**PHIL 130: Philosophy & Persons**

Section 29: TuTh 11:30–12:45 in Cuneo 003

Professor: Naomi Fisher

Email: nfisher1@luc.edu

Office: Crown Center 335

Course website: https://naomiluce.wixsite.com/fall22 (also embedded in sakai)

TA: Kevin Mager

Email: kmager@luc.edu

**Office hours:**

Thursday afternoon 1-3 pm in Crown 335 or by appointment. I am typically available to meet on zoom any day and on campus Tuesdays and Thursdays. Just send me an email to set up a time.

**Texts (buy a physical copy of these books):**

Please purchasethe following books. *No e-copies are allowed: you will be required to have the readings in class, and devices (laptops, phones, etc.) are not allowed out in class.* All are available for purchase on amazon.com and many other online book retailers. **You must purchase *these exact versions****.* Other translations can differ wildly and would make it impossible to follow along, and editions with different page numbers (available e-copies have different page numbers) will make the course much more difficult.

Plato, *Gorgias*, trans. Zeyl, Hackett, 1987. ISBN 9780872200166

Dostoevsky, *The Brothers Karamazov*, trans. Pevear and Volokhonsky, Picador, 2021. ISBN 9781250788450

**Other texts will be handed out and put up on the course website:**

Plato, *The Republic*, selections; *The Apology*

St. Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae*, selections

Martin Luther King, Jr., “Letter from Birmingham Jail”

Kant, *What is Enlightenment?*; *Conjectural Beginning of Human History*

Mengzi, selections

**Grades:**

Grading will be on a 100 point scale. You will get a number grade for papers and exams, and your final grade will be calculated on the following scale. Your grades will be available for viewing on sakai:

93+ A 77-79.9 C+

90-92.9 A- 73-76.9 C

87-89.9 B+ 70-72.9 C-

83-86.9 B 63–69.9 D

80-82.9 B- <63 F

**Final Grade will be calculated as follows:**

30% Reading responses 10% Participation

20% Exam 1 20% Exam 2

20% Final Paper

**Weekly Reading Responses (30% of final grade):**

*Every Monday* you will have a reading response due (by midnight) on sakai—this will cover the reading for the week. I expect at least a full paragraph (4-5 sentences) on the question that is asked, *and you should demonstrate that you have done the reading*. These will be graded out of 20. Misunderstandings are of course okay—it is possible to misunderstand and get 20/20. The main thing is to show that you are at least struggling with the text, even if you have not mastered it.

**Movie**

We will watch a movie this semester (*Tree of Life*). You are responsible for watching this movie outside of class time. We may have a screening for this movie, but only if there is demand for it. It is available for rent online for $3-4.

**Exams (40% of final grade):**

You will have two exams, each worth 20% of your grade. The format for these tests will be two essay question prompts for essays of about 400 words each, picked at random from a list of questions that I will give you at least a week in advance. Exam 2 is *not cumulative*: it will only cover material from the second half of the course. You will not be allowed any materials during the examinations.

**Final Paper (20% of final grade):**

The final paper will be 5-6 pages long and worth 20% of your grade. I will give you more specific instructions when I hand out the assignment. The final paper is to be uploaded to sakai by the scheduled time of the final exam.

**Participation (10% of final grade)**

It is in your interest to come to class and participate in discussion. This will be the best way to understand the readings, to perform well on the exams and to write penetrating and insightful papers, and to come to a greater understanding of the nature of justice, goodness, and love. However, if this is not enough to motivate you, 10% of your grade also depends upon coming to class and participating.

Generally, the baseline for this grade is *a simple percentage of the classes you attend*. Grades may be bumped up for participation. Excused absences will not count against you. If you miss 5 classes or more without prior permission, you will get an ‘F’ in this category. I also reserve the right to bump up borderline final grades of students who perform particularly well in this category.

An “excused” absence generally means you have notified me in advance and have a good reason to miss. Do not come to class if you are sick. Just send me an email letting me know.

**Academic Integrity**

Violations of academic integrity will not be tolerated. There are many ways to violate the academic integrity, and you are responsible to know what counts as a violation of academic integrity. If you have any doubt, send me an email and I will let you know. Most forms of plagiarism can be avoided by simply not consulting sources that originate on the internet (e.g. wikipedia, blogs, sparknotes). For more information visit: <https://www.luc.edu/academics/catalog/undergrad/reg_academicintegrity.shtml>. Penalties will be determined at my discretion, up to and including failing the course.

**Please feel free to approach me about anything regarding the course. I will do my best to help you succeed, whatever your circumstances.**

**Schedule**

*Part I: Plato, Aquinas, Martin Luther King Jr.*

**Reading response due Wednesday 8/31:** Plato’s Cave(*Republic* 514a-521d)

Tues. 8/30 & Thurs. 9/1 Enlightenment and education

**Reading response due Monday 9/5:** Plato’s *Apology* (entire)

Tues. 9/6 & Thurs. 9/8 Justice and self-knowledge

**Reading response due Monday 9/12:** *Gorgias* 447a-488a (pp. 1–61)

Tues. 9/13 & Thurs. 9/15: Power, happiness, and the good life

**Reading response due Monday 9/19:** *Gorgias* 488a-509d (pp. 61–90)

Tues. 9/20 & Thurs. 9/22: Self-control and justice

**Reading response due Monday 9/26:** *Gorgias* 509d-527e (pp. 90–113)

Tues. 9/27 & Thurs. 9/29 Socrates as the true politician

**Reading response due Monday 10/3:** Aquinas *Summa* I-II q. 1, 90

Tues. 10/4 & Thurs. 10/6 Human nature and happiness

\*\*\*Tues 10/11: fall break\*\*\*

**Reading response due *Wednesday* 10/12:** Aquinas *Summa* I-II q. 91-92

Thurs. 10/13 Reason and Law

**Reading response due Monday 10/17:** MLK, “Letter”

Tues. 10/18 Law and Justice; Exam review

\*\*\*\*EXAM 1 THURSDAY 10/20\*\*\*\*

*Part II: Kant, Dostoevsky, Mengzi, Tree of Life*

**Reading response due Monday 10/24:** Kant *Enlightenment*; *Conjectural Beginning*

Tues. 10/25 & Thurs. 10/27 Humanity and progress; papers

**Reading response due Monday 10/31:** *Karamazov* Rebellion (pp. 58–61, 249-262)

Tues. 11/1 & Thurs. 11/3 Suffering

**Reading response due Monday 11/7:** *Karamazov* Grand Inquisitor(262-281)

Tues. 11/8 & Thurs. 11/10 Freedom and power

**Reading response due Monday 11/14:** *Karamazov* Zosima (pp. 46-7, 304–334)

Tues. 11/15 & Thurs. 11/17 Authenticity, isolation, and freedom

**Reading response due Monday 11/21:** *Karamazov* Zosima (pp. 334–341); Mengzi

Tues. 11/22 Seeds, nature, love

\*Thurs. 11/24 Thanksgiving break\*

**Reading response due Monday 11/28:** MOVIE: *The Tree of Life* (2011)

Tues. 11/29 & Thurs. 12/1 Nature and grace

**No new reading**

Tues. 12/6 *Tree of Life* (cont.) Exam Review

\*\*\*\*EXAM 2 THURSDAY 12/8\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*FINAL PAPER DUE ON TUESDAY, DEC. 13TH AT 9 A.M. \*\*\*\*