

ST. AUGUSTINE'S SEMINARY **COURSE DESIGNATOR:** SAT 2723HF

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT. THE OFFICIAL COURSE SYLLABUS WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE FIRST CLASS.

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TITLE: HISTORY OF WESTERN PHILOSOPHY I **TERM:** F **YEAR:** 2009-2010

PROFESSOR: DR. PAMELA J. REEVE

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO 12 students UNLIMITED _____

COURSE DESCRIPTION: A survey of western philosophy from the pre-Socratics to Augustine. The course will take a combined historical and thematic approach, focusing on positions and problems in the areas of metaphysics (the nature of reality), epistemology (theory of knowledge), human nature (philosophical anthropology), and the purpose of human life individually and collectively (ethics and political philosophy).

CLASS OBJECTIVES: To develop a critical understanding of major schools of thought in ancient western philosophy and consider their relevance for life in the contemporary world. Students will acquire a conceptual grasp of some of the main thought-forms in Greek philosophy that influenced Christian theology.

PREREQUISITES: None

REQUIRED TEXT: None. Photocopied readings from original sources will be used.

POSSIBLE ASSIGNMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/TESTS:

– introductory assignment (10%), 2 short essays (35% each), final exam (20%)

ABRIDGED BIBLIOGRAPHY (chronological order):

Kirk, G.S., Raven, J.E., and Schofield, M., eds. *The Presocratic Philosophers*, 2nd edition. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1983

McKirahan, Richard D., Jr., *Philosophy Before Socrates: An Introduction with Texts and Commentary*. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett, 1994.

Plato. *The Collected Dialogues of Plato*. Edited by Edith Hamilton and Huntington Cairns. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1961.

Plato. *The Republic*. Translated by G.M.A. Grube, revised by C.D. C. Reeve. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett Publishing Company, 1992.

Aristotle. *The Complete Works of Aristotle*, 2 vols. Revised Oxford translation. Edited by Jonathan Barnes. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1984.

Plotinus. *The Essential Plotinus*. Selected and translated by Elmer J. O'Brien. Indianapolis, IN: Hackett Publishing Company, 1978.

Augustine. *On Free Choice of the Will*. Translation by Anna S. Benjamin & L. H. Hackstaff. Indianapolis, IN: Bobbs-Merrill, 1964

Proclus. *The Elements of Theology*, 2nd ed. Translation, introduction, and commentary by E. R. Dodds. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1963

Dionysius the Areopagite. *Pseudo-Dionysius: The Complete Works*. Translated by Colm Luibheid. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1987.