

PL/TH088.15 Fall, 2009 PULSE MWF 10; Higgins 275; Discuss: F 11 or 2
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Pulse, or “The Person and Social Responsibility is a two-semester course that covers one’s core requirements for both philosophy and theology. It is also a course that requires outside service learning and seeks to assist the student in understanding one’s self and the development of the person in the wider context of today’s communities. Classic texts about the centrality of virtue and justice are read and the role of religious faith is explored in trying to discern how the person becomes more authentic to self and to the community in which he or she resides. Critical analysis of society’s needs and values are also undertaken to try to understand how best to serve the community in the pursuit of justice.

TEXTS: NRSV (New Revised Standard Version) *Bible*; Sarah Burd-Sharps et al, *The Measure of America* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2008); Ety Hillesum, *An Interrupted Life* (New York: Henry Holt, 1996); Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, tr. Martin Ostwald ((New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 1999); Plato’s *Republic*, tr. G.M.A. Grube (Indianapolis/Cambridge: Hackett, 1992); Richard Rubenstein, *Aristotle’s Children* (New York: Harcourt, 2003); St. Augustine’s *Confessions* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1992); *St. Thomas Aquinas on Politics and Ethics*, tr. Paul Sigmund (New York: Norton and company, 1988).

REQUIREMENTS:

Attendance with the added concerns for H1N1 virus

This is a double credit course and there is a considerable amount of work required. Regular attendance and participation are required; normally only three excused absences are allowed before it begins to impact one’s grade. In the past, in the case of absence, only a Dean’s note, Doctor’s note or Athletic Director’s excuse have been valid. If a wide-spread outbreak of the H1N1 virus occurs on campus, this may not always be practical. An excused absence is one that is approved (not presumed) in advance by the professor **OR** where medical documentation is submitted after the fact. If you become ill with the H1N1 virus, please follow campus directives and notify me as soon as possible regarding classes you will miss, and bring some type of medical documentation when you return. If possible, you should make every effort to keep up with the syllabus. Absences should be very serious matters. Holiday and end of the semester airline bookings are not considered acceptable excuses.

Participation

This course is about ideas and ideas need to be discussed, so students should be verbally contributing to the class. In addition to the testing mechanisms listed, each student should keep a journal for their placement visits. Students should write in the journal after each visit to their placement, noting what occurred that day, how they felt, what they think they learned that day, what they might want to change, etc. These notebooks will be collected once or twice during the semester. They will also help students in the discussion groups as well.

Laptops, cell phones, blackberrys, ipods, etc.

While the internet is a wonderful tool and laptops and now various phones and devices make it instantly accessible, generally laptops and internet devices will NOT be allowed in class for note-taking or other research unless specified. Cell phones are permitted, but ringers should be turned off during class.

Testing mechanisms

There will be four 5-page papers due during the semester plus a final exam team project. Each will be worth approximately 20%. If a student does poorly on any one of them, a one time offer to do extra credit will be allowed and will be explained in class. Good journal keeping, good attendance and verbal participation can also color one's mark and may elevate a borderline mark. Conversely, poor journal keeping, extra missed classes and no participation can also lower a borderline mark.

Academic Integrity

It is assumed that at Boston College the work you submit is your own. Anyone using someone else's work, either another classmates, or some other source, will be penalized. Students who have plagiarized any work will receive an "F" on the assignment and will be reported to the Dean. Students assigned or choosing to work in teams must also adhere to strict academic integrity, though they may share each other's work as a team. The internet now provides us with ready access to lots of helpful information, but ANY use of an internet source MUST BE appropriately documented. See B.C.'s policies regarding academic integrity at: <http://www.bc.edu/offices/stserv/academic/resources/policy.html#integrity>.

Interviews

I would like to meet with each student early in the semester in my office (Campanella 340D) for a 10-15 minute interview to get to know you and some of your interests. Sign up sheets will be distributed to select days and times.

