

CONTINUUM
PHILOSOPHICAL INSIGHT

INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

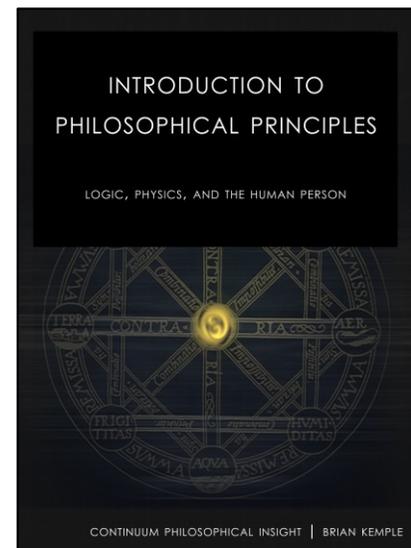
SAMPLE SYLLABUS

[2019]

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces the participants to philosophical thinking through examining three classic texts in the tradition of Western philosophy: Plato's *Republic*, Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*, and Augustine of Hippo's *Confessions*. Each of these texts represents not so much a description of philosophy but rather induces the reader to philosophize along with the author: that is, these are not texts which look at philosophy from the outside, but introduce the reader into the habit of critical reflection which transitions one from a "natural attitude" to a "philosophical attitude".

Collectively, these texts show ask the question of how we ought to live as human beings and indicate the central, essential role that philosophical inquiry comes to play whenever the life of the mind or the common good come into question.



METHOD

The course is 14 weeks long, with 2 sessions per week, constituting a total of 28 class sessions. Each class session is structured around an assigned reading from one of the required texts. Participants are expected to have thoroughly read the assignment prior to the class session, so that they may engage in a semi-structured discussion directed and moderated by the instructor. These discussions are intended not only to unveil the meanings contained in the text but to see their larger relevance to life.

Because class sessions are conducted through Skype, it is recommended that participants log on at least 10 minutes prior to the start time, so that any technical issues with sound or video may be resolved prior to the session beginning. Each session officially lasts one hour, though they may unofficially run longer if participants wish to continue the discussion.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Plato, *The Republic*, translated by Allan Bloom.

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, translated by Bartlett and Collins.

Augustine, *The Confessions*, translated by Henry Chadwick.

Brian Kemple, *Introduction to Philosophical Principles*

RECOMMENDED SUPPLEMENTS

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy
 Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy
 Strunk and White, *The Elements of Style*
 Roget's *Thesaurus* (particularly the Classic American version).

GRADED WORK

This course requires participants to write and submit four papers:

- (1) One two-page paper (500-700 words) on justice and the city.
- (2) One two-page paper (500-700 words) on knowledge and truth.
- (3) One two-to-three-page paper (600-1000 words) on the virtuous life.
- (4) One six-to-eight-page paper (2000-2500 words) on the good life.

Detailed rubrics will be given for each assignment, as well as copious examples & writing tips.

CLASS SCHEDULE

1	Introduction – the practice of philosophy
2	Plato – <i>The Republic</i> , Book I
3	Plato – <i>The Republic</i> , Book II
4	Plato – <i>The Republic</i> , Book III
5	Plato – <i>The Republic</i> , Book IV
6	Plato – <i>The Republic</i> , Book V First paper due
7	Plato – <i>The Republic</i> , Book VI
8	Plato – <i>The Republic</i> , Books VII
9	Plato – <i>The Republic</i> , Books VIII-IX
10	Plato – <i>The Republic</i> , Book X
11	Summary discussion of <i>The Republic</i> Second paper due
12	Kemple – <i>Introduction to Philosophical Principles</i> , c.1
13	Aristotle – <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book I, c.1-6
14	Aristotle – <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book I, c.7-13
15	Aristotle – <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book II
16	Aristotle – <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book III

17	Aristotle – <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book V
18	Aristotle – <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book VI, c.1-3, 6, 12
19	Aristotle – <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book X
20	Summary discussion of <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> Third paper due
21	Augustine – <i>Confessions</i> , Books I-II
22	Augustine – <i>Confessions</i> , Books III-IV
23	Augustine – <i>Confessions</i> , Book V
24	Augustine – <i>Confessions</i> , Book VI-VII
25	Augustine – <i>Confessions</i> , Book VIII
26	Augustine – <i>Confessions</i> , Book IX
27	Summary discussion of <i>Confessions</i> and selections from <i>Introduction to Philosophical Principles</i>
28	Summary discussion of course Final paper due