

PHIL 10B: Modern & Contemporary Philosophy

FIRST DAY HANDOUT

3 units
No prerequisites

Instructor: Daniel A. Kealey

www.siskiyous.edu/staff/kealeyd/

Phone: (530) 926-4154

Email: Use Etudes Private Message; kealey@siskiyous.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays 11-11:30 am, Weed Campus Library.

Class Meeting Times and Locations: Online, all the time

Catalogue Description: History of modern Western philosophy from the Renaissance through Postmodernism, including rationalism, romanticism, pragmatism, and existentialism.

Not repeatable. Support Hour

Advisory: None

Prerequisites: None

Credit Applicability: NDA, AA, UC, CSU

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of the course, the student should be able to:

- demonstrate familiarity with the history of Western philosophy from the Protestant Reformation up to Existentialism and Postmodernism
- articulate principal values and worldviews emphasized in the Modern period of Western culture
- demonstrate ability to analyze contemporary philosophical writings
- apply philosophical insights to one's own quest for meaning

Course Content and Scope:

1. Cultural, scientific, political & economic conditions from the Renaissance to the 17th century
2. Descartes and the rise of science
3. Francis Bacon and empirical science
4. Empiricism and rationalism
5. The Enlightenment
6. Romanticism
7. Kant
8. Hegel and Marx
9. Nietzsche

10. Existentialism
11. Pragmatism and Process philosophy
12. Postmodern philosophy

Text and/or Materials Needed for the Course:

Required: Tarnas, R. (1991/1996). *The Passion of the Western Mind: Understanding the ideas that have shaped our world view.*

Requirements: The principal assessments of this course will consist of postings to the Discussion threads each week (64%). 27% will be based on assignments (Library assignment, Research project, and Essay), and 9% on the exam.

Evaluation:

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|--------------------------|-----------|
| Final Exam | 09 points |
| Paper | 15 points |
| Library Research | 04 points |
| Research Project | 08 points |
| Main Discussion Response | 32 points |
| Discussion participation | 32 points |
| | |
| Total | 100% |

Grading: 90-100 = A
 80-89 = B
 70-79 = C
 60-69 = D
 Below 60 = F

Assignments: The first assignment entails learning how to access the College library through the Internet. This assignment involves learning a technical ability and a beginning level research skill. The second assignment applies the technical skill for research in philosophy. The third assignment extends the knowledge learned in the first two assignments to writing a concise research paper. Detailed instructions for each assignment will be published in the Assignments folder of the virtual classroom (Etudes). Assignments must be submitted to the Assignment folder in Etudes. Each assignment must be saved in a format readable by the instructor's computer, that is, Microsoft Office Word 2007 (.docx) or 1997-2003 (.doc). If you do not have use of MS Office Word, then you must save your file as a Rich Text File (.rtf). Another acceptable format is OpenOffice, which is a free download from <http://www.openoffice.org/> No other formats will be accepted!!!

Attendance:

Attendance to all classes is required. However, this being an online course, there is no particular time or place to attend! Each “class” runs for an entire week, Monday-Sunday. Attendance, participation, and assignments are due on a weekly basis. Each week you need to post a main response and two participation responses to the current week discussion (to be found under “Class Discussions” in the Discussions and Private Messages folder of Etudes). The main response must be posted no later than Thursday of each week and is worth 2 points. In addition, you must post at least two more replies to the discussion thread, each worth up to one point. The Main Response to the Discussion Question must be at least 200 words long. The participation responses should be roughly 100 words long, but can be shorter if you post more than twice. The main thing to be evaluated in the responses is the *quality* of the response. Quality and substantiveness of a post mean such things as scholarship, insight, reasoning, questioning, carrying the conversation further and deeper. Superficial responses (for example, “Great post, I agree with you!”) will not count for any participation points. Do not cut and paste from other sources. Keep quotes down to an absolute minimum. *Spelling and grammar count.* You should post to the discussion thread at least by Wednesday, and you need to participate in the discussion on at least two different days per week. The Main 200 word Response is its own assignment category and is not counted for “participation” purposes. Missing participation for two separate weeks will result in an automatic grade reduction, in addition to points lost.

Withdrawal & Incomplete:

Students are responsible to officially withdraw from classes they are no longer attending. Failure to do so will result in a grade of F or FW to be inscribed in your official record.

