

Humanities 3: Philosophy and Theology (Ancient to Early Modern)

Humanities 3 features a set of world-class texts in philosophy and theology. They are all of great importance in the history of the Western world. By now, the skills of reading well, thinking analytically, speaking clearly, listening thoughtfully, and writing effectively should be almost second nature to you. We will try to hone each of those skills in this course. We plan to give feedback concerning your class participation and your first paper at a conference in the middle of the term (see the course syllabus).

Table of Contents

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Texts

Required

Augustine, *Confessions*
Descartes, *Meditations*
Genesis
Gospel According to John
Locke, *Essay On Human Understanding*
Pascal, *Pensées*
Paul, 1 Corinthians
Plato, *Apology*
Plato, *Crito*
Plato, *Phaedo*
Teresa of Avila, *Life of St. Teresa* (preferred) or *Interior Castle*

Recommended

The following works should also be included, space permitting:

Anselm, “Proslogion”

Julian of Norwich, *Revelations of Divine Love*
Locke, *Essay*, sections other than those required
Plato, *Symposium*

Course Readings

A list of the books and articles used in this course follows in the order in which they are read. Additional assignments will be announced in class.

Plato, *Complete Works*
Bible: Genesis, Gospel According to John, 1 Corinthians
Augustine, *Confessions*
Anselm, “Monologion” and “Proslogion”
Teresa of Avila, *Life of Saint Teresa by Herself*
Descartes, *Meditations*
Pascal, *Pensées*
Locke, *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*

We strongly recommend that you purchase a college writing handbook if you do not already own one. *The Harbrace College Handbook* and *Write for College* are especially recommended. Thomas Mautner’s *A Dictionary of Philosophy* might help in understanding the terminology used in some of the works in this course.

Course Requirements

You will be required to write two papers for Humanities 3, as follows.

The first paper should be either (1) a dialogue between two or more persons, real or fictional, about some issue(s) dealt with in the readings for the first half of the semester; or (2) an essay in response to a topic on a list that will be distributed. The second paper should be a detailed analysis of the argument in any portion of a course text.

Both papers should be typed and double-spaced. No paper should be less than five or more than ten pages in length. If either paper is late, the grade will be dropped—by a full letter grade if turned in within a week of the due date, by two full letter grades if it is any later than that.

As important as these papers are, class participation is even more important. The prerequisite of any discussion is prompt attendance and preparation of the text. A student who misses more than three class sessions is subject to being dropped, with late appearances counting as partial absences. For the purposes of grading, class discussion will count for 60 percent of the grade. The two papers will each count for 20 percent of the grade.

Syllabus

Thursday, September 2	Plato, <i>Apology</i>
Friday, September 3	Plato, <i>Apology</i>
Tuesday, September 7	Plato, <i>Crito</i>

Thursday, September 9	Plato, <i>Phaedo</i> , beginning to 77a
Friday, September 10	Plato, <i>Phaedo</i> , 77a to 95a
Monday, September 13	Plato, <i>Phaedo</i> , 95a to conclusion
Tuesday, September 14	Plato, <i>Symposium</i> , beginning to 198a
Friday, September 17	Plato, <i>Symposium</i> , 198a to conclusion
Tuesday, September 21	Genesis, chapters 1–11
Thursday, September 23	Genesis, chapters 12–19
Friday, September 24	Genesis, chapters 20–27.40
Tuesday, September 28	Gospel According to John, chapters 1–12
Thursday, September 30	Gospel According to John, chapters 13–end
Friday, October 1	1 Corinthians
Tuesday, October 5	Augustine, <i>Confessions</i> , Books 1–2
Thursday, October 7	Augustine, <i>Confessions</i> , Book 3 and Book 4, chapters 1–2 and 15
Friday, October 8	Augustine, <i>Confessions</i> , Book 5, chapters 1, 2, 8, and 10; and Book 6, chapters 1–6 and 11–end
DEAN'S BREAK	
Thursday, October 14	Augustine, <i>Confessions</i> , Books 7–8
Friday, October 15	Augustine, <i>Confessions</i> , Book 10, chapters 1–30
Tuesday, October 19	Augustine, <i>Confessions</i> , Book 11
Thursday, October 21	FIRST PAPER DUE
Friday, October 22	Anselm, “Proslogion”
Tuesday, October 26	Student conferences
Thursday, October 28	Student conferences
Friday, October 29	Student conferences
Monday, November 1	Saint Teresa of Avila, <i>Life...</i> , Chapters 1–3, 8–11
Thursday, November 4	Teresa of Avila, <i>Life...</i> , chapters 16–21
Friday, November 5	Teresa of Avila, <i>Life...</i> , chapters 37–end
Tuesday, November 9	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> , Preface and First Meditation
Thursday, November 11	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> , Second Meditation
Friday, November 12	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> , Third Meditation
Monday, November 15	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> , Fourth Meditation
Tuesday, November 16	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> , Fifth Meditation
Friday, November 19	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> , Sixth Meditation
Tuesday, November 23	SECOND PAPER DUE

THANKSGIVING BREAK

Tuesday, November 30	Pascal, <i>Pensées</i> , aphorisms 110–139, 148–188
Thursday, December 2	Pascal, <i>Pensées</i> , aphorisms 418–451
Friday, December 3	Pascal, <i>Pensées</i> , aphorisms 510–560, 832–850
Monday, December 6	Locke, <i>Essay . . .</i> , pages 1–32
Tuesday, December 7	Locke, <i>Essay . . .</i> , pages 33–65