

PHIL 4360: TOPICS IN CONTEMPORARY PHILOSOPHY
ASU DESIGNATED COMMUNITY ENGAGED CLASS¹

SPRING 2015

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND PHILOSOPHY

PROFESSOR

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Office Hours (physical office and virtual office): MWF: 8:30AM-10:00AM, TR: 1:00PM-3:00PM

Do not hesitate to contact me during regular office hours. You can come and visit, call me or send me an email. Let me know if we need to schedule an appointment for a different time that is convenient for both. Please allow me 24 hours to respond to your emails before you feel abandoned. I will be happy to assist you with any difficulty you may have regarding the course or any question about a particular issue.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Twentieth century philosophy is a very rich philosophical period. It includes philosophical movements, such as pragmatism, logical positivism, linguistic philosophy, post-positivistic philosophy, phenomenology, existentialism, Critical Theory of the Frankfurt School, Hermeneutics, structuralism, post-structuralism, deconstructionism, and feminist philosophy. Commonly all those get divided into two major trends, the Analytical camp (sometimes referred to as Anglo-American philosophy), and the Continental one. This course will witness and study the consolidation of this fundamental division along with the rise and transformation of some of those philosophical movements listed above. As always in philosophy, it is important to keep in mind that philosophers from one movement tend to venture their ways into another making labels only helpful for first approximations.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To familiarize students with the continental/analytic divide and with some philosophical issues and themes characteristic of 20th century philosophy
2. To help students critically assess and discuss philosophical arguments and theories (SR2.2)
3. To help students develop the ability to responsibly think and write about philosophical problems for themselves in a clear and a coherent manner (SR2.1)

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (IDEA)

¹ As a CONNECTED! Course, this class pays particular attention to Civic Responsibility (SR2) and Community Engagement (SR3). This course will give you the opportunity to participate in a community-based research learning excursion. You will be required to reflect collectively and individually on issues pertaining to your learning excursion or community engagement.

Upon completion of the course, you will:

Question 4: develop specific skills, competencies and points of view required by professional philosophers who teach philosophy

Question 8: Develop skills in expressing yourself orally or in writing

Question 11: **Acquire skills in critical analysis by learning how to critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view**

Question 13: **Become familiarized with relevant philosophical concerns and with the way central figures in philosophy have thought about those concerns (SR2)**

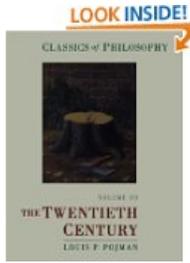
STUDENT LEARNING ASSESSMENT

Assessment Type	Student Learning Outcome assessed	Weight as a Percentage
Attendance* (up to 5 free absences)	4, 8, 11, 13	10
Class Participation (critical analysis and discussion of reading assignments)	4, 8, 11, 13	10
Outline for leading class discussion	4, 8, 11, 13	15
Short essays (2) (Critical Reflection)	4, 8, 11, 13	20
Tests (2) [One of the tests can be replaced by a research paper]	4, 8, 11, 13	30
Community Engagement reflection	SR2	15
Total		100%

*NOTE about absence policy: you can miss **up to five times for whatever reason**. You need not justify your absences. But remember that after 5 absences, you will not receive credit for class attendance.

- OUTLINES should be as simple and as schematic as possible. Check Blackboard for details
- SHORT ESSAYS should be two to three pages long (no more than 750 words) and do not require secondary bibliography. Check Blackboard for details
- The community engagement essay should reflect your active participation in at least one of the three proposed community engagement activities: Interfaith dialog (ASU Philosophy Club), movie forum (Philosophy club), and learning excursion (philosophy conference)

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS



- Required Text: *Classics of Philosophy, vol. 3. The twentieth Century*. Louis P. Pojman ed. (Oxford University Press, 2001) ISBN: 9780195132830
- Other texts will be provided by the professor on Blackboard.

