

PHIL 253 Systematic Philosophy II: Philosophy of the Person and Epistemology

Winter 2018

Course Outline

Class Start Date & End Date

Jan. 8–Fri., April 2, 2019

Class Meeting Time, Location, and Room

Tues. 1:15-4:05pm St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Room

Instructors Name: Dr. Jason West
Office: 2-01
Office Hours: By appointment with Michelle Maxwell 780-392-2455
Telephone: 780-392-2448
Email: jason.west@newman.edu
Skype:

Course Description

A philosophical inquiry into human nature and personhood. Particular attention will be given to both the body and the spiritual capacities of the human person, namely the emotional life, freedom of the will, and knowledge. The course will examine the strengths and weaknesses of major approaches to epistemology: realism, empiricism, idealism, phenomenology, and contemporary theories of knowledge may be covered. Students who take this course may not receive credit for PHIL 240 and PHIL 244.

Course Objectives

- 1) To develop an understanding of the major questions concerning the human person;
- 2) To comprehend the role of sense experience, conceptual understanding and human freedom and the main challenges to human knowing in the philosophical tradition;
- 3) To assess the importance of issues raised in these areas of systematic philosophy to traditional and contemporary Catholic theology;
- 4) To be able to integrate philosophical arguments on these topics with your knowledge derived from ordinary experience and other studies;
- 5) To understand the relation of philosophy of the person to the liberal arts, politics, culture and human well-being;
- 6) To develop research skills and the ability to critically engage with philosophical arguments.

Course Assignments and Evaluation

- 1) Assignment 1: A brief 1-2 page reflection on the methods of philosophical anthropology. Value 10%
- 2) Assignment 2: Explain the role of sense experience in human knowing. Write a 3 page essay with reference to the discussion in Lombo & Russo. Value 20%

- 3) Research Essay: A 8 page research essay on a topic chosen by the student to be approved by the professor. 30%.
- 4) Take Home Exam: A written exam covering topics from the entire course. Value 40%

Textbooks

Jose Angel Lombo & Francesco Russo. *Philosophical Anthropology: An Introduction*. Translator Piers Amodia. Illinois: Midwest Theological Forum, 2007.

Course Schedule

Date:	Topic and Readings
8 Jan.	Introduction to course. The nature of philosophical anthropology and epistemology. Life and the degrees of life. Ch. 1-2.
15 Jan.	The soul, the body, and the faculties. Ch. 3-5. Assignment 1 Due
22 Jan.	Knowledge and the external senses. Ch. 6
29 Jan.	Knowledge and Internal aspects of sense experience. Ch. 7.
5 Feb.	Knowledge and the Intellect. Ch. 8
12 Feb.	The will, human freedom. Ch. 9. Assignment 2 Due
19 Feb.	READING WEEK
26 Feb.	The emotional life. Ch. 10
5 Mar.	Gender, sexuality and immortality/death. Ch. 11-12. Research essay topic should be approved by now
12 Mar.	The person. Ch. 13.
19 Mar.	Freedom and self-fulfillment. Ch. 14.
26 Mar.	Human relations and culture. Ch. 15-16.
2 Apr.	Values, Work and Leisure, Ch. 17-18. 19 Research Essay Due
10 Apr.	Take Home Exam Due

Note: Brief passages from original philosophers, e.g. Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas, Descartes, Wittgenstein, Von Hildebrand, etc. be given out in class, for which you will also be responsible.

General Academic Information

Late Submission Policy.

Extensions only in the case of difficulties beyond your control. If you need an extension, see me ahead of time. Otherwise, extensions only for emergencies. Late penalty: 10% per weekday late.

Course Attendance

No credit will be given for a course if the student has been absent, for any reason whatever, from one-third or more of the lectures and/or seminars scheduled for the term. Likewise, no credit will be given if term assignments or other assignments are or remain incomplete.

