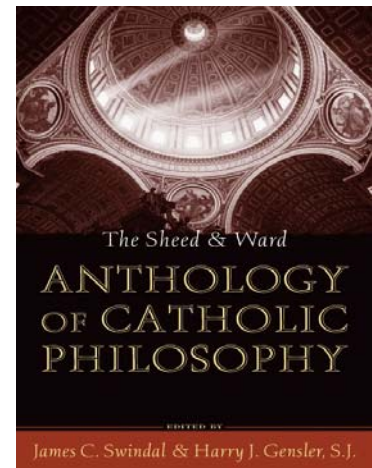


Christian Thinkers

PHIL 380 Christian Thinkers
Fall 2016
MWF 1:40-2:30 in Crown 210
Fr. Harry J. Gensler, S.J.

Office hours: MWF 2:50-3:50 in Crown 469
Phone: 440-544-6750 (rings all my phones, can text)
E-mail: hgensler@luc.edu
Web: <http://www.harryhiker.com>
Homework: <http://www.harryhiker.com/hw>



This course is built around the *Anthology of Catholic Philosophy*, edited by James C. Swindal and Harry J. Gensler (Sheed & Ward 2005). This book gives the first ever comprehensive collection of readings from Catholic philosophers, from Biblical times to the present. Our authors and readings will be arranged historically, from five main groups:

- ✠ Preliminaries: readings from the Bible, Plato, and Aristotle.
- ✠ The Patristic Era: readings from Aristides, Justin, Irenaeus, Tertullian, Felix, Origen, Augustine (emphasized), and Boethius.
- ✠ The Middle Ages: readings from Anselm, Aquinas (emphasized), and Ockham.

- ✠ The Renaissance through the Nineteenth Century: readings from Loyola, Galileo, Descartes, and Pope Leo XIII.
- ✠ The Twentieth Century and Beyond: readings from Stein, Callahan, Copleston, Teilhard, Gensler, Plantinga, Rescher, and Pope John Paul II.

The authors and readings give a sample of the richness of the Catholic intellectual tradition. They emphasize central themes, such as the harmony of faith and reason, the existence and nature of God, the nature of the human person, and the objectivity of the moral law. We will cover a good part of the book, from the beginning to the end.

Course Requirements

Do **READINGS** by assigned dates. Most readings are from the *Anthology of Catholic Philosophy*, which you should buy and always bring to class. I'll display homework assignments each class and also put them on the Web at: <http://www.harryhiker.com/hw>

Give **MINI-REPORTS** on assigned readings. An assignment might say "Felix – objections to Christianity (Smith-Jones 63–65)"; this means that Smith and Jones will prepare the section on pages 63–65. I'll ask one of the students things like "Could you summarize this section for us?" or "What do you think of these ideas?" Graduate students may have more mini-reports. Your class participation, mostly mini-reports, counts for 20 percent of your grade.

Write a **PAPER** (due Nov 21) of at least 8 pages in length (12 pages for graduate students) on a topic that I approve in advance (by Nov 14). I'll tell you more about the paper later. The paper counts for 20 percent of your grade.

Take three 10-minute **ORAL EXAMS** (Sep 29-30, Nov 3-4, Dec 9-15); I'll tell you more about the orals later. Each oral counts for 20 percent of your grade.

ATTEND CLASS. You can miss 5 classes without this itself hurting your grade (these 5 are for sickness, funerals, etc.). After that, each unexcused absence subtracts one point from your course average. You can be excused for university functions. Perfect attendance will add a four point bonus to your final course average.

I use this grading scale to convert numbers into letters: A = 90s (93 or above = A, 90-92 = A-), B = 80s (87-89 = B+, 83-86 = B, 80-82 = B-), C = 70s (77-79 = C+, 73-76 = C, 70-72 = C-), D = 60s (67-69 = D+, 60-66 = D), F = 50s or below.

To figure out your **COURSE AVERAGE**, add the numbers for your three orals, paper, and class participation (mostly mini-reports) – divide by five – and then add any attendance bonus or penalty.

No use of electronic devices is allowed during class, unless you have an accommodation letter. Students seeking academic accommodations for a disability must in the first week meet with Services for Students with Disabilities (Sullivan 117) and then meet with me about accommodations.



What has Athens to do with Jerusalem?

