

SYLLABUS
PHILOSOPHY OF THE HUMAN PERSON
(O122-300-01)

Professor: R. Dennehy
MW 10- 11:45 am

Course Description - This is a lecture course that inquires into human nature by asking the following questions: What is the human being's place in nature? Does he differ from the other mammals only in degree or also in kind? Is the search for meaning in life make him distinctive from the rest of nature? Does he possess free will? Can the rationale for natural rights be located in human nature? Do human beings survive death?

Course Goals Outcomes- Upon finishing the course, the student will be able to show knowledge of : (1) the major theories of human nature; 2) the standard arguments for the claim that human beings differ from other mammals and/or robots in degree but not in kind and for the claim that human beings differ from mammals and/or robots not only in degree but also in kind; 3) the determinism vs. free will debate; (4) the arguments for and against human immortality.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Mortimer J. Adler, *The Difference of Man and the Difference It Makes* (New York: Fordham University Press, 1993)

Viktor Frankl, *Man's Search for Meaning* (New York: Washington Square Press, 1984)

On-line readings: to be assigned.

COURSE POLICY

Students must take the midterm and the final examinations at the time, date, and place assigned. Failure to do so for either will result in an **F** for the course. No make-up examinations will be given except in cases of a physician's signed statement of the student's incapacity or where the teacher judges that the student's circumstances justify a make-up examination. Here are examples of the kind of excuses that **will not be accepted**: "If I fly home before the exam date, I can save hundreds of dollars on my plane ticket"; "I bought my plane ticket before I enrolled in your course"; My fiancée's parents are giving me a reception on the exam date"; and the classic ploy: "Gee, Prof., I'm sorry, but I didn't remember until now that I'll be out of town when the test is given." The midterm for this class is **Wednesday, March 12th, 10.00 am**; the final examination is **Thursday, May 22nd, 8 am**.

Attendance: 3 unexcused absences will reduce the course grade by one full grade; 4 unexcused absences will reduced it by two full grades; 5 unexcused absences will result in a course grade of "F."

Grading - Grading for the course will be based on 1 midterm examination (2 essay topics) and a final examination (3 essay topics). The midterm will count for 1/3 of the course grade and the final examination for 2/3. All examinations must be written in a bluebook; otherwise they will not be accepted and will be given an **F** grade.

Class Schedule

January

M 1/27 course introduction

W 1/29 Adler, ch 1

February

M 2/3 Adler, ch2

W 2/5 Adler, ch3

M 2/10 Adler, ch4

W 2/12 Adler, ch 5

M 2/17 President's Day, no class

W 2/19 Adler, ch6

M 2/24 Adler, ch7

W 2/26, Adler, ch 8

March

M 3/3 Adler, ch 9

W 3/5 Adler, ch 10

M 3/10 review

W 3/12 midterm examination

M 3/17 & W 3/19 Spring Break, no class

M 3/24 Adler ch 11

W 3/26 Adler ch 12

M 3/31 Adler ch 13

April

W 4/2 Adler ch 14

M 4/7 Adler ch 15

W 4/9 Adler ch 16

M 4/14 Adler ch 17

W 4/16 Adler ch 18

M 4/21 review of Adler

W 4/23 What is knowledge & what does it tell us about human nature? Reading tba

M 4/28 Materialism, Spiritualism, and Moderate Dualism. Reading tba

M 4/30 Am I really free? Freedom vs. Determinism. Frankl pp. 119-152

May

M 5/5 Frankl pp. 152-179

W 5/7 Cloning & laboratory reproduction. Reading tba

M 5/12 Abortion: when does human life begin? Reading tba

W 5/14 last day of class; review