PHIL228701  The Meaning of Work and Leisure -- 3 credits  
Boston College Summer Session 2016  
Summer 2, June 27 - August 5  
Monday, Wednesday, 6:00 PM - 9:15 PM  

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Boston College Mission Statement  
Strengthened by more than a century and a half of dedication to academic excellence, Boston College commits itself to the highest standards of teaching and research in undergraduate, graduate and professional programs and to the pursuit of a just society through its own accomplishments, the work of its faculty and staff, and the achievements of its graduates. It seeks both to advance its place among the nation’s finest universities and to bring to the company of its distinguished peers and to contemporary society the richness of the Catholic intellectual ideal of a mutually illuminating relationship between religious faith and free intellectual inquiry.  

Boston College draws inspiration for its academic societal mission from its distinctive religious tradition. As a Catholic and Jesuit university, it is rooted in a world view that encounters God in all creation and through all human activity, especially in the search for truth in every discipline, in the desire to learn, and in the call to live justly together. In this spirit, the University regards the contribution of different religious traditions and value systems as essential to the fullness of its intellectual life and to the continuous development of its distinctive intellectual heritage.  

Course Description  
We spend much of our lives working, or preparing ourselves to work. We spend much of the rest of our time pursuing leisure. But what are our goals in doing so? How important is it for our work to be meaningful? Is leisure simply the absence of work, or something more? And what role do each of these play in a fulfilling life?  

This course will work to respond to these questions through the lenses of philosophy, sociology, religion, and economics. We will examine conceptions of work ranging from the idea that it is a necessary evil to the idea that it is a form of religious devotion. We will consider conceptions of leisure ranging from the view that it consists of relaxation, to the view that it is an activity one cannot engage in without prior self-development.  

From Aristotle to Adam Smith, from Rousseau to Max Weber, we will study various accounts of what work and leisure have been, and what their ideal forms might be. The course will conclude by considering the coming age of technologically automated physical and mental labor, and its impact on the future of work and leisure.
Textbooks & Readings (Required)
- Handouts from Seneca, J.M. Keynes, Aristotle, J.J. Rousseau, Martin Luther, Adam Smith, Juliet Schor, and others
- Josef Pieper, *Leisure: The Basis of Culture*
- Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*
- Karl Marx, *Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844*
- Hannah Arendt, *The Human Condition*

Please buy hard copies of the texts, as e-readers and computers are not allowed in class.
The reading notes in the Google Doc that I provide are considered part of your reading assignments.

Course Objectives
1. Students will come to a better awareness of their own current views on work and leisure.
2. Students will better understand the history of work and leisure, by studying accounts of human life in different cultural and economic conditions over the last several millennia.
3. Students will better understand influential accounts of the nature of work and leisure. They will be able to critically evaluate these accounts, first by thinking along with the authors, and then by thinking for themselves.
4. Students will apply the ideas in this course to ask better questions, and to think more clearly, about the place of work and leisure in a meaningful human life.
5. Students will be better equipped to consider the future of work and leisure, in two respects: a.) what might be best for society in general, and b.) what might be best for their own future selves – for how they order and direct their lives.

Student Discussion Panels
Each student will be a member of a 3-4 person discussion group which will, during a portion of one class, discuss a pre-assigned portion of text in front of the rest of the class. The group will also facilitate a general discussion with the class as a whole.

Course Assignments
It is expected that you will spend around 12 hours per week on out-of-class reading assignments. Please note that some weeks will require more time and some weeks less but the average is 12 hours per week.

Class Participation
This category – which makes up 15% of your overall grade – consists of:
1.) In-class speaking (10%): This includes asking questions, responding to questions, and being a part of class discussions. Your grade on this depends not only on the quantity, but also on the quality, of your questions/comments.
2.) In-class engagement (5%): This term refers to your activity in the classroom aside from actually speaking, such as punctuality, thoughtfulness, and engaged listening. Because this is a text-based class, ‘in-class engagement’ also includes bringing the assigned text to class, and reading along when we read passages together.

Grading
- 4-5 pg. essay 20%
- 5-6 pg. essay 25%
- Response Papers 30%
- Class Participation 15%
- Discussion Panel 5%
- Canvas Posts 5%
The **undergraduate** grading system for Summer Session is as follows:

- A (4.00), A- (3.67)
- B+ (3.33), B (3.00), B- (2.67)
- C+ (2.33), C (2.00), C- (1.67)
- D+ (1.33), D (1.00), D- (.67)
- F (.00)

The **graduate** grading system for Summer Session is as follows:

- A (4.00), A- (3.67)
- B+ (3.33), B (3.00)
- B- (2.67), passing but does not count toward degree
- C (2.00), passing but not for degree credit
- F (.00)

All students can access final grades through Agora after the grading deadline each semester. Transcripts are available through the [Office of Student Services](#).