Leave of Absence and Policy for Incompletes

Extensions to an incomplete grade may be granted in extenuating circumstances, but may not exceed 16 weeks following the end of the course. Students who fail to complete course work by the agreed deadline will have a grade assigned which is based on work completed.

Academic Integrity

Acts of academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating, etc.) are subject to an appropriate penalty. The grade “F” may be assigned to a student guilty of such acts by the professor of the course in which the infraction occurred. A second offense against academic integrity renders the student liable to automatic dismissal from NTC. Further details are available in the Student Handbook in the Academic Misconduct Policy.

Academic Grievances

Students may appeal grades received; the procedure is outlined in the Student Handbook in the Grade Appeal Policy. For other grievances, students will refer to the Student Grievances Policy also outlined in the Student Handbook.

NOTE: The GPA is computed on the basis of cumulative grade point (letter) values, not percentage values. All courses are included in this calculation except those exceeding degree requirements and/or received as transfer credits from other recognized institutions.

Grading System

Undergraduate Studies C.Th., Dip.Th., B.Th.			Graduate Studies M.T.S., M.Div., M.Th., G.C.C.S.A., M.R.E.		
Grade Meaning	Grade	Grade Point	Grade Meaning	Grade	Grade Point
Excellent	A+	4.0	Excellent	A+	4.0
	A	4.0		A	4.0
	A-	3.7		A-	3.7
Good	B+	3.3	Good	B+	3.3
	B	3.0		B	3.0
	B-	2.7		B-	2.7
Adequate	C+	2.3	Adequate	C+	2.3
	C	2.0		C	2.0
	C-	1.7		C-	1.7
Marginal	D+	1.3			
	D	1.0			
Fail	F	0.0	Fail	D+	1.3
				D	1.0
				F	0.0

Written Assignments - Style and Format

Newman Theological College requires that all written work be submitted in acceptable academic format and style. Please note the following regulations:

Regulations

Research papers, book reports, article summaries, reflection papers, and essays should be double-spaced, printed on one side only, and submitted on white, 8.5" x 11" paper.

A standard type style, such as Times New Roman, with a 12-point font size, must be used. The instructor will specify the most recent edition of the style manual to be used:

1. Kate Turabian, "A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations" (Chicago: University of Chicago Press).
2. Joseph Gibaldi & William Ahters, eds., "MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers" (New York: Modern Language Association of America).
3. American Psychological Association "Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association" (Washington: APA Publications).

Copies of these standard references may be purchased in the NTC bookstore.

Ignorance of standard form is not considered an acceptable excuse for deviation from required standards of format and style.

Academic Regulations

The following Academic Regulations are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Changes in Registration: Add/Drop/Withdraw Notice
- Course Work
- Final Examination Schedule
- Incomplete Grade Policy
- Inclusive Language

Related Academic Matters

The following Related Academic Matters are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Grade Reports & Posting
- Glossary of Academic Terms

Other Related Policies

The following policies are located in the Student Handbook for your reference:

- Academic Misconduct Policy
- Grade Appeal Policy

Recording of Lectures

Audio or video recording of lectures, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior consent of the instructor. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Student Accessibility Services:

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already

registered with Student Services, contact Doreen Bloos at 780-392-2450 ext. 2212; Email doreen.bloos@newman.edu .

Bibliography

- 1) W. Norris Clarke SJ. *Person and Being*. Milwaukee: Marquette University Press, 1998. A lecture on how theology and metaphysics should inform our philosophy of the person.
- 2) Pierre-Marie Emonet. *The Greatest Marvel of Nature*. Tr. Robert R. Barr. New York: Crossroad Publishing Co., 1994. A readable overview of our topic.
- 3) Alasdair MacIntyre. *Dependent Rational Animals*. Chicago: Open Court, 1999. An interesting account of human nature, the difference between humans and other animals and the ethical and social implications of these aspects of philosophical anthropology.
- 4) Joseph Owens, *Cognition: An Epistemological Inquiry*. Houston: Center for Thomistic Studies. A thorough textbook on epistemology in the Thomistic tradition.