

RHODES COLLEGE
COURSE SYLLABUS
HUMANITIES 201

“THE SEARCH FOR VALUES IN THE LIGHT OF WESTERN HISTORY
AND RELIGION”
PHILOSOPHY TRACK
SECTION 201:09
FALL 2006
CLOUGH 313
T-TH 2:00-3:15 p.m.

Instructor: Dr. Ross Reed, Interdisciplinary Humanities and Philosophy
Department

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COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To assist you in the development of critical thinking skills via the study of various works of Western philosophy, literature, and theology written during the last 1500 years. Chronologically, we begin with Benedict of Nursia (480-542 CE. Augustine died in 430 CE) and progress through Hume (1776). There are a few exceptions, however (e.g. 20th century writer Paolo Freire).
2. To assist you in being able to express - both verbally and in written form - the abstract thought brought forth through the use of these critical thinking skills.
3. To familiarize you with many different philosophical explications of “reality”, or, different worldviews. (If you believe everything you read in this class, you will be hospitalized by Thanksgiving).
4. To give you some specific intellectual material to help you grapple with the ambiguity, anxiety, and freedom that are indelible aspects of the human condition.
5. To engage in philosophizing in a way that allows you to maintain/achieve/regain a childlike wonder and sense of play in the face of the vast and mysterious universe.

DR. REED'S 201:09 Syllabus (2)

TEXTS:

1. COURSE PACKET (CP): "The Search for Values in the Light of Western History and Religion" for Dr. Reed's 201:09 course.
2. MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY. Fourth ed. Philosophic Classics, vol. 2. Walter Kaufmann and Forrest Baird, editors. Prentice-Hall: 2003.
3. MODERN PHILOSOPHY. Fourth ed. Philosophic Classics, vol. 3. Walter Kaufmann and Forrest Baird, editors. Prentice-Hall: 2003.
4. Lame Deer, John Fire, and Richard Erdoes. LAME DEER, SEEKER OF VISIONS. Washington Square Press: 1994.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Five components:

1. CRITICAL PAPER ONE (1000-1250 WORDS).

DUE THURSDAY, 5 OCTOBER 2006. Critical philosophical papers include explication and analysis of a thinker/text/issue that has already been discussed in class. Your paper should focus on a specific reading or passage and should either advance a focused thesis or address a question. Your thesis statement or question should appear in the first paragraph of your paper and the remainder of your paper should directly relate to the thesis or question as stated in paragraph one. (Example: "What does Benedict mean by obedience? How is one obedient according to Benedict? Does obedience exist outside the mantle of ecclesiastical authority, i.e. the Abbott? This is just one possible example from an early reading. There are many other possibilities). You should NOT use outside source material to compose your paper. Papers should NOT make use of internet source material or any other type of written source material. You should use ONLY the primary source material we are using in class and then summarize, analyze, and criticize it using only your own faculties. Once you see how well this will go, you will be ecstatic. Note: If you wait until the night before to write your paper, you may be less than ecstatic.

2. CRITICAL PAPER TWO (1000-1250 WORDS).
DUE THURSDAY, 16 NOVEMBER 2006.

3. BOOK GLOSSING: LAME DEER: SEEKER OF VISIONS.
DUE TUESDAY, 5 DECEMBER 2006. Glossing consists of marginal notes, written in the book, commenting on, expanding, analyzing, criticizing or otherwise reacting to passages in the book. The entire book is then handed in. You can write about anything - you can relate passages to your experience ("This reminds me of my grandmother. She stole quite a few vehicles in her day, but never when she was not on a bender."), to other class work ("This reminds me of a passage from Foucault's book on the birth of the mental institution. Maybe I grew up in a mental institution? Possibly that's a good thing? By the way, where are my slippers?"), even to other passages in the book ("Lame Deer is really getting on my nerves. The guy is a real egomaniacal psycho, but in a loveable kind of way. For example, in this passage on page 156..."). The one thing your book glossing should NOT be is a restatement of the text. The glossing does not have to be organized or polished, it just has to reflect two things: (1) You and (2) The text.

4. CLASS PARTICIPATION
 - (1) Students are expected to attend classes, to have read the assigned material, and to be prepared to discuss it. Failure to prepare for class, even if you attend, constitutes an absence. This means that you should always bring the necessary reading materials for the day's class.
 - (2) In addition, be prepared for periodic unannounced quizzes.
 - (3) Finally, each student should prepare to give a five to ten minute introduction to one class discussion during the semester. A sign up sheet will be passed around within the first few days of class.The class presentation, like the critical papers, should NOT make use of any outside source material (this of course includes the internet). For your presentation, carefully read your chosen selection. Then read it about five more times. Okay, now you're ready (then again, maybe not. Have you looked at Aquinas lately?). Give us what YOU think are the most important questions/issues raised by the text. Then give us what YOU think are the writer's answers to these questions/issues. You could

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bring up anywhere from one to five or six issues/questions and their corresponding answers.

