

Resources for Pre-College Level Philosophy Teachers

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Course Overview

Honors Philosophy: A History of Ideas is a semester long general overview of the great conversation in Western thought. It begins with the pre-Socratics, continues through Sartre, and culminates with the students presenting and defending to the class as philosophers. The course shows the ways in which archetypal thinkers have spoken to each other's ideas over two millennia. Rather than historicizing each philosopher, they are taught as if their ideas were absolutely true. As teacher, I embody a different thinker during each unit and defend a particular system through dialogue and an examination of a primary source. Students, then, participate in the great conversation by using a *system* as the structure and vehicle for content. Students explore a philosopher's system through his/her epistemology, ontology, cosmology, and most importantly, ethics. I present ethical dilemmas as exercises to understand the ramifications of a system. The course becomes an exploration and critique of reason (and systems) as a tool of thought. Ultimately, the course is a survey of developed responses to 'what am I to do?' to help students approach the question in their lives.

Reading List

Textbook

Archetypes of Wisdom: An Introduction to Philosophy by Douglas Soccio

Primary Source Reader

Philosophy: The History of Ideas

Parmenides

On Nature

The Way of Truth

The Way of Belief

Heraclitus

Souls Smell in Hades

Protagoras

Quotes

Plato

Apology of Socrates

The Republic: Book I

The Republic: Book VII

Aristotle

Nicomachean Ethics: Book I

Epictetus

The Enchiridion (or “The Manual”)

Epicurus

Principal Doctrines

Thomas Aquinas

Summa Contra Gentiles

René Descartes

Discourse on the Method

David Hume

An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding

Immanuel Kant

The Metaphysics of Morals

Søren Kierkegaard

Fear and Trembling

Jean-Paul Sartre

Existentialism is a Humanism

Friedrich Nietzsche

Twilight of the Idols

William James

The Present Dilemma in Philosophy

What Pragmatism Means

Final Presentations & Ethical Dilemma

For the final ethical dilemma project, you will be in a group presenting a system of your choice to resolve the dilemma. I provided a list of possible philosophers to choose from (research your philosopher before choosing to make sure you can find enough information and that you understand it). On the day of your presentation, your group needs to fill about 40-50 minutes. This includes a 3-4 minute brief biography about your philosopher, 20 minutes to build and explain the system from Epistemology-->Ontology-->Cosmology-->Ethics, 5 minutes to explain how the system resolves the Dully dilemma, and 5-10 to answer questions. Don't worry, if you properly prepare it will take more time than you think and you will have no problem filling the class period.

The project will be worth 100 points on the 3rd 6 weeks (as much as an essay). You will be holistically graded on:

-evidence of research, use of quotes and primary sources, references to philosophers we've studied

- clarity and use of chalk board/overhead/handout
- building the logical consistency of the system, explaining terms, concepts
- your ability to answer questions & **defend** the system (regardless if you personally agree)
- the ethical dilemma resolution logically flows from the system
- time management (40-50 minutes)
- preparedness (you should practice as a group at least once to friends/family)
- energy, enthusiasm, style, and aesthetic (dress in costume? Or at least nicer than usual)

You'll notice that you are **not** turning anything in. This is a verbal presentation. This gives you a lot of freedom—act wisely and responsibly. I can speak from experience; you can't hide the fact you don't know what you're talking about in presentation.

<i>Ancient through Medieval</i>	<i>Renaissance through Modern</i>	<i>20th & 21st Century</i>
Jainism	Malthus	Russell, Bertrand
Buddha	J.G. Fichte	Whitehead
Lao Tzu	Freud	Husserl
Hinduism	Schopenhauer	Heidegger
Confucius	J.S. Mill	Wittgenstein
Nahua (see "Aztec" on iep website)	Spencer, Herbert	Lacan
Justus Lipsius	Bentham	-----
Lecretius	Spinoza	Arendt
Marcus Aurelius	Rousseau	Rand, Ayn
St. Augustine	Feuerbach	Beauvoir, Simone de
Boethius	Leibniz	Nussbaum, Martha
Ibn Rushd (Averroes)	Hegel	Singer, Peter Gilligan
Ibn Sina (Avicenna)	Marx	Foucault Zizek
		Rawls Bordo
		Derrida Camus
		Hadot Moller-Okin
		Nozick Rorty
		You!?! Other?

Mr. Duba highly suggests these websites to help you choose a philosopher and as a beginning research tool.

<http://www.iep.utm.edu>

<http://plato.stanford.edu/contents.html>

<http://philosophypages.com/ph/index.htm>

Philosophy: The History of Ideas Final Exam Review Guide

You should review your notes and the philosophers systems. Below are terms and questions that should help guide your studies.

