two
10/24: Three
10/27: Three
10/29: Review
10/31: Exam Meditations and DM

Nietzsche

11/3: Introduction to Nietzsche:
11/5: Film
11/7: The Death of God: Handout
11/10: Twilight of the Idols: “Forward” – pages 3-4
11/12: Twilight of the Idols: “Reason and Philosophy” Sections 1 – 4 (pp. 18-20)
11/14: Twilight of the Idols: “Morality as Anti Nature” Sections 1 -2 (25-26)
11/17: Twilight of the Idols: “The Four Great Errors” Section 3 (pp. 31-32) & “Reason in Philosophy” Section 5 (pp. 20-21)
11/19: Twilight of the Idols: “How the True World Became a Fiction” (pp. 23 – 24); “What the Germans are Missing” Sections 4-5 (pp. 45-47)
11/21: Nietzsche Exam
11/24: TBD

Heidegger

12/1: Age of the World Picture (AWP)
12/3: AWP
12/5: AWP
12/8: AWP
12/10: AWP
12/12: Last Day of Class (Final Exam Review)

Grading Policy

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

Very Important!

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

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 approved in advance.

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.

Class Room Etiquette

Unsatisfactory 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.

Recommendations:
Arrive on time;
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 the Professor – An education is a terrible thing to waste!!