PHIL 4395: CAPSTONE SEMINAR

SPRING 2020

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND PHILOSOPHY

PROFESSOR

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Office Hours: MW 10-12 & Thu 10-2:00 or by appointment

Do not hesitate to contact me during regular office hours. You can come and visit, call me or send me an email. Let me know if we need to schedule an appointment for a different time that is convenient for both. Please allow me 24 hours to respond to your emails before you feel abandoned. I will be happy to assist you with any difficulty you may have regarding the course or any question about a particular issue.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed for you to reflect on your philosophical progress and to continue to build on fundamental philosophical skills, such as critical analysis, critical thinking and critical reflection.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Students will analyse and critically evaluate their philosophical progress
- Students will build a portfolio including their representative philosophical samples

Deadlines: by the end of **Week 8** the student will present the tutor with an outline (of no more than a page), of their portfolio,[1] this outline should include a list of what papers, essays, or readings, and on what subjects he/she intends to utilize in their reflections, the outline should also include a short narrative introduction explaining how they intend to critically evaluate their progress, for example, will they include reflections on what schools of philosophy they have learned about, will they include reflections on the importance, or otherwise of learning about particular philosophers or philosophical movements and so on. In short, the student should be able to say what THEY consider important about what they have learned about philosophy and why.

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[1] "Portfolio" meaning here to include any written work that you have completed either for Dr. Badiola, or myself during the course of your BA in philosophy.

Second Deadline: by the end of **week 14** the student should present a full draft of the portfolio with narrative analysis (narrative analysis does not have to be longer than a page or two but it must cross-reference with the papers, essays or notes that you are reflecting on.

Final Deadline: after receiving comments on the draft the student must return the finished version with corrections to me by the beginning of **week 16** of the semester.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the course, you will:

1. Develop specific skills, competencies required by the philosophical profession
2. Develop skills in expressing yourself orally or in writing
3. Acquire skills in critical analysis by learning how to critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view

STUDENT LEARNING ASSESSMENT

Students will develop a portfolio from papers and writing samples that best represent their achievements in the discipline.

Assessment Type	Student Learning Outcome Assessed	Weight as a Percentage
Class participation	1, 2, 3	25
Portfolio	1, 2, 3	85
Total		**100%**

* Class participation includes group or individual discussions, communicating with professor and other members of the class. Lack of communication with professor, i.e., not responding to emails, or missing more than three group or individual meetings will amount to a zero for this category.
* The portfolio should include an introduction justifying the selection of the content material and a critical analysis of the progress made in the degree program.[2]

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[2] The portfolio will serve as the assessment tool for the Philosophy program. Philosophy faculty will use the following learning goals (LG) to establish an ongoing assessment plan to evaluate student performance:

LG 1: Students will be able to apply analytical thinking, critical analysis, creativity, and problem solving to philosophical issues.
LG 2: Students will be able to demonstrate critical reading and critical writing skills relating to specific philosophers.
LG 3: Students will be able to demonstrate technical and analytic skills that are appropriate to philosophy and applicable to their future academic and career aspirations.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

Recommended: *Writing Philosophy* (L. Vaughn*)*. This is a recommendation not an assigned book.

THE ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY HONOR CODE

Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is contained in both print and web versions of the *Student Handbook.*

In other words, when you submit your work, you claim that the work is yours. If someone else wrote it for you or you got it from someone else (internet, other student's class…), then you are not the author and thus will get a zero for that assignment. Any idea that is not yours should be properly referenced.

DISABILITIES

Please let me know if you have any special need due to any learning disability.
Persons with disabilities which may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center, in order to request such accommodations prior to any

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LG 4: Students will be able to demonstrate social responsibility by developing efficient strategies of communication and by making connections between philosophical content and civic responsibility.
 Faculty will use the following rubric to standardize assessment.

Criteria	Points	Comments
Understanding of the material		
Critical analysis		
Organization of Paper		
Clarity/Quality of Composition		
Voice		
Total Points		

Points
1 Beginning: Performance characteristics reflect an emerging level of performance
2 Developing: Performance characteristics reflect progress toward competence of performance
3 Competent: Performance characteristics reflect above average level of performance
4 Mastery: Performance characteristics reflect exemplary performance

accommodations being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made.