

**Great Works of Western Philosophy**  
**Part I**  
**Philosophy 200A - FALL, 2008**

**Instructor:** Dr. J. Novak

**Office Hours:** M/T/Th/F 1:30 - 2:30 in office (HH 321); other times by appointment.

**Phone:** ext. 32963

**Text:** *Classics of Western Philosophy*, ed. by S. Cahn (Hackett, 2006), 7th edition.

**Format:** Each session will be a lecture/discussion touching on the main points of the assigned readings. Students are encouraged to react critically to the ideas in the reading material and to offer their own arguments supporting or opposing those of the authors considered.

**Description:** The thinkers to be discussed include both ancient (e.g., Plato, Aristotle, the Stoics) and medieval (e.g., Anselm, Aquinas) philosophers. In addition, some figures transitional to the modern period of philosophizing will be discussed briefly, if time permits.

Among the topics that will be considered in these authors are: the nature of philosophy, nature of learning, death and immortality, nature of the universe, causality, teleology, man's nature and activity, pleasure, creation and time, existence of God, the relation of faith and reason.

*WARNING: As does many a philosophy class, this series of lectures will deal with a critical analysis of many and varied views regarding life, existence, values, religious belief, etc. Those who are politically correct and/or would find this offensive are advised not to take this class.*

SEE PLAGIARISM WARNING (below)

**Workload:** A 3-page paper due September 29 (Monday); 15% of the grade

A Mid-Term on October 20 (Monday); 25% of the grade

A 10-page paper due November 24 (Monday); 35% of the grade

An Exam on December 01 (Monday); 25% of the grade

**Sessions:** Mondays 7-9:50 P.M. in RCH 206

Week	Topics and Readings
1st (09/08)	General Introduction; the role of Greek culture in the rise of philosophy; the nature of myth; Discussion of religion, ethics, and philosophy: <i>Euthyphro</i> , pp. 20-28.
2nd (09/15)	<i>Euthyphro</i> (cont.); The figure of Socrates; Trial of Socrates: <i>Apology</i> , pp. 29-41.
3rd (09/22)	Death and Immortality; (Psychology) the Nature of the Soul; (Ontology and Epistemology) the Nature of Forms and Reality: <i>Phaedo</i> , pp. 49-81.
4th (09/29)	<i>Phaedo</i> (completion); Introduction to Aristotle, his life and works. Aristotle's systematizing of thought and reality: Aristotle's view of nature, causality, teleology, and the natural sciences: <i>Posterior Analytics</i> , pp. 190-94; <i>Physics</i> , II, cc. 1-3, pp. 200-204; cc. 8-9, pp. 207-209.
5th (10/06)	Aristotle <i>Metaphysics</i> , Nature of Metaphysics, Critique of Plato (Bk. I, cc.1-2; c.6), pp. 228-230; 233-34; Substance (Bk. VII, cc. 1-3) pp. 239-241; God (Bk. XII, cc. 6-7), pp. 257-9.
6th (10/13)	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
7th (10/20)	{MID-TERM}; Hellenistic Philosophy: Epicureanism and Stoicism: Epicurus, <i>Letter to Menoeceus</i> ; <i>Principle Doctrines</i> ; and Epictetus, <i>Encheiridion</i> , pp. 313-334;
8th (10/27)	Skepticism: Sextus Empiricus, <i>Outlines of Pyrrhonism</i> , pp. 337-354.
9th (11/03)	Plotinus and Later Ancient Philosophy: Soul and Matter, <i>Enneads</i> IV.8, pp. 388-92; Three Hypostases, <i>Enneads</i> V.1, pp. 392-399.
10th (11/10)	Stirrings of Medieval Philosophy: Background of Christianity; Augustine's view on faith and reason, creation and time: <i>Confessions</i> , pp. 373-385.
11th (11/17)	Anselm's Ontological Argument: <i>Proslogion</i> , pp. 413-427; Gaunilo's Response and Anselm's Reply, pp. 428-433.
12th (11/24)	Thomas Aquinas on Faith, Theology, and the Existence of God: <i>Summa Theologica</i> , pp. 442-461.
13th (12/01)	Thomas Aquinas (continued); William of Ockham pp. 475-481. {EXAM}

**Academic Integrity:** in order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

**Discipline:** A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is

unsure whether an action constitutes an offense, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offenses (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>

**Grievance:** A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>

**Appeals:** A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm>

Academic offenses include (as noted almost verbatim in the Policies statement of the University):

Academic offences shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following:

- \* Infringing unreasonably on the work of other members of the University community (e.g., disrupting classes or examinations; harassing, intimidating or threatening others).
- \* Violation of safety regulations;
- \* Cheating on examinations, assignments, work term reports, or any other work used to judge student performance.
- \* Impersonating another student ...for purposes of taking examinations or tests, or carrying out laboratory or other assignments.
- \* Plagiarism, which is the act of presenting the ideas, words or other intellectual property of another as one's own.
- \* Obtaining by improper means examination papers, tests, or similar materials, or using or distributing such materials to others.
- \* Falsifying academic records, including tests and examinations.
- \* Oral or written misrepresentations which may have an effect on academic evaluations.
- \* Submitting an essay, report, or assignment when a major portion has been previously submitted or is being submitted for another course without the express permission of all instructors involved.

The penalties for the above, in addition to other information relevant to these matters can be found in Policies of the University, esp. 70, 71, and 72, available at: <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies>

See also for examples of plagiarism :

<http://webster.comnet.edu/mla/plagiarism.shtml>