Fall 2013  

Great Philosophers Philosophy 125.02

T/Th 10-11:30 am
location: Psychology 251
J. Driver
Office: 207 Wilson
Office hours: Wed. 10-12 [but be sure to email to set up an appointment], and other times by appointment
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TA: Shane Reuter
Office: 116 Wilson
Office hours: Monday, 12-1 pm, 3-4 pm, and by appointment
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Course Description: This course covers great philosophers from Aristotle up into the 20th century, focusing on a selection of representative writings by Aristotle, Descartes, Hume, Kant, Bentham, and Mill as well as prominent ethicists of the 20th century including Iris Murdoch.

Required texts: These are available at the bookstore:
Rene Descartes, *Meditations*, Hackett
David Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals*, Hackett
Immanuel Kant, *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals*, Hackett
*The Classical Utilitarians* [Jeremy Bentham and John Stuart Mill], ed. John Troyer, Hackett

Available online:
Princess Elizabeth of Bohemia, correspondence with Descartes
David Hume, “Of the Standard of Taste”
Rosalind Hursthouse, “Virtue Theory and Abortion”
G. E. M. Anscombe, “Modern Moral Philosophy”

Requirements: one in class writing assignment, 10% of final grade, two in class exams, each worth 30% of final grade, and an 8-10 page term paper, 30% of final grade.

All students are required to abide by the Washington University Honors Code.

If a student requires accommodation, he or she should discuss that with me prior to the assignment(s) in question.

No computer use in class. No eating in class.
Tentative Syllabus:

1. Tu Aug 27  Introduction
2. Th Aug 29  Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*
3. Tu Sep 3   “
4. Th Sep 5   “
5. Tu Sep 10  “, Hursthouse and neo-Aristotelianism
6. Th Sep 12  Rationalism, Descartes, 1-2
7. Tu Sep 17  3-4, and Murdoch “The Ontological Proof”
8. Th Sep 19  5-6, Letter from Princess Elizabeth (handout)
9. Tu Sep 24  In class writing assignment (analyze an argument)
10. Th Sep 26  Empiricism
11. Tu Oct 1  Hume
12. Th Oct 3  “
13. Tu Oct 8  “
14. Th Oct 10  **EXAM** (will cover Aristotle, Descartes, and Hume)
15. Tu Oct 15  Kant, Grounding, First Section
16. Th Oct 17  Second
17. Tu Oct 22  Third, and Murdoch “Notes on Will and Duty”
18. Th Oct 24  Bentham, PML, pp. 8-12, 19-22, in Troyer
20. Th Nov 3  “
21. Tu Nov 5  “
22. Th Nov 7  *On Liberty*, pp. 150-193, in Troyer
23. Tu Nov 12  Anscombe, “Modern Moral Philosophy”
24. Th Nov 14  Expanding the scope of value (handout)
25. Tu Nov 19  Art, G. E. Moore (handout)
27. Tu Nov 26  Murdoch, “Fact and Value”

****Thanksgiving holiday****

28. Tu Dec 3  Murdoch, “Consciousness and Thought – I”
29. Th Dec 5  Conclusion

**FINAL EXAM** (will focus on Hume, Kant, Bentham, Mill, Anscombe, and Murdoch):

**Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2013  6-8 pm** Location TBA