

SS CYRIL AND METHODIUS SEMINARY
ORCHARD LAKE, MICHIGAN 48324

PT 050: PHILOSOPHY FOR THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

Fr. Louis Madey

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Consultations: PA

FALL SEMEMSTER 2017

PA 3CR

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will introduce philosophical vocabulary and concepts which are needed as a basis for doing graduate theological studies. It is a prerequisite for other courses in Systematic Theology.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

To see clearly the distinction between experience and understanding, reasoning and existential judgment

To grasp the difference between reason and faith and their dynamic, organic interaction

To obtain a deeper insight into the perennial questions of humanity concerning being, knowing, judging and acting

To value the integrated reasoning in Science, Philosophy and Theology

To deal courageously with the demands of the “ultimate intentionality of the human person”

REQUIRED TEXTS:

David Steward/H. Gene Blocker, *Fundamentals of Philosophy*, New York 1987

Joseph Flanagan, *Quest for Self-Knowledge*, Toronto 2002

Bernard Lonergan, *Method in Theology*, Toronto 2007

Encyclical Letter of John Paul II, *Fides et Ratio (Faith and Reason)*, Boston 1998

Encyclical Letter of John Paul II, *Veritatis Splendor (The Splendor of Truth)*, Boston 1993

Apostolic Constitution of John Paul II, *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*, Washington, DC, 2000

Pope Leo XIII, *Aeterni Patris*

Pope Pius XII, *Humani Generis*

Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*, Vol. I, Notre Dame, IN, 1981

COURSE CALENDARIUM:

1. Brain and Mind; Data, Information, Knowledge, Belief, Opinion, Understanding, Reasoning, Critical Judgment
2. Science, Philosophy, Theology
3. Person, Personalistic Context of Knowledge and Understanding, Dialogue and the “Meeting of Minds”
4. An overview of the History of Philosophy
5. Logic – the order of thinking; System and Systematic Reasoning, Ideas and Ideology
6. Metaphysics: The Real and the Mind, The Concept of Isomorphism
7. The Scholastic process of Learning: arriving at the Truth (Epistemology);
MID-TERM EXAM
8. Ethics and Morality; ETHOS as self-actualization (Veritatis Splendor)
9. Religion and the “faith-aspect of knowing,” Credo ut intelligere, Faith and Reason; TERM-PAPER DUE

10. The philosophical meaning of the question: “Does God exist?” Creationist and evolutionist perception of “human becoming.”
11. Beauty as the splendor of truth and justice – Esthetics – the Philosophy of Art
12. The Social Structure of the Human Person: Social and Political Philosophy
13. Soul and Body – Faith and Reason – the indispensable link
14. Science, Philosophy, Mystery, Revelation – Toward the Theological Reasoning
15. FINAL COMPREHENSIVE EXAM

GRADING METHOD:

The grading method of the course follows the Seminary Catalogue.

GRADE REQUIREMENTS:

Regular attendance, attentiveness and class discussion active participation

Intelligent note taking

Research paper and its public defense

Mid-term exam

Written review of the studied material

Final comprehensive exam

Attention: Students’ academic conduct, moral integrity (NO PLAGIARISM) and effective work are fully expected.

The following grade scale is published in the Catalog.

Grade Interpretation

Grade	Honor Points	Percent	Interpretation
A	4.0	100-94	Exceptional/Outstanding performance
A-	3.7	93-90	Superior

B+	3.3	89-87	Very Good
B	3.0	86-83	Good/Graduate level performance
B-	2.7	82-80	Average
C+	2.3	79-76	Below Average/Below graduate performance
C	2.0	75-70	Minimum Acceptable
C-	0	69 and below	Fail
F	0		Failing - In Pass/Fail courses no honor points
P	0		Passing - In Pass/Fail courses; no honor points
W	0		Withdrawal - No credit or honor points
I	0		Incomplete - No credit or honor points

Incomplete Grades - An Incomplete, “I,” grade is given in exceptional situations to a student whose course work has been satisfactory, but who because of illness or other unforeseen circumstances has been unable to complete all course requirements. The student must request the “I” from the instructor before the final class of the course. *A Petition for an “I” Grade* is filed with the Academic Dean’s Office and Registrar’s Office. The work is to be completed no later than eight weeks from the end of the term. If an “I” is not removed by the final designated date, it automatically becomes an “F.”

Drop/Add Withdrawal - A student may drop, add or withdraw from this course only after having complied with all the procedures outlined in the current Catalog. (*Not in Catalog with grades*)

General Guidelines *These are taken from the Catalog or the Web site except where indicated*

Guidelines for Academic Study - Students are expected to devote at least 2-3 hours of study per week, per credit. A normal reading load is about 500 pages per credit and research writing of about 5 pages per credit.

