

Person & Social Responsibility I
PL088/TH088; Section 9; T/Th 12:00 - 1:15

Fall, 2009

Prof. David McMenamain

PULSE Office, McElroy 117 (552-3495 or -3868 to leave a message)

email: mcmenamd@bc.edu

Office Hours: 10:00 – 11:30, TTh

Course Description:

This two-semester, twelve-credit course fulfills all core requirements in Philosophy and Theology. Course materials and methods consist of reading of classical philosophy texts, scripture and other readings to be expected in any core Philosophy and Theology course; class meetings will be a mix of lecture and discussion.

In addition to these standard approaches to the study of these disciplines, PULSE requires a significant commitment to community service for the entire two semester course and a once per week discussion group. There is also a requirement for two discussion groups per semester with the other students at your service site. These will take the place of two of the class discussion groups. The dates are to be determined.

The details of this process by which you will find your service placement will be described the first day in class. **If you are not present for that explanation or if you are encountering difficulties in the placement process, it is up to you to be sure that you speak with me.**

Discussion groups will meet Mondays at 12:00 or 1:00 or Wednesdays at 11:00 beginning on Monday, September 21 and Wednesday September 23 except where noted on the Class and Reading Schedule below -- you must have one of these times open in your schedule.

Requirements/Grading:

“Person and Social Responsibility” consists of two components: the classroom and the field. 60% of your semester grade will be determined by classroom performance including tests, writing assignments, participation, attendance and discussion; 40% will be based on an evaluation submitted to me by your community service field supervisor.

The class portion of the grade will be determined on the basis of the following requirements:

- 1) **Two in-term exams and a final take home exam** will be given. There may also be periodic, unannounced **short quizzes** focused on the readings. The dates of the in-term exams are given in the attached Class Schedule. The final exam will be due on Thursday, December 11 at noon.
- 2) **Regular class attendance, on time**, with that day's reading assignment completed, is expected. Consistent lack of preparation and/or regular absence will result in a reduction of the grade at the professor's discretion; more than three cuts – including Wednesday discussion groups -- will automatically result in a significant grade reduction.
- 3) **Class Participation** is an important element of this class (including participation in discussion groups). If you do not volunteer, you can expect to be called upon. If you are not prepared, you can expect that quizzes will become a frequent component of the class.

- 4) **Attendance and Participation in weekly discussion groups** are essential. The exact format of the groups will be determined when they first meet. In the meantime, a **print out of your class schedule** should be handed in at the first class meeting following the end of the drop-add period; i.e., the class of Thurs., Sept. 11. These will be used to determine your discussion group.
- 5) Attendance and participation in the **two discussion groups** with other students at your service placement. These will be **led by the PULSE Council** member who coordinates your placement. Attendance will be taken and failure to meet with your Council member will be counted as a skipped class. Two of our Wednesday discussion groups will be cancelled to compensate for this requirement.
- 6) Regular **writing assignments** will be in the form of **weekly journals**. The expected content of the journals and their format will be explained in class. They will be due in class every Thursday (except Thanksgiving week) beginning on Sept. 18. More details on this will follow. Late or missing journals will result in grade reductions as will failure to comply with the directions for the content.

NOTE: THIS IS A TECHNOLOGY FREE ZONE: NO LAPTOP USE IS PERMITTED DURING CLASS; NO TEXTING. TURN CELL PHONES OFF OR RENDER THEM NOISELESS – NOT ON VIBRATE SETTING; NO TONES SIGNALING MESSAGES RECEIVED, ETC.

Required texts: (These are in the Theology section of the Book Store)

Euripides, *Ion* (available on line)

Jonathan Kozol, *Amazing Grace*

Plato, *Republic*

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*

Michael Himes, *Doing the Truth in Love*

Thomas Cahill, *The Gifts of the Jews*

Augustine, *Confessions*

The Catholic Study Bible: (NOTE: This particular edition of the Bible contains required supplemental readings.)

