EMMANUEL COLLEGE

Philosophy Course Information Sheet 2022

Introduction

This document gives an overview of the philosophy course for prospective and enrolling students. It will be supplemented by separate semester plans which will give details of the teaching schedule and assessments for the relevant semester.

Aims of Course

That students will:

- Understand the nature of philosophy as a discipline and how it relates to other aspects of life and thought.
- Be familiar with representative thinkers in different periods of the western philosophic tradition.
- Be able to interact with the western philosophic tradition as interlocutors in the Christian pursuit of wisdom.
- Be able to interpret and critically engage with the arguments of primary source texts.

Teachers

David Burke (course coordinator). David studied philosophy as an undergraduate major and furthered this during studies in theology and education. He has taught philosophy, and related subjects, in theological colleges over many years. David can be contacted at: davidaburke51@gmail.com, or tel 0421464417.

Jemimah Wilson. Jemimah is a PhD student in Philosophy at Yale University and has a BA (Hons) in Philosophy and English Literature from the University of Queensland. Her honours thesis on René Descartes is published in the History of Philosophy Quarterly journal. Jemimah can be contacted at: jemimah.s.thompson@gmail.com, or tel 0421846493.

Course content

Semester one will introduce the discipline of philosophy in Christian perspective and engage with the history of philosophy up to the European renaissance. Second semester will continue the historical review through to the 21st century.

The class focus will be on a more detailed study of representative philosophers from various periods rather than trying to cover all thinkers.

A Semester Plan will give the detailed teaching schedule and assessments for each semester.

Teaching method

Classes will be held on Tuesdays, 1000-1200, in college teaching weeks. The classes will include teacher inputs and student activity and involve readings of philosophical texts.

A guiding principle is that education is about students and their learning, not teachers and their teaching. This means that students are expected to be active learners rather than passive recipients of teacher inputs.

Assessments

Each semester will involve 3,000 words of assessment tasks, including a weekly written reflection and two short papers. Details will be given in the individual Semester Plan documents

Each semester will be graded out of 100% and the marks combined for a whole-course grade.

Reading

The following book gives a readable and useful guide to the development of philosophical thought. It could be read alongside class session with their more specific foci.

- Bartholomew, C., & Goheen, M., *Christian Philosophy. A Systematic and Narrative Introduction.* Baker Academic, 2013.

Further reading:

- Brown, C., *Christianity & Western Thought, Vol 1, From the Ancient World to the Age of Enlightenment*, IVP, 1990.
- Frame, J., *A History of Western Philosophy and Theolog*y, Presbyterian & Reformed, 2015.
- Geisler, N. L. & Feinberg, P.D., *Introduction to Philosophy – A Christian Perspective*. Baker, 1993.
- Hoffecker, W., *Revolutions in Worldview. Understanding the Flow of Western Thought.* Presbyterian & Reformed, 2007.
- Wilkens, S. & Padgett, A., *Christianity & Western Thought, Vol 2, Faith and Reason in the 19th Century*, IVP, 2000.
- Wilkens, S. & Padgett, A., *Christianity & Western Thought, Vol 3, Journey to Postmodernity in the 20th Century*, IVP, 2009.

Online resources

- https://plato.stanford.edu/
- https://www.reddit.com/r/philosophy/comments/5djc4u/heres_a_collection_of_online_philosophy_resources/
- https://libguides.usd.edu/c.php?g=752998&p=5393978