**Canvas**

Canvas is the Learning Management System (LMS) at Boston College, designed to help faculty and students share ideas, collaborate on assignments, discuss course readings and materials, submit assignments, and much more - all online. As a Boston College student, you should familiarize yourself with this important tool. For more information and training resources for using Canvas, click [here](#).

**Deadlines and Late Work**

Students will submit all their written assignments digitally, via our course’s Canvas site. The penalty for late papers and assignments is 3% (one third of a letter grade) per day.

**Class Communications**

I check my email only a few times a day, and often not at all after 8pm or on weekends; please let this inform your expectations of my response time to your emails.

**Electronics: General Class Behavior**

- Because of the ease with which the internet’s infinite distractions can be accessed, the use of laptops is not permitted in class.
- Phones and all other electronics are to be in the silent/off position and kept off one’s desk, out of hand, out of lap for the duration of the class period.
- Beverages are allowed in class, but not food, which can be distracting to those around you.

**Course Schedule**

- **JUNE**
  - Mon 27  Seneca + Keynes; Genesis + Rousseau
  - Wed 29  H. Applebaum; Aristotle
  - Mon 4  **No Class – 4th of July**
  - Wed 6  Aristotle; K. Thomas; Josef Pieper
Mon 11  Martin Luther; Ian Hart  
Wed 13  Adam Smith; Max Weber  
Mon 18  Max Weber  
Wed 20  Karl Marx  
Mon 25  Marx; Hannah Arendt  
Wed 27  Hannah Arendt  

AUGUST  
Mon 1  Thorstein Veblen; Juliet Schor  
Wed 3  Brynjolfsson/McAfee; Rousseau  

Written Work  
Summer Session students are expected to prepare professional, polished written work. Written materials must be typed and submitted in the format required by your instructor. Strive for a thorough yet concise style. Cite literature appropriately, using APA, MLA or CLA style per your instructor’s requirements. Develop your thoughts fully, clearly, logically and specifically. Proofread all materials to ensure the use of proper grammar, punctuation and spelling. For writing support, please contact the Connors Family Learning Center.

Attendance  
Attending class is an important component of learning. Students are expected to attend all class sessions. When circumstances prevent a student from attending class, the student is responsible for contacting the instructor before the class meets. Students who miss class are still expected to complete all assignments and meet all deadlines. If circumstances necessitate excessive absence from class, the student should consider withdrawing from the class.

Consistent with BC’s commitment to creating a learning environment that is respectful of persons of differing backgrounds, we believe that every reasonable effort should be made to allow members of the university community to observe their religious holidays without jeopardizing their academic status. Students are responsible for reviewing course syllabi as soon as possible, and for communicating with the instructor promptly regarding any possible conflicts with observed religious holidays. Students are responsible for completing all class requirements for days missed due to conflicts with religious holidays.

No other absences are excused. However, built into the absence policy is leniency should a class be missed. If circumstances necessitate excessive absence from class, the student should consider withdrawing from the class. In all cases, students are expected to accept the decision of the instructor regarding attendance policies specific to the class. The attendance policy for unexcused absences is as follows: 1 class missed is 1% off your final grade. 2 classes missed is 7% off your final grade. 3 classes missed is 15% off your final grade. A fourth missed class leads to an automatic failure.

Apart from emergencies or illness, requests for excused absences must be made at least 2-3 days in advance, and agreed upon by myself. (Ski trips, holiday/family travel plans, concerts, basketball season tickets, etc., will not qualify as excused absences.) Students arriving after attendance has been taken must see me after class in order to be counted as present for that day. Regular tardiness will negatively affect one’s class participation grade.
Accommodation and Accessibility
Boston College is committed to providing accommodations to students, faculty, staff and visitors with disabilities. Specific documentation from the appropriate office is required for students seeking accommodation in Summer Session courses. Advanced notice and formal registration with the appropriate office is required to facilitate this process. There are two separate offices at BC that coordinate services for students with disabilities:

- The Connors Family Learning Center (CFLC) coordinates services for students with LD and ADHD.
- The Disabilities Services Office (DSO) coordinates services for all other disabilities.

Find out more about BC’s commitment to accessibility at [www.bc.edu/sites/accessibility](http://www.bc.edu/sites/accessibility).

Scholarship and Academic Integrity
Students in Summer Session courses must produce original work and cite references appropriately. Failure to cite references is plagiarism. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not necessarily limited to, plagiarism, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, cheating on exams or assignments, or submitting the same material or substantially similar material to meet the requirements of more than one course without seeking permission of all instructors concerned. Scholastic misconduct may also involve, but is not necessarily limited to, acts that violate the rights of other students, such as depriving another student of course materials or interfering with another student’s work. Please see the [Boston College policy on academic integrity](http://www.bc.edu/sites/accessibility) for more information.