Note: Several of these books will be used again, or maybe for the first time, in the second semester.

To get started on the placement process:

It is critically important to follow the instructions of the PULSE Council members who come to class on the first day. **To get the placement or at least the kind of placement you want, this process requires your active participation.** If you are not in this class on the first day, it is your responsibility to make sure the process has been explained to you by someone in the PULSE office.

PL/TH 088.09 -- Person & Social Responsibility I
Class and Reading Schedule (Subject to change)

Fall, 2009

Tues., September 8 – Introduction.

Thurs., September 10 -- Continuation of introductory themes and read Euripides' *Ion*.

Tues., September 15 – Read Jonathan Kozol, *Amazing Grace* (the whole book).

Thurs. September 17 – No class due to Mass of the Holy Spirit

Tues., September 22 -- Introduction to Socrates & Plato; Plato: *Republic*, Book 1 and II.

Thurs., September 24 -- Plato, *Republic*, from Book III, Line 410b8, (p. 78 near the bottom: "And I said: Those Glaucon...") to the end of Book IV.

T/Th, September 29 & October 1 -- *Republic*, Book V, from Line 471c2, (p. 131: "Let us, he said, and let us...But I think, Socrates, that if one lets you talk...") to the end of Book V; Book VI; and Book VII.

T/Th, October 6 and 8 -- Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Books I & II; Book III, sections 1-5; and Book VI.

Tues., October 13 -- *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book VII, sections 1 - 10; Book VIII, sections 1 - 9; Book IX, sections 4 and 8; Book X. Conclusion to Aristotle

Thurs., October 15 – Finish Aristotle (no additional reading). Review for exam.
History of and Introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures, alias Old Testament:
"Myth and Mythology; Truth and Theology; Inspiration and Revelation."
Read *Genesis* and pages from the Catholic Study Bible Readers Guide to be announced.

Tues., October 20 -- **In class exam** on Euripides, Plato and Aristotle.

Thursday, October 22 and Tuesday October 27 – *Genesis* and *Exodus*. Reader's Guide pages to be announced. (Begin reading Cahill's *The Gifts of the Jews*)

Thurs., October 29 – *Deuteronomy* (pay special attention to Dt. Chapters 1:1-18; 4; 6; 11; 30; 31; 32:45-52; 34.) Readers Guide pages to be announced.

Tues., November 3 – Isaiah 1:1 - 7:18; 8:23 - 9:6; 10:1-4; 11:1-11; 32; 33:17-24; 35; Catholic Study Bible, Readers Guide, pp. 287-303.

Thurs., November 5 -- Isaiah 42; 49:1 - 50:1; 55 - 59; 61:1-3; 65. **ADD 66.**
Ezekiel 18 - 20; 33; 35; 36 (**N.B. vv. 25-27**); 37:1-14
Jeremiah 31(**N.B. vv. 31-34**) and Micah 6 (**N.B. v 8**).

PL/TH 088.09 -- Person & Social Responsibility I
Class and Reading Schedule Cont'd (Subject to change)

Fall, 2007

Tues., Nov. 10 -- Finish Hebrew Scriptures and review for exam.

Thurs., Nov. 12 – **In class exam** on Hebrew Scriptures

Tuesday, November 17 – Read Luke's Gospel and RG pp. 386-88, 417-437.

Thursday, November 19 – Augustine, *Confessions*

Tuesday, November 24 – Augustine, *Confessions*

Wednesday, November 25 – Friday, November 27: Thanksgiving break

Tuesday, December 1 – Augustine, *Confessions*

Thursday, December 3 – Michael Himes, *Doing the Truth in Love*. Chapters 1 – 3.

Tuesday, December 8 -- Himes, chapters 4 and 9.

Thursday, December 10 – Finish Himes. And “Bringing it all together: Athens, Jerusalem, the Christian Synthesis and contemporary questions.”

Friday, December 18 – Take home final exam due at noon in the PULSE Office.