The important thing here is that we want to hear from you. You are the day's expert on the reading, or at least a segment of the reading. You don't have to be a scholar. You just have to know what the particular text in question actually says. It's going to be oh so much fun that you might even be hyperventilating just imagining it. That's how I feel when it comes to the Olympic 10,000 meter final.

5. FINAL EXAMINATION

WEDNESDAY, 13 DECEMBER 2006: 1:00 – 3:30 p.m.

The final examination will be an essay style exam based upon selected readings and class discussions. Please note this now, so that you don't schedule your departing flight before or during your final exam!

All assignments must be turned in on the due date to receive full credit. Late assignments will be marked down 5% per class unless accompanied by a valid medical excuse.

All five of the above components are of equal weight. That is to say, each is 20% of the total final grade. Grading will follow the Rhodes College scale. It goes without saying that the meaning, function, and intent of the Rhodes Honor Code should be kept in mind throughout this course.

“The goal of belief is to believe what one believes.”

Jean-Paul Sartre, Being and Nothingness (1943)

“Thus ‘really to know oneself’ is necessarily to take toward oneself the point of view of the Other, that is to say, a point of view which is necessarily false.”

Jean-Paul Sartre, The Transcendence of the Ego (1938)

“We need art, lest we perish of the truth.”

Friedrich Nietzsche, The Will to Power (circa 1888)

COURSE SCHEDULE:

All dates are subject to change. Unless notified, please read the assigned material and be prepared to discuss it on the date specified, as follows:

1. Thursday, 24 August 2006
Introduction
2. Tuesday, 29 August
CP: Voltaire: "Story of a Good Brahmin" (p.5).
3. Thursday, 31 August
CP: Freire: "The Pedagogy of the Oppressed" (pp.7-13).
4. Tuesday, 5 September
CP: Benedict of Nursia (pp.15-21), Thomas of Celano (pp.29-39), St. Francis of Assisi (pp. 23-27).
5. Thursday, 7 September
CP: "The Cloud of Unknowing" (pp. 41-60), St. Thomas `a Kempis (pp.61-66).
6. Tuesday, 12 September
Medieval Philosophy: Anselm (pp. 169-173), Aquinas (pp. 331-351).
7. Thursday, 14 September
Medieval Philosophy: Aquinas (pp. 356-362, 384-393).
8. Tuesday, 19 September
Medieval Philosophy: Aquinas (pp. 399-410).
9. Thursday, 21 September
CP: Dante (pp. 69- 104).
10. Tuesday, 26 September
CP: Dante (pp. 105-141).
11. Thursday, 28 September
CP: Christine de Pizan (pp. 143-148).
12. Tuesday, 3 October
Medieval Philosophy: Giovanni Pico della Mirandola (pp. 523-527).
CP: Erasmus (pp.149-155).
13. Thursday, 5 October
CP: Machiavelli (pp. 157-170).
CRITICAL PAPER ONE DUE
14. Tuesday, 10 October
CP: Machiavelli (pp. 157-170).

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15. Thursday, 12 October
CP: Luther (pp.171-195), Calvin (pp. 197-210).
16. Thursday, 19 October
CP: Canons and Decrees of the Council of Trent (pp. 211-219),
Loyola (pp. 221-223).
17. Tuesday, 24 October
CP: Copernicus, Kepler, and Galileo (pp. 225-246, 295-296).
18. Thursday, 26 October
Modern Philosophy: Bacon (pp. 1-8).
19. Tuesday, 31 October - open
20. Thursday, 2 November
Modern Philosophy: Descartes (pp. 9-28).
21. Tuesday, 7 November
Modern Philosophy: Descartes (pp. 29-38).
22. Thursday, 9 November
Modern Philosophy: Hobbes (pp. 62-64, 82-103).
23. Tuesday, 14 November
Hume handout
24. Thursday, 16 November
CP: North American Indian Reader: Iroquois (pp. 249-273).
CRITICAL PAPER TWO DUE
25. Tuesday, 21 November
CP: North American Indian Reader: Cherokee (pp. 275-284),
Winnebago (pp. 285-294).
26. Tuesday, 28 November
Lame Deer: Seeker of Visions (pp. IX-XXIX, 1-106).
27. Thursday, 30 November
Lame Deer: Seeker of Visions (pp. 107-190).
28. Tuesday, 5 December
Lame Deer: Seeker of Visions (pp. 191-301).
BOOK GLOSSING DUE.

FINAL EXAMINATION

WEDNESDAY, 13 DECEMBER 2006: 1:00 – 3:30 p.m.

3 Minor in Philosophy (4) PHIL 202 Minor Requirements No Double Counting of Minor Courses - No Grade Less Than C- in Minor Courses Emphasis Courses PHIL 05 PHIL 14 PHIL Total Minor Credits=21 This minor is available on the following tracks: HUM 201 HUM 7 18 Humanities Concentration (D 11) Concentration Requirements No Double Counting of Concentration Courses - No Grade Less Than. C- in Concentration Courses Take credits: HUM 00R 1- HUM 50R HUM 98R 1- Interdisciplinary Courses IDS 98R 1- IDS Total Concentration Credits= This concentration is available on the following tracks: PHIL 202 Philosoph