

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:** Introduction to Philosophical Anthropology

**TERM:** F **YEAR:** 20119 [September to December 2011]

**PROFESSOR:** Dr. Sean Mulrooney

**REGISTRATION:** LIMITED TO 14

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

In this course, we will examine different theories of human nature by reading philosophical, psychological, religious and personal accounts. Our examination will be guided by two focusing questions: “What makes me happy?” and “What keeps me from being happy?”. We will address these questions on both individual and communal levels. This year, we will focus on the question of addiction as an obstacle to happiness. Students will constantly be encouraged to connect the theories discussed in class with their own experience.

**CLASS OBJECTIVES:**

1. To explain, evaluate and compare different theories of human nature.
2. To explain, discuss and evaluate different theories of addiction.
3. To apply theories of human nature and addiction to our own lives and to the lives of others.

**PREREQUISITES:**

None.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Alcoholics Anonymous. *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*. New York: Alcoholics Anonymous World Services, 1952.

Augustine. *Confessions*. Trans. H. Chadwick. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1990.

Lamott, Anne. *Traveling Mercies: Some Thoughts on Faith*. New York: Random House, 1999.

May, Gerald G. *Addiction and Grace*. New York: HarperCollins Publishing Company, 1988.

Course reader available from the instructor at cost.

**POSSIBLE ASSIGNMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/TESTS:**

Post one question each week on course website	10%
Class participation	10%
4-page summary of a discussion on addiction you have led	20%
6-8 page research paper comparing 2 theories of human nature	30%
6-8 page reflection paper	30%

**ABRIDGED BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

Stevenson, Leslie and David Haberman. *Ten Theories of Human Nature*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 1998.

Stevenson, Leslie, ed. *The Study of Human Nature: A Reader*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2000.