

Summer 2010 Course Descriptions

PHIL 330: Philosophy of Religion

Summer Session 1 – 6/1-6/21/2010

Mondays – Thursdays from 2pm-5:45pm

Professor: Marcy Lascano: mlascano@csulb.edu

This course will examine issues and problems with the traditional attributes associated with the Judeo-Christian God. We will begin by examining traditional conceptions of God, and the role his perfections play in the ontological argument for God's existence. We will then discuss problems associated with the ontological status of God's nature. Next, we will examine God's necessary existence, eternity, omniscience, omnipotence, and omnibenevolence. Finally, after examining the attributes individually, we will discuss issues concerned with the compossibility of the attributes.

Texts: *Does God have a Nature?* by Alvin Plantinga and Articles on Beachboard

Requirements: There will be three in class essay exams and six in-class quizzes.

Philosophy 325i: Philosophy of Law

Summer Session 3 – 7/12-7/29/2010

Mondays – Thursdays from 6pm-9:45pm

Professor: Nellie Wieland: nwieland@csulb.edu

Study of the historical development of the philosophy of law and examination of the problems in the field ranging from general theories to analysis of fundamental legal concepts and normative issues. Topics include Positivism, Natural Law Theory, legal interpretation, responsibility and causation, the insanity defense, paternalism, and free speech.

Philosophy 418/518: Existentialism

Summer Session 1 – 6/1-6/21/2010

Mondays – Thursdays from 9:30am-1:15pm

Professor: Jason Raibley: jraibley@csulb.edu

This course provides an introduction to the philosophical tradition of existentialism. This tradition, unlike many other philosophical traditions and movements, has had a profound impact on the arts and world culture. To give just a few examples: existentialist themes are explored in the films of Ingmar Bergman, Stanley Kubrick, and Woody Allen; the television series of Joss Whedon; the novels of Milan Kundera, Haruki Murakami, and Chuck Palahniuk; and the music of The Doors, Leonard Cohen, and Pink Floyd, among many others.

According to the existentialists, human existence is essentially perspectival: it is organized at a fundamental level by the individual's values, cares, and concerns. Some existentialists are particularly interested in the philosophical meaning of the temporal ("the individual is constantly in the process of becoming") and social (others expectations delimit one's possibilities for existence) dimensions of the first-person perspective. Many existentialists also explore religious themes, e.g., the remoteness or absence of God, the irrationality of religious belief, and the meaning of religious faith.

We will read several classic existentialist texts in reverse chronological order. We will begin with Jean-Paul Sartre's essay, "Existentialism is a Humanism," and then read several selections from his book, *Being and Nothingness*. We will then turn to Friedrich Nietzsche's *On the Genealogy of Morality*, supplementing it with several key selections from his *Untimely Meditations* and *The Gay Science*. Finally, we will read Søren Kierkegaard's *Fear and Trembling*, and (time permitting) parts of *Either/Or: Part II* and *The Sickness Unto Death*. Our primary goal will be to examine and evaluate the views and arguments of these authors.

Texts:

Existentialism: Basic Writings (2nd Ed.), ed. Guignon & Pereboom, Hackett 2001.

Nietzsche, Friedrich. *On the Genealogy of Morality*. ed. Swenson & Clark. Hackett 1998.

Course requirements: three exams.
