



PHIL6330 History of Western Philosophy
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Theological and Historical Division
(NOLA2U Flex option)
Fall 2022

James K. Dew, Jr., PhD
President, Professor of Christian Philosophy
Frost Building
jdew@nobts.edu

Mission Statement

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

Course Description

This course surveys the major philosophical thinkers, ideas, and developments of the western world and the western tradition. Class lectures and reading materials will cover Christian and non-Christian philosophers, movements, and ideas that gave shape to the western intellectual tradition. Students will read secondary sources that cover these ideas and developments, as well primary sources from major philosophical thinkers.

Student Learning Outcomes

After this course, students will be able to:

1. Articulate the core teachings of influential philosophers in the Western tradition.
2. Demonstrate the impact of major ideas and movements on the history of western thought.
3. Situate various philosophical perspectives against the backdrop of a Christian worldview

Textbooks

1. C. Stephen Evans, *A History of Western Philosophy* (IVP, 2018)—600 pages.
2. John Cottingham (ed.), *Western Philosophy: An Anthology* (Blackwell, 2017)—849 pages.
3. Selected PDFs (200 pages).

Course Requirements

1. Reading. Students are required to read two textbooks in full (see below).
2. Quizzes (30%). Students will take two weekly quizzes, one on the reading, one on the lectures for that week. All quizzes are cumulative. At least 4 quizzes will be dropped, but no missed quiz can be made up.
3. Exams (30%). Students will be required to take a midterm and final exam. The final exam will be cumulative and comprehensive.
4. Paper (30%). Students are required to write a 15-page position paper. In this paper, students must formulate an argument regarding a major philosophical issue/debate/idea. Summary is not sufficient as students must research the issue and take a position/stance that he/she must defend with scholarly research and sound argumentation.

5. Participation (10%). Participation (i.e. speaking up and engaging with the professor and one's fellow classmates) is not optional. Students who fail to participate in this way will receive 0/10 point for this grade requirement.

Evaluation of Grade

Quizzes	30%
Exams	30%
Paper	30%
Participation	10%

Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. Canvas.NOBTS.com Click on the "Help" button for technical questions/support requests regarding the NOBTS Canvas System. You can also email questions to Canvas@nobts.edu
3. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Help with Writing Papers

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer. A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be located online at the Writing Center's page on the seminary website at

https://www.nobts.edu/_resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

Grading Scale

- A: 93 – 100**
- B: 85 – 92**
- C: 77 – 84**
- D: 70 – 76**
- F: below 70**

Course Schedule

Week & Unit		Lecture	Reading	Assignments
1	Unit 1: Ancient Greek Philosophy	Where are we, and how did we get here?	Evans, ch. 1	
2		The Presocratic Philosophers (Part 1)	Evans, ch. 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture Quiz • Reading Quiz
3		The Presocratic Philosophers (Part 2)	Anthology, II.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture Quiz • Reading Quiz
4		The Classical Philosophers: Socrates, Plato & Aristotle (Part 1)	Evans, ch. 3 Anthology, I.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture Quiz • Reading Quiz
5		The Classical Philosophers: Socrates, Plato & Aristotle (Part 2)	Evans, ch. 4-5 Anthology, VII.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture Quiz • Reading Quiz
6	Unit 2: Post-Classical through Medieval	Post Classical Philosophy	Evans, ch. 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture Quiz • Reading Quiz
7		Philosophy in the Early Church	Evans, ch. 7 Anthology, III.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture Quiz • Reading Quiz
8		Medieval Philosophy	Evans, ch. 8-10 Anthology, VI.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture Quiz • Reading Quiz • Midterm Exam
9	Unit 3: The Renaissance, Modernity, and the Advent of Postmodernism	Philosophy & Science in the Renaissance & Reformation	Evans, ch. 11 Anthology, VII.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture Quiz • Reading Quiz
10		The Essential 17 th Century Philosophers	Evans, ch. 12 Anthology, I.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture Quiz • Reading Quiz
11		Ancillary 17 th Century Philosophy	Evans, ch. 13 Anthology, IV.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture Quiz • Reading Quiz
12		The Early Empirical Philosophers	Evans, ch. 14 Anthology, VII.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture Quiz • Reading Quiz • Paper Due
13		Philosophy in the 18 th Century	Evans, ch. 15 Anthology, X.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture Quiz • Reading Quiz
14		Enlightenment and Early Existential Philosophy, From Modernity to Postmodernism	Evans, ch. 17 Anthology, VI.9, VI.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture Quiz • Reading Quiz
		Finals week		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture Quiz • Reading Quiz • Final Exam

Selected Bibliography

Allen, Diogenes, and Eric O. Springstead, *Philosophy for Understanding Theology*, 2nd Ed. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2007.

Audi, Robert, ed. *The Cambridge Dictionary of Philosophy*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1995.

Copleston, Frederick. *A History of Philosophy*. Vol.1, *Greece and Rome*. Westminster, MD: Newman, 1959.

Dew, James K., Jr., and Paul M. Gould, *Philosophy: A Christian Introduction*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2019.

Gaarder, Jostein. *Sophie's World—A Novel About the History of Philosophy*. Translated by Paulette Møller. New York: Berkley Books, 1991.

Russell, Bertrand. *A History of Western Philosophy*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1972.

Sahakian, William S., and Mabel Lewis Sahakian. *Ideas of the Great Philosophers*. New York: Barnes & Noble, 1966.

Windelband, Wilhelm. *A History of Philosophy*. Vol.1, *Greek, Roman, and Medieval*. New York: Harper & Row, 1958.