Incompletes must be formally requested and, if granted, must be satisfactorily completed by the deadline established by the instructors. Forms available from the registrar and from academic advisors should be used for establishing grade contracts in the case of an Incomplete. Incompletes automatically revert to F if not satisfactorily completed on time.

Late Assignment and Make-up Policy:

Late assignments will be accepted **up to one class after due date** and be penalized the equivalent of one grade. Beyond that period, late assignments will not be accepted. No assignments will be accepted after the administration of the final exam.

Cheating & Plagiarism Policy:

Plagiarism is an act of theft committed by a person who is stealing someone else’s intellectual property. Plagiarism is an act of dishonesty. Whether

intentionally or unintentionally, a writer is misrepresenting someone else's words or ideas as his or her own.

Intentional plagiarism exists when a student lists sources that he or she has not used; when a student copies from a source but fails to cite it, thereby misrepresenting the original source's idea as his or her own; when a student copies material from another student's work without giving that other student credit; when a student buys or borrows a whole paper or portions of a paper from another student or from the Internet.

Unintentional plagiarism, which is also punishable, may exist when a student attempts to paraphrase or summarize a source, but copies too much from the source instead of rewriting the ideas in his or her own words; when a student inadvertently fails to include a parenthetical reference to a source, although the source is listed among the citations at the end of the paper; when a student fails to put quotation marks around quoted material; when a student relies too heavily on external source, thus expressing few or none of his or her own ideas.

Students guilty of intentional plagiarism will receive an F for the course. Unintentional plagiarism could result in an F for the assignment.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

The Learning Services Office (Eddy Hall 1) provides resources and information to accommodate students with special needs. If you feel that tutorial assistance would benefit you with the course material, please see <http://www.siskiyous.edu/dsps/tutor.html>. We will be happy to recommend any student for tutoring, by signing the application, if requested (although, because this is an Internet course, availability of tutors cannot be guaranteed).

Library Resources: Library resources include, but are not limited to:

- Access 24 hours a day to a wide array of subscription databases including full-text articles from thousands of magazines, journals, and newspapers and reference sources.
- Access 24 hours a day to the library's online catalog
- Access to thousands of current ebooks on a broad range of topics
- Expert help from library staff

The Library can be assessed at <http://www.siskiyous.edu/library>

Support Materials: Lectures for this course will be posted each week in the Modules folder of Etudes. Further materials may be posted in the resources folder.

Academic Support: Help with writing is available from the [Critical Skills Lab](#). If you are new to online coursework, consider taking the 3-week orientation course, [EDUC 90](#). In any case, read the [Online Survival Guide](#).

Date and Time of Final Exam: The last day of class is Thursday, May 14. The final exam will be posted during the last week of class and be due on May 17th.

COURSE SYLLABUS

| WEEK | TOPIC | READING ASSIGNMENT |
|-------------------|-------------------|--|
| 1 8/17-23 | Renaissance | Tarnas, pp. 220-232. All subsequent page numbers will refer to Tarnas. |
| 2 8/24-30 | The Reformation | 233-247 |
| 3 8/31-9/6 | Science | 248-271 |
| 4 9/7-9/13 | Bacon & Descartes | 272-290; Meditations I & II, http://www.classicallibrary.org/descartes/meditations/ |
| 5 9/14-9/20 | Ancient & Modern | 291-308 |
| 6 9/21-9/27 | Secularism | 308-332 |
| 7 9/28-10/4 | Empiricists | 333-340 |
| 8 10/5-10/11 | Kant | 341-354 |
| 9 10/12-10/18 | Scientific Crisis | 355-365 |
| 10 10/19-10/25 | Romanticism | 366-378 |
| 11 10/26-11/1 | Hegel | 378-387 |
| 12 11/2-11/8 | Marx | The Communist Manifesto |
| 13 11/9-11/15 | Existentialism | 388-394; http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/existentialism http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/nietzsche |
| 14 11/16-11/22 | American | http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/james/ http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/process-philosophy/ |
| 15 11/23-11/29 | No class | Thanksgiving Break |

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|------------------|---------------------|--|
| 16 11/30-12/6 | Postmodernism | 394-422 |
| 17 12/7-12/13 | Today & Tomorrow | 422-445 |
| 12/15 | FINAL EXAM | Posted in the final week of class, the essay exam is due by Tuesday, midnight. |