

**Philosophy 340**  
**Winter 2006-2007**  
**Yancy Hughes Dominick**  
**2:30 – 4:20 T, Th**  
**224 Old Main**

Office Hours: 10:30 – 11:30, MWF  
(and by appointment)  
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794-8616  
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**Course Description:**

In this class we will attempt an examination of some key texts in the history of metaphysics: Plato's *Sophist*, Aristotle's *Metaphysics*, and Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*. Metaphysics is the study of being *qua* being, the study of what exists insofar as it exists. In examining these various texts, we will discuss, among other things, the nature of being and the idea of substance. We must also confront the question of whether metaphysics is possible—can one study being *qua* being?

**Structure:**

As philosophy operates through questions and attempts at answers, this course will place a great deal of emphasis on class discussion and conversation, though there will be some lecture. In order that these conversations be productive, reading assignments must be completed before each class meeting. The reading is substantial, so be prepared to spend two hours or more before each class. Homework assignments throughout the semester should help facilitate class discussion.

**Texts:**

- Plato. *Sophist*. Hackett.
- Aristotle. *The Basic Works of Aristotle*. Modern Library.
- Kant, Immanuel. *Critique of Pure Reason*. Palgrave MacMillan.

**Website:**

Students may see their grades, view the syllabus, and obtain supplementary materials on the Moodle site for this course. To access the site go to <http://moodle.augustana.edu/> and follow the instructions. The enrolment key for the course is 'pl340.' For assistance or problems with the website, please see instructor.

**Requirements and Grades:**

Attendance is expected. More than three unexcused absences will affect final grades. Homework and participation in class discussion will be worth 15% of the final grade.

**Presentations:**

Each student will give a brief (10 – 15 minute) presentation over one of the reading assignments, and will then facilitate discussion of that assignment. The presentation will be worth 10% of the grade.

**Papers:**

Students will write three 6-8 page papers, each worth 25% of the final grade. Topics and instructions will be discussed in class as the due dates approach.

**Etc.:**

- Academic dishonesty will be not be tolerated. Students are expected to adhere to the Honor Code. (See <http://www.augustana.edu/library/Services/AcademicIntegrity.html>)
- Late homework will be awarded full credit only upon demonstrated need (i.e., through proof of illness or emergency). Otherwise, 10% will be deducted.
- If you have special needs, please bring these to your instructor's attention at the earliest opportunity.

**Course schedule:**

	<b>Required Readings</b>	<b>Notable Dates</b>
Week One	Plato, 216a – 236d	Reading response due
Week Two	Plato, 236d – 251a	Student presentations Reading response due
Week Three	Plato, 251a – 268d	Student presentations Reading response due
Week Four	Plato, conclusion Aristotle, <i>Categories</i> 1-5; <i>Metaphysics</i> A.1-3, Γ.1-3	Student presentations <b>21 December: first paper due</b>
Week Five	Aristotle, <i>Metaphysics</i> Z.1-12	Student presentations Reading response due
Week Six	Aristotle, <i>Metaphysics</i> Z.13-17	Student presentations Reading response due
Week Seven	Aristotle, <i>Metaphysics</i> H–Θ, Λ Kant, 7-91	Student presentations Reading response due
Week Eight	Kant, 92-175	<b>30 January: second paper due</b> Student presentations Reading response due
Week Nine	Kant, 176-256	Student presentations Reading response due
Week Ten	Kant, 297-307, 368-372, 384-421, 443-484, 500-507, 629-652	Student presentations Reading response due <b>22 February: third paper due</b>

## Greek Alphabet

$A \alpha$	alpha	a
$B \beta$	beta	b
$\Gamma \gamma$	gamma	g
$\Delta \delta$	delta	d
$E \varepsilon$	epsilon	e
$Z \zeta$	zeta	z
$H \eta$	eta	ê
$\Theta \theta$	theta	th
$I \iota$	iota	i
$K \kappa$	kappa	k
$\Lambda \lambda$	lambda	l
$M \mu$	mu	m
$N \nu$	nu	n
$\Xi \xi$	xi	x
$O \omicron$	omicron	o
$\Pi \pi$	pi	p
$P \rho$	rho	r
$\Sigma \sigma$	sigma	s
$T \tau$	tau	t
$Y \upsilon$	upsilon	u
$\Phi \phi$	phi	f
$\chi \chi$	chi	ch
$\Psi \psi$	psi	ps
$\Omega \omega$	omega	ô