GENERAL CLASS RULES

- **READ THE MATERIAL:** You are expected to come to class prepared. Every reading assignment will allow you to follow the lecture and to participate in class discussion. Remember: reading philosophy requires time and patience. You should have questions regarding each day's reading assignment. If you have no questions, re-read the assignment
- **PARTICIPATE:** Active participation is a vital component of the philosophical learning experience. Listening carefully, expressing doubts and concerns in a coherent manner (either orally or in writing), and responding to other's philosophical concerns contribute to a deeper understanding of the issues at hand. It is important that you take good class notes so you can assimilate the material presented in class. If you see that your class notes "do not match" with your reading notes, bring the fact to my attention so we can clarify any misunderstanding.
- **CHECK BLACKBOARD FREQUENTLY:** Blackboard provides important information, such as, whether there is a quiz or not scheduled for next class, the amount of reading for a particular day, what we did on the day that you missed, your grade after a quiz, test or assignment, or any general announcement for the class. Also, you need Blackboard to access some of the writing assignments
- **ETIQUETTE:** Be respectful when you address other people (either other students or me). You may disagree with what other people are defending. The challenge is to show the weaknesses in their arguments and to build better ones. Insults do not make good arguments. Attack arguments, not people. Also, when you send me an email, remember my name (Dr. Badiola) and make sure you tell me yours. Please make sure to check your ASU email account (@angelo.edu) in case I have to contact you at any point during the semester.
 - SWITCH MOBILE PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRIC DEVICES OFF before entering the classroom
 - HAVE THE COURTESY TO INFORM ME in advance if you intend to leave before class ends. Sit at the back of the room so you can exit without disturbing anyone
- **CONTACT ME:** I will be more than happy to assist you with any difficulty you may have regarding the course, any question about a particular issue or text or any inquiry on more bibliography about some topic you find engaging. Also if you feel that your grade does not reflect your work in the class, come and see me so we can discuss it. Please check my office hours and make sure to make an appointment with me if you cannot make it during those times.

If you have technical issues please contact the IT Helpdesk at 325-942-2911 or 1-800-942-2911. You can also email them at helpdesk@angelo.edu

THE ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY HONOR CODE

Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is contained in both print and web versions of the [Student Handbook](#).

In other words, when you submit your work, you claim that the work is yours. If someone else wrote it for you or you got it from someone else (internet, other student's class...), then you are not the author and thus will get a zero for that assignment. Any idea that is not yours should be properly referenced.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.

DISABILITIES

Please let me know if you have any special need due to any learning disability. Persons with disabilities which may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center, in order to request such accommodations prior to any accommodations being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

COURSE OUTLINE AND TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Course Outline	Tuesday	Thursday
1. Origins of American Pragmatism: Pragmatism and The Pragmatic Theory of Truth (Charles S. Peirce and William James)	1/20 Course overview	1/22 "Four Ariadnean Threads through a Labyrinth" (Bb) Quiz building (link on Bb)
	1/27 Peirce: pp. 97-111 Sign up for leading discussion day (link on Bb)	1/29 James: pp. 112-120
2. Origins of Ordinary Language Analysis: G. E.		

Moore's Common Sense Analysis	2/3 James: pp. 120-134	2/5 Essay 1 (Pragmatism)
3. Origins of logical Positivism: British Realism (B. Russell)	2/10 Moore: pp. 23-34	2/12 Moore: pp. 35-41
	2/17 Russell: 42-56 Russell 56-73	2/19 Russell: 79-85 "Logical Atomism" (available through Blackboard)
Logical Positivism	2/24 "The Rise of Logical Positivism" (Rosenberg, Bb) Carnap: 135-147	2/26 Ayer: 148-164
	3/3 Essay 2 (Logical Positivism)	3/5 Analytic and Continental Philosophy (Neil Levy available through Blackboard)
Consolidation of bipolarity: Analytic and Continental Philosophy: Understanding the divide	3/10 Heidegger (466) (480-497)	3/12 Wittgenstein: 165-174
	3/17 Spring Break	3/19 Spring Break
Critics of Logical Positivism & Post-Positivist Analytic Philosophy	3/24 Wittgenstein: 174-182	3/26 Wittgenstein: Reading available through Blackboard
	3/31 Linguistic Analysis: Ryle & Austin: 352-359; 183-186,	4/2 Quine: "Two Dogmas of Empiricism" (210-224)
	4/7 Quine: Epistemology naturalized and Ontological Relativity (224-248)	4/9 Test 1
Contemporary Continental Philosophy and postmodern Philosophy: Historicity, emancipation and praxis	4/14 "Phenomenology: Straight and Hetero" by Cerbone (Blackboard)	4/16 Sartre 498-510
	4/21 Sartre 510-14	4/23 Rorty 541-548
	4/28 Rorty V. Searle (Blackboard)	4/30 Habermas: 560-569
	5/5 Community Project Reflection due	5/7 Review
	5/12 Final Exam 10:30-12:30	5/14

