

HUMANITIES 3: Philosophy and Theology  
(Ancient to Early Modern)

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Introduction

The course features a set of classic texts in philosophy and theology. The faculty has dictated that this course should address fewer works in greater depth, with emphasis on the skills related to careful analysis.

Therefore, each student will pick one work about which to write a interpretative essay. You will choose a question that the work raises for you, and use close reading of the work to analyze how the work's author addresses the question. Your paper should be critical as well – in other words, you should the strength of the answer your author gives – but your critical evaluation must follow, not replace, the interpretive portion of the paper. The paper should be six to ten pages long. This first paper is due before Dean's Break.

A final paper is due on the last meeting of the semester. For this paper, choose one idea or topic which has been addressed by more that one author and which you find interesting and significant. Examine the ways in which at least two (and no more than three) of the authors have addressed this idea and how they have affected your views. The second paper should be eight to twelve pages long. Late papers are not accepted.

The centerpiece of any Shimer class is conversation. For a group and the individuals in it to make progress through conversation requires that all participants attend consistently and are on time. Excellent attendance is, thus, only the minimal expectation for the class. Students who miss too many classes, or are too often late for class, will receive a warning from the instructor that they are in danger of failing the course. Students who miss classes or continue to arrive late after having been warned may be dropped from or may fail the class.

**Grading:**

Students' grades will be based in roughly equal amounts on their written work and their class participation.

**The Readings**

Anselm, Proslogion  
 Augustine, Confessions  
 Descartes, Meditations  
Genesis  
Gospel According to John  
 Locke, Essay on Human Understanding  
 Pascal, Pensees  
 Paul, I Corinthians  
 Plato, Apology  
     Crito  
     Phaedo  
 Teresa of Avila, Life of St. Teresa

**Reading Schedule:**

The following is a tentative schedule of class readings. Reading assignments sometimes change. Students are responsible for knowing the assignment for every class meeting.

Day & Date	READING / ASSIGNMENT
Th August 21	<i>Genesis</i> 1-36
T August 26	<i>Genesis</i> 36-50
Th August 28	Plato, <i>Apology</i>
T September 2	Plato, <i>Crito</i>
Th September 4	Plato, <i>Phaedo</i> Beginning-78b
T September 9	Plato, <i>Phaedo</i> 78b-95c
Th September 11	Plato, <i>Phaedo</i> 95c-end
T September 16	<i>John</i> 1-11
Th September 18	<i>John</i> 12-21
T September 23	Paul, <i>I Corinthians</i>
Th September 25	Augustine, <i>Confessions</i> Books 1-5
T September 30	Augustine, <i>Confessions</i> Books 6-9
Th October 2	Augustine, <i>Confessions</i> Books 10-11
T October 7	Augustine, <i>Confessions</i> Books 12-13
Th October 9	Anselm, <i>Proslogion</i> , Prologue and Chapters 1-15
T October 14	Anselm, <i>Proslogion</i> , Chapters 15-end
T October 14	<b><u>FIRST PAPER DUE</u></b>
T October 21	Teresa, <i>Life</i> , Chapters 1-10
Th October 23	Teresa, <i>Life</i> , Chapters 11-21
T October 28	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> , 1-2
Th October 30	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> , 3
T November 4	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> , 4-5
Th November 6	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> , 6
T November 11	Pensees, Section 1
Th November 13	Pensees, Section 2
T November 18	Pensées, Sections 3 - 4
Th November 20	Locke, Bk. I
T November 25	Locke, Bk. II (Ch. 1, 2) & Bk. III (Ch. 1 – 10)
T November 25	<b><u>FINAL PAPER DUE</u></b>