

Syllabus
Survey of Philosophical Thought
Philosophy 1301

Scott Brown, Ph.D. Email: scottbrown@scottbrown.tv Web Page: http://www.scottbrown.tv Office Hours: by appointment Cell Phone: 404-735-7417	<u>Fall Semester 2008 GPC Clarkston</u> Section 160: M/W: 5:30-6:45, Rm. E-1130 Final: Tue, Dec. 9: 5:45-7:45 Section 102: Fri: 11am-1:45pm, Rm E-1130 Final Fri, Dec. 12 th : 10:30am-12:30
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Texts:

- (1) Plato, *Euthyphro, Apology, Crito, Meno, Gorgias, Menexemus*, translated by R. E. Allen;
- (2) Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, trans. & ed. by Mary Gregor;
- (3) Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Gay Science.*, Edited by Bernard Williams, Cambridge Press.

Graded Tasks, etc:

(1) We will devote about one third of the course to each of these three philosophers, and you are required to write a short essay 3-5 pages on each, double-spaced and typewritten, due one week after we finish the lecture series on each. That is three essays. They are short, but they are expected to be well written, well thought out and to show considerable involvement on your part with the thought and ideas expressed in the texts. I will devote considerable time and energy to the grading of the essays, and each will count one third of your final grade. I will announce the exact due dates in class for each one week before they are due. You will also be given some additional information about the essays in a handout called "Paper Requirements."

(2) Class attendance is required, and you should come having prepared by reading the assigned text about which we'll talk in class, though mostly I'll lecture. These are difficult, classical texts of philosophy. It requires much study, attention and contemplation to understand what they're even about, even more to see how and why they make their points, how they are structured, their courses of development, etc. You will need to read and re-read, and without this you are not likely to understand what is going on in the lectures. I don't give pop-test or similar prods to force you to keep up, but don't procrastinate in your reading, or you'll be lost when it comes time to write your papers.

(3) It is your responsibility to be aware of the withdrawal date and to withdraw yourself if you cannot complete the class. An astounding percentage of students who just quit coming fail to withdraw themselves and get an automatic F for the course. I'm not in charge of this, and it stays on your permanent record and affects your GPA as much as any regular F. So, be sure to manage such problems for yourself.

(4) You should expect to spend about two hours outside of class for every hour of class time; this is the traditional collegiate standard, and it is difficult, but it is what the material requires.

(5) The college policy on plagiarism applies. You should expect at least an F for the course if you plagiarize. And, yes it's easy to detect and easier to document.

Recommended: *A Pocket Guide to Correct Punctuation* (Barron's Educational Series), by Robert Brittain. It's widely available; about \$6.95.