Discussion Groups

Each student will be assigned to one of two discussion groups, either Friday at 11 a.m. or Friday at 2 p.m. in addition to regular classes and placement work. Generally, these discussion groups are meant to tie one's experiences from one's placements to the readings that are being done in class. We will not begin these discussion groups until after the October holiday break.

CALENDAR

Sept 9	General Introduction; Greek thought
Sept 11	Plato's <i>Republic</i> , Books I, III, and III.

Sept 14	Plato's <i>Republic</i> , books IV, V, and VI.	
Sept 16	Plato's <i>Republic</i> , Books VII, VIII, IX and X.	Town Meeting
Sept 18	Film: The Spartans	
Sept 21	Aristotle's <i>Nicomachaen Ethics</i> , Book 1	
Sept 23	Aristotle's <i>Nicomachaen Ethics</i> , Books 2-4.	
Sept 25	No Class – Dr. Howard's daughter's wedding in Washington, D.C.	
Sept 28	Aristotle's <i>Nicomachaen Ethics</i> , Book 5.	
Sept 30	Aristotle's <i>Nicomachaen Ethics</i> , Book 8; Book 10: chap. 6-9.	
Oct 2	<i>Bible</i> , NRSV iii-xxxvi; Genesis 1 – 3.	
Oct 5	<i>Bible</i> , NRSV, Genesis 4 – 11.	First paper due
Oct 7	<i>Bible</i> , NRSV, Genesis 12 – 50.	
Oct 9	Jonas Barciauskas: "How to Use B.C. Libraries for Biblical Research"	
Oct 12	No Class – Columbus Holiday	
Oct 14	<i>Bible</i> , NRSV, Exodus, 1-11.	
Oct 16	<i>Bible</i> , NRSV, Exodus 12-40.	
Oct 16*	Discussion Groups	
Oct 19	<i>Bible</i> , NRSV, Isaiah 1 – 12	
Oct 21	<i>Bible</i> , NRSV, Amos, Hosea, Micah	
Oct 23	<i>Bible</i> , NRSV, Book of Jeremiah	
Oct 23*	Discussion Groups	
Oct 26	<i>Bible</i> , NRSV, Book of Job	
Oct 28	<i>Bible</i> , NRSV, Matthew 1 – 7.	
Oct 30	<i>Bible</i> , NRSV, Matthew 8 – 28.	
Oct 30*	Discussion Groups	
Nov 2	Augustine's <i>Confessions</i> , Books I – V.	Second paper due - exegesis
Nov 4	Augustine's <i>Confessions</i> , Books VI – IX.	
Nov 6	Augustine's <i>Confessions</i> , Books X – XIII.	
Nov 6*	Discussions Groups	

Nov 9 Etty Hillesum, pp. 1 – 105.
Nov 11 Etty Hillesum, pp. 105 – 210.
Nov 13 Etty Hillesum, pp. 210 – 364.
Nov 13* Discussion Groups

Nov 16 *Aristotle's Children*, pp. 1 – 46. **Third paper due**
Nov 18 *Aristotle's Children*, pp. 47 – 87
Nov 20 *Aristotle's Children*, pp. 88 – 126.
Nov 20* Discussion Groups

Nov 23 *Aristotle's Children*, pp. 127 – 205.
Nov 25 *Aristotle's Children*, pp. 206 – 238.
Nov 27 No Class – Thanksgiving Break

Nov 30 *Aquinas' Politics*, pp. 3 – 83.
Dec 2 *Aquinas' Politics*, pp. 87 – 111.
Dec 4 *Aquinas' Politics*, pp. 113 – 172.
Dec 4* Discussion Groups

Dec 6 Dinner at Professor Howard's home - 6 p.m. (casual)

Dec 7 *Measure of America*, pp. 8 – 25. **Fourth paper due**
Dec 9 *Measure of America*, pp. 26 – 43.
Dec 11 *Measure of America*, pp. 44 – 79.
Dec 11* *Measure of America*, pp. 80 – 119.

Dec 19 Final Exam – Team Presentations – 12:30 p.m.