Standards for Written Assignments - Class assignments must be submitted electronically and in hard copy, unless otherwise indicated by the instructor, and proofread for proper grammar, spelling, punctuation, and form. In preparing research papers requiring documentation, students are to follow the guidelines in Kate L. Turabian’s *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and*

Dissertations, (latest edition). The manual is available in the Campus Bookstore and Library.

Students are required to reference the *Student Writing Guide* posted on the Seminary Web Site. The Writing Center is available to aid students in preparing written and/or oral assignments. *To this may be added any requirements of the professor mandating use of the Writing Center,*

Disabilities Accommodation – Students enrolled in this course who have documented disabilities should contact the professor at the first class session. Reasonable accommodations will be made to ensure that students with disabilities have access to course materials and interaction in modes in which they can receive them. *(Should be added to the Catalog)*

Class recording – Prior permission to record class lectures must be obtained. A signed affidavit may be required. Consult the professor before any recording takes place.

Class Attendance – Seminarians are required to be punctual and regularly in attendance at class sessions. Non seminarian students enrolled in online courses may chose, at their discretion, to attend classes in person or online in real time or time shifted. At the opening of a term, instructors will inform students of any specific policies governing attendance. Frequent absences may result in an academic penalty and/or failure in the course. Students should confer with the instructor concerning foreseen absences.

Inclement Weather - Students are expected to exercise good judgment and precaution in determining the safety of travel from their areas. Classes that have resident faculty and students exclusively will meet.

Academic Integrity - Students are expected to maintain personal honesty and professional integrity in examinations, assigned papers, and research projects. Source materials and citations used in the preparation of papers are to be indicated by proper documentation. Copyright laws should be honored when duplicating materials. Plagiarism and cheating are a breach of academic integrity. Plagiarism is defined as: “to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own: use

(a created production) without crediting the source: to commit literary theft: present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source” (*Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary 9th ed*, Springfield, MA: Merriam, 1981, p. 870). Violations in this area are considered a serious offense. If a student is suspected of plagiarism, the following procedure is to be followed:

1. When the instructor *suspects* a student has plagiarized an assignment, the instructor may confront the student.
2. If the instructor has *evidence* that a student has plagiarized an assignment, the instructor should confront the student with the evidence. The student has an opportunity to explain what happened.
3. If the instructor is convinced that plagiarism has occurred, the instructor may suggest a course of action: e.g. rewrite the assignment and receive a grade or the student may take a “0” for the assignment and not rewrite the assignment.
4. The Academic Dean should be informed of the outcome of this discussion and a note will be placed in the student’s file. The respective formation mentor is informed by the Academic Dean.
5. If there are repeated offenses, the student will fail the course.
6. The student who fails a required course must repeat it.
7. A student who plagiarizes or cheats consistently in the academic program will be dismissed from the program.
8. For dismissal from the academic program, a board consisting of the Rector, Academic Dean, the student’s mentor, the faculty member(s) affected by the student’s plagiarism and a faculty member of the student’s choosing will be convened and a decision rendered. This decision will be communicated to the student by the Rector.

Cheating is defined as “to deprive of something valuable by the use of deceit or fraud; to influence or lead by deceit, trick, or artifice; to elude or thwart by or as if by outwitting <cheat death>*intransitive verb*: to practice fraud or trickery; to violate rules dishonestly <cheat at cards><cheating on a test> (“cheat.” Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary. 2010. Merriam-Webster Online. 5 May2010 <http://www.merriamwebster.com/dictionary/cheat>). In short, “cheating is defined as the intentional act of breaking the rules, or attempting to achieve personal gain through fraud or deceit. With children, cheating usually refers to academic fraud, such as copying answers from another student while taking an exam, or breaking

the rules in a game” (Dianne K. Daeg de Mott, Thomson Gale, Detroit, Gale Encyclopedia of Childhood and Adolescence,1998).

Examples of cheating in an academic setting include, but are not limited to:

- a. copying answers for an exam from another student;**
- b. writing out the answers to an exam beforehand and turning them in at the time of the exam;**
- c. obtaining the answers to an exam prior to the exam and using them during the exam in some way;**
- d. having another person take an exam or write a paper for you;**
- e. continuing to write answers to an exam after the time has expired (timed examinations);**
- f. obtaining copies of an exam or answer key to aid in studying for the exam or preparing an assignment;**
- g. passing notes to another student during an exam;**
- h. asking another student for help during the writing of an exam;**
- i. using another person’s paper, presentation, reflection, etc. and handing it in as your own work;**
- j. using electronic devices such as computers or mobile phones to obtain answers during an exam.**

(The term “exam” may be substituted with “quiz,” “paper,” or “presentation” as the case may be.)

Notice of Change The information in this syllabus is subject to change. The professor reserves the right to make any necessary changes.

(General Guidelines Revised November 2015)