

PL088/TH088
Person and Social Responsibility
Section 01, MWF 11 & 12
Discussions: M 2 , W 2
F 1 , F 2

Dr. Mary Troxell
Philosophy 380C
Phone: x2-4017
Office Hours: M 1:00- 1:45
F 3:00-3:45
or by appt.

The aim of this course is to explore the relationship between the person and community by means of examining key texts in the history of philosophy and theology. In the fall semester, we will explore the nature of person, and examine how the Ancient Greek and Judeo-Christian traditions set the foundation for how we understand ourselves today: what it means to be a human being, what constitutes the best way to live, what constitutes justice, what makes life meaningful, what our relationship should be with others, and how we explain and address human suffering.

In the spring semester, we will look explicitly at the relationship between the person and society: what we owe our neighbor, what institutions foster human flourishing, and how our own community succeeds or fails to measure up. Throughout the course, our theoretical inquiries will be aided and informed by the practical experience you receive in your placements.

This year-long 12 credit course is designed to fulfill the undergraduate requirements in theology and philosophy.

Course Requirements:

- 1) Attendance and Class Participation: Class participation is a vital element of this course, and you should come to class prepared to discuss the assigned reading material. Unexcused absences will count against your class participation grade, and **more than four unexcused absences during the semester will result in the lowering of your final grade.** An excused absence is an absence either agreed upon by the **instructor ahead of time** or excused by a doctor's or dean's note after. Attendance is required for both lecture and discussion.
- 2) One midterm examination will be held on **Friday, October 17**. If you miss the exam, you should have a doctor's or dean's note in order to reschedule a make-up exam.
- 3) Papers and Quizzes: I will assign two 4-6 page papers, which will require an in-depth analysis of an issue from the readings. In addition, one or two question quizzes will be given periodically in the first five minutes of class, which will ask basic questions about the assigned reading materials.
- 4) You are required to read the *Boston Globe* Monday through Friday, taking special note of articles that concern issues relevant to the community in which your placement is located or relevant to issues of social justice. Every Friday, a one to two paragraph summary of one article from the newspaper that week is due. No summaries are required on weeks where papers are due.
- 5) A Final Examination will be held during the final exam week. Please consult the academic calendar for the time of the exam. No early exams will be given to accommodate traveling plans.

Additional Remarks:

- 1) You are permitted one unexcused absence without penalty each semester. In addition, I will periodically post events regarding issues of social justice that are offered on campus. If you attend one of these events and provide a one-paragraph response concerning the event, I will forgive one unexcused absence during any time of the semester. You can have two absences forgiven per semester. However, you cannot make up missed exams or quizzes.
- 2) The policy of the class is to refer all cases of suspected plagiarism to the Dean's office. Confirmed cases of plagiarism will result in a final grade of F for the semester.
- 3) A grade of F in either the placement portion or classroom portion of the course will result in a failing grade for the class.

Grade distribution for This Portion of Class (60% of Final Grade for Class):

Midterm Exam: 15%

Papers: 40%

Class Participation and Quizzes: 15%

News Articles: 15%

Final Exam: 15%

Required Texts:

Jonathan Kozol, *Amazing Grace*

Plato, *Republic*

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*

The New Oxford Annotated Bible with Apocrypha

Michael Himes, *Doing the Truth in Love*

Albert Nolan, *Jesus Before Christianity*

September 9-11

Introduction to Course

Kozol, *Amazing Grace*

September 11: Online Registration Form Due

September 14-18

Bring schedule to class

Kozol, *Amazing Grace*

Plato, *Republic*

September 16: Town Meeting

September 21-25

Plato, *Republic*

September 28- October 2

Plato, *Republic*

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*

October 5- 9

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*

October 9: First long paper due

October 5 : Placement Work Begins

October 12: Columbus Day-No Classes

October 14-16

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*

October 19-23

October 19 Midterm exam

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*

October 26-30

Bible, *Genesis* (in *New Oxford Bible*)

October 30: Learning Work Agreements Due

November 2-6

Exodus

November 9-13

Exodus

Deuteronomy (selections)

Amos

November 16-20

Gospel of Luke, Matthew

Nolan, *Jesus Before Christianity*, Part One

November 23

Gospel of Matthew

Nolan, *Jesus Before Christianity* Part Two

Second Long Paper Due

November 25-27- Thanksgiving Break

November 30-December 4

Gospel of Matthew

Nolan, *Jesus Before Christianity*, Part Three and Four

December 7-11

Gospel of Matthew

Himes, *Doing the Truth in Love*

December 11: Last Day of Placement/ LWA Due

