

Loyola

HIGH SCHOOL

Course Outline

2018/2019

Number of periods in the cycle: 4

Mr. Paul Donovan (donovanp@loyola.ca)

Office Hours: by request

Texts:

- Digital material, some AV material and class notes.
- Students must have a binder for handouts, loose-leaf or a Hilroy-style notebook (must be just for this class as it will be handed in occasionally).
- Material covered in class will be on Moodle.

Course Objectives:

- To introduce the student to philosophy: its nature, its value, its relationship with other human pursuits, its general historical development, some of its major figures, and some of its persistent concerns.
- To consider philosophically some relevant contemporary issues.
- To help students develop the skill of thinking philosophically.
- To help students to develop the skill of composing philosophical arguments.

Course Content: (Material may vary slightly)

1. Introductory philosophical concepts and categories
2. Greek philosophy: perception and reality, truth and opinion (Plato, Aristotle)
3. Medieval Philosophy: Being and Essence, Philosophy & Theology (Augustine, Aquinas)
4. Modern Epistemology: Justification of knowledge (Descartes, Hume)
5. Kantian Philosophy: Epistemology and Metaphysics
6. Philosophy of Man: Various view on the human condition (Kierkegaard, Nietzsche)
7. Ethics: the nature of morality, basis for moral behavior, relativist vs. objectivist ethics. (Mill, Ayer, McIntyre, Kant).
8. Phenomenology and Personalism: perception, experience and objectivity (Husserl, Heidegger)
9. Contemporary Issues: Civil disobedience, environment, life, drugs, etc.

From the Student Handbook: “This is a beginner level course into Western Philosophy. The goal is to introduce the student to the history and development of the Western Philosophical tradition. Specific thinkers and issues from each of the four

historical eras of Western philosophy – ancient, medieval, modern and contemporary – are considered in general, rather than detailed terms. Underlying themes are the relationship between philosophy and other disciplines, such as science, art and religion, and how philosophic thinking differs from other types of thinking.”

Homework and Assignments:

- Written homework is NOT assigned regularly
- Reading and reflection papers will be required every few weeks
- Tests and quizzes will require preparation based on class notes and reading.
- Emphasis on note taking and class discussions (which will be occasionally evaluated)

Term 1: Class 100%

Term 2: Class 50%
Major Assignment 50%

Term 3: Class 40%
Exam 60%

Summary: Term 1: 20%, Term 2: 20%, Term 3: 60% (as per provincial regulation)