I. Course description

The general objective of this course is to introduce students to the main schools and authors in the history of philosophy. Our survey will begin with Greek philosophy and culminate with contemporary trends.

The objective of the readings and assignments is not only to convey new information, but also enhance textual, writing, reasoning and analytic skills.

II. Required Reading

Textbook:


Articles:


“What is Christian Philosophy?”, by George Mavrodes. The professor will distribute this essay during class.

III. Recommended reading (not required)

IV. Evaluation and Assignments

Assignments

1. Analytical Reading Reports. *Nine total. See schedule below for due dates.*
3. Final Exam. *In class on Dec 11.*

Evaluation

1. Analytical Reading Reports – 25% (9 @ circa 2.78% each)
2. Midterm Exam – 25%
3. Final Exam – 25%
4. Analytical Paper – 25%

Analytical Reading Reports

1-2 pages. The purpose of the reports is to summarize the reading as concisely, clearly, and comprehensively as you can. In 1-2 pages you will not be able to address every point the author raises; you must be selective; so choose wisely. Address the following points in your reports:

- Summarize the text’s main point(s) or thesis (theses).
- Explain why you think the author wrote the text.
- Writing style. Describe some of the devices the author uses in order to make his points (e.g., narrative, argument, dialogue). Give specific examples.
- Identify the author’s argument: what evidence, claims, or reasons does the author give in support of his or her view?
- Name one aspect of the author’s thesis you agree with. Argue your point.
- Name one aspect you disagree with. Argue your point.
- As a Christian, how could this text help you? (assuming that it could indeed be of any help).

Analytical Paper

8 pages. This is not a research paper. The purpose of this assignment is to do a close reading of a philosophical text. We will discuss this assignment more fully in class.

Midterm Exam

Take home. Essay. Based on lectures and reading. Use your reading reports to study.

Final Exam
In class. Essay. Based on lecture and reading. Use your reading reports to study.

I. Readings and Schedule

All page numbers correspond to Baird & Kaufmann

(1) Wed, August 28

Introduction: Athens and Jerusalem/Overview

Early Greek Philosophy: Thales, Anaximander, Anaximenes, Parmenides, Heraclitus, Democritus

No reading.

(2) Wed, September 4

Greek Philosophy: Socrates, Plato (pp. 8-20; 38-46)

ANALYTICAL READING REPORT ON “EUTHYPHRO” ONLY (focus especially on pp 11-20) DUE (SEPT 4)

(3) September 11

Greek Philosophy: Aristotle (pp. 129-140; 157-164)

ANALYTICAL READING REPORT ON “ON THE SOUL” ONLY DUE (SEPT 11)

(4) Wed, September 18

Hellenistic Philosophy: Epicurus, Epictetus (pp. 232-236; 241-252)

(5) Wed, September 25

Hellenistic and Medieval Philosophy: Sextus Empiricus, Plotinus, Augustine (pp. 253-258; 260-266; 275-289; 290-299)

ANALYTICAL READING REPORT ON PP. 275-280 ONLY DUE (SEPT 25)

(6) Wed, October 2

Medieval Philosophy: Boethius, Anselm, Aquinas, Ockham (pp. 302-306; 308-310; 331-358)
ANALYTICAL READING REPORT ON ANSELM ONLY DUE (OCT 2)

WED, October 9: No class

(7), Wed, October 16

Modern Philosophy: Descartes, Hobbes, Pascal (pp. 377-417; 424-461; 464-470)

ANALYTICAL READING REPORT ON PP. 384-392 ONLY DUE (OCT 16)

MIDTERM EXAM DISTRIBUTED

(8) Wed, October 23

Modern Philosophy: Spinoza, Leibniz (pp. 472-522; 582-610; 610-618)

MIDTERM EXAM DUE (OCT 23)

(9) Wed, October 30

Modern Philosophy: Locke, Berkeley (pp. 526-578; 622-681)

ANALYTICAL READING REPORT ON PP. 526-533 ONLY DUE (OCT 30)

(10) Wed, November 6

Modern Philosophy: Hume, Kant (pp. 684-762; 779-851; 851-894)

ANALYTICAL READING REPORT ON PP. 684-690 ONLY DUE (NOV 6)

(11) Wed, November 13

Modern Philosophy: Schleiermacher, Hegel, Kierkegaard (pp. 910-915; 916-919; 966-973; 974-982)

(12) Wed, November 20

Late Modern Philosophy: Marx, Mill, James, Nietzsche (pp. 986-995; 1021-1032; 1037-1060)

ANALYTICAL READING REPORT ON PP. 1045-1049 ONLY DUE (NOV 20)

Wed, November 27

NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING WEEK
(13) Wed, December 4

Contemporary Philosophy: Russell, Wittgenstein, Ayer, Sartre, Derrida (pp. 1088-1095; 1160-1174; 1210-1217); George Mavrodes, *What is Christian Philosophy?*; J. P. Moreland, *Philosophical Apologetics, the Church, and Contemporary Culture*

Philosophy and Principles of Theological Interpretation

Faith, Reason and Apologetics

Athens and Jerusalem revisited

**ANALYTICAL READING REPORT ON PP. 1160-1165 ONLY DUE (DEC 4)**

Wed, December 11
IN CLASS FINAL EXAM

Wed, December 18
ANALYTICAL PAPER DUE