

# CCS Introduction to Philosophy 1

## **Contact information:**

*Instructor:* Tory Albertson

*Email:* [sonofalbert@gmail.com](mailto:sonofalbert@gmail.com) (best way to contact):

*Cell:* 540-660-9459 (texting will get the most consistent response)

*Home:* 540-252-4421

*Note:* Due to the nature of my EMS shift schedule, responses to you will be varied in timing. Please know that I will return your emails, texts or phone calls as quickly as possible. I ask that unless it is an emergency you not contact me at home after regular business hours.

## **Class structure (what to expect):**

*-In class session:* Although it is the study of ideas, philosophy is a very hands on and interactive discipline. One can never get the hang of, or understand it, from a distance. In light of that, expect that each session will include components of lecture, interaction with material either pre-read, or read in class, and discussion; lots of discussion.

*-Online Class sessions:* Will mostly mirror the in class sessions, unless, due to work, I am not able to be available. We will be using Google Meet and carry on our discussions and lectures in a digital fashion; I do encourage a nice hot cup of tea or coffee to enhance the discussion.

On the days when I am not available there will be a reading assignment followed by some online chat discussion. I usually post a few questions and expect a short, thoughtful response. The caveat, will be that the response will be posted for the entire class to see and there will be some online discussion back and forth. Specifics will be clarified per assignment. The assignments and class chats will be hosted in Google Classroom.

*-Blue Book Tests:* Philosophy, as a discipline, develops and demands the ability to interact with ideas through both discussion/debate and writing. The bluebook test in our context will be used as an opportunity to interact with ideas (course material) in a written form through essays. The questions for the test will be given prior to the test date with ample time to prepare answers for those questions. On test day, the students will be informed of which questions they will be answering for the test. The entire test will be taken in person and in class, all hand-written in a blue booklet. The students will have the time allotted to a normal class session to finish the test. I will supply the blue books and lots of pencils.

*-Philosophical Paper:* In the last part of the year, the students will be assigned a philosophical essay. It will be based on a current issue of interest. The challenge, generally speaking, will be to take the principles learned throughout the year, and engage the ideas of concern. Specifics for the paper will be given at the time of assignment.

*-Homework:* My intention is to keep out of classroom work to approximately 1 hour a week. Although there will be some assignments given prior to weekly sessions, it is my hope to dedicate most of the allotted time to more significant readings during the none-class, and online sessions. All prior to class readings will be shorter, and meant for the student to simply be familiar, this way we can take best advantage of the inclass time that we have.

*-Caveat:* This is the first year I have taught this class, with that being said, I am requesting patience with the inevitable bugs that will pop up and the need to adjust ebb and flow of the class. If there will be a significant change that will impact tests or assignments, the students will be either informed well in advance, or be given an ample amount of time to adjust to the changes. Thank you.

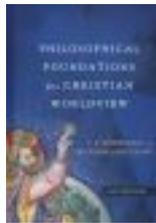
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## Elements

### -Books:

- Required: Please bring this to class unless otherwise noted.

*Philosophical Foundations For A Christian Worldview; Second Edition; By: Moreland and Craig*



- Recommended:

*The Cambridge Dictionary of Philosophy: Third Edition; By: Robert Audi*

### -Supplies:

- Whatever you need for taking effective notes.
- A three ring binder for handouts (There will be a significant amount of them).

### -Attire:

- There will be times within class where you will be asked to participate in group initiatives, or other activities other than sitting; and may be in or out of doors, please dress in a practical, comfortable manner that will allow for full participation.

**Schedule/Calendar:** Note: Listed are influential thinkers I wish to consider in class. I realize this is a very ambitious list of thinkers, and depending on class pace and grasp, we may not get to everyone of them. But we will be making a valiant attempt to be hands on with as many source thinkers as possible.

## 1. Metaphysics Pt.1 (Categories)

*Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Aquinas, Descartes*

### September

18: Online class

25: In-person class

### October

2: Online Class

9: In-person Class

16: Online Class

23: In-person Class

30: -Reading

### November

6: -Reading

13: -Reading

20: In-person Class

27: **no class**

*December*

4: Online Class (Review)

11: In Class Test (Blue Book)

--Christmas Break--

## 2. Metaphysics Pt. 2: (Problems) and Philosophy of Science

*Aristotle, Aquinas, Kant*

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# CCS Introduction to Philosophy 1

*January*

1: **no class**

8: work

15: work

22: Online Class

29: In-person Class

## 3. Practical Application: Using Metaphysics in the real world

### *Year End Camping Trip: Optional*

*Rational:* Ideas impact all aspects of our lives. It is, however, a common mistake to think that we can engage ideas in a theoretical sense, and then somehow leave them in the classroom or on the paper that we wrote. In an effort to illustrate the tangible impact of ideas in our daily lives, a short 3-4 day wilderness trip will be offered. Immersive experiences in creation tend to bring the process of living into acute focus in a way that allows us to step back and intensely reflect on:

- The nature of reality as God made it
- The way we experience that reality subjectively
- The How and why we (ourselves and others) are choosing to respond to both reality and our experience of it.

*Details: June (tentative)*

At this point it will more than likely be a multi-day floating trip on the South Fork of the Shenandoah River. Details will be forthcoming throughout the year. Much will depend on river flow at the time. If the river is untenable, we will consider a different river, or do an introductory level backpack trip.

*Fees:* Ballpark cost will be \$100-\$150.