- 1) What is a *philo---sopher*?
- 2) Epistemology
- 3) Ontology
- 4) Cosmology
- 5) Ethics
- 6) Empirical
- 7) Rationalism
- 8) Skepticism
- 9) Relativism
- 10) Inductive
- 11) Deductive
- 12) Before philosophy what provided explanations of natural phenomena for Greeks?
- 13) Traditionally, who is regarded as the first philosopher
- 14) What did Thales believe everything was composed of?
- 15) What is the *gist* of Anaximander theory?
- 16) What is the *gist* of Anaximenes theory?
- 17) What is the *gist* of Empedocles theory?
- 18) What is the *gist* of Anaxagoras theory?
- 19) What is the *gist* of Democritus theory?
- 20) What did Heraclitus seem to believe everything was doing?
- 21) What did Heraclitus think Logos was?
- 22) According to Parmenides, what did none of the other Pre-Socratic philosophers adequately account for?
- 23) What is *being* for Parmenides?
- 24) What did sophists believe makes right?
- 25) Who said “Man is the measure of all things” and what does that mean?

- 26) According to Socrates, what is temperance?
- 27) What is another name for the Socratic method? Why did he use it?
- 28) To whom did Socrates compare himself?
- 29) What did Socrates say about the unexamined life? What did he mean?
- 30) What was Plato's view of the average person? Why?
- 31) What did Plato name his school? What was its purpose?
- 32) According to Plato, what is true and real?
- 33) What are the Platonic Forms? What is the Divided Line theory?
- 34) According to Plato, what changes and what is eternal/unchanging?
- 35) What was the name of Aristotle's school?
- 36) What was nature according to Aristotle?
- 37) What was Aristotle's theory of the forms?
- 38) According to Aristotle, what were the four causes? How did each function?
- 39) What is entelechy? What is the entelechy of humans according to Aristotle?
- 40) What are the three souls according to Aristotle? How does each function?
- 41) What is teleological thinking?
- 42) What did Epicurus believe about pleasure?
- 43) What was the name of Epicurus' school? Who was allowed to come?
- 44) What did the Stoics believe governed the universe?
- 45) According to the Stoics, where do we all live (what are we all part of)?
- 46) What are the Stoic ethics? How should one live? Why?
- 47) Aquinas tried to integrate Christianity with which ancient philosopher?
- 48) For Aquinas, the argument for God begins with the existence of what?
- 49) Upon what argument is the existence of necessity based for Aquinas?
- 50) Which argument by Aquinas is based on the idea that being possesses increasingly complex structures/natures from inanimate to higher life forms to God?

- 51) Describe the *problem of evil*?
- 52) What was Descartes radical proposal that began his epistemology?
- 53) How did Descartes *prove* God's existence?
- 54) Define *a priori* knowledge. Define *a posteriori* knowledge.
- 55) What does *Cogito, ergo sum* mean?
- 56) For Locke, what is the difference between primary and secondary qualities?
- 57) For Locke, what is the natural state of the human mind at birth?
- 58) What was Berkeley's famous question about?
- 59) For Hume, what can all *ideas* be traced back to?
- 60) What did Hume say about cause/effect? Why?
- 61) For Hume, what is reason subservient to?
- 62) What was Hume's theory of the self?
- 63) Kant's philosophy was in reaction to what *scandal*?
- 64) What was the name of the system Kant used to discover whether a priori knowledge is possible?
- 65) What did Kant refer to as the mind's faculties of judgment that regulate experience?
- 66) What is Kant's term for the world as we experience it?
- 67) What is Kant's term for the world as it is without our experience of it?
- 68) Describe the difference between the Categorical and Hypothetical Imperatives.
- 69) What is the Kingdom of Ends? What is a maxim?
- 70) What two major events influenced Kierkegaard's life and philosophy?
- 71) What are we, according to Kierkegaard, when we sacrifice ourselves to external definitions?
- 72) What did Kierkegaard consider to be the major existential question?
- 73) What is truth according to Kierkegaard?
- 74) What *are* we according to Sartre?
- 75) What does Sartre say about human essence?

- 76) According to Sartre, what is the result of being free and there not being a God?
- 77) What did Nietzsche term his form of relativism?
- 78) For Nietzsche, what determines one's ideas?
- 79) According to Nietzsche, who killed God and how?
- 80) What two types of ethics did Nietzsche describe?
- 81) According to James, what makes a thing true?
- 82) What are the two types of temperament according to James/
- 83) How is truth created, according to James?