

TEACHING PHILOSOPHY (PHED-4000)
Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology

MEETING INFORMATION

Zoom ID Number: To be provided by the instructor
Thursdays: 9.40 to 11.00
Instructors: Marga Vega, email: mvega@dspt.edu
Office hours: By appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A Master's degree provides proficiency to teach in a specific field. This workshop gives students in their second year (or second/third year for CCMA) an opportunity to prepare teaching materials for philosophy and "philosophically-informed" theology. This course, therefore, is eminently practical, and it addresses the theoretical aspects of the pedagogy of philosophy only tangentially.

The plan is to draw from the student's learning experience at DSPT –from the courses taken and the student's research and interests– to develop a personal teaching profile. Consequently, teaching materials should make philosophy approachable to a broad audience and have applicability to the student's future role as a teacher, academic, consultant, educator, faith-leader, pastor, or spiritual director. Therefore, the topics selected should have relevance for today's discussions and find connections between philosophy and theology, and current pastoral needs within the Church. The instructor will provide suggestions for topics and materials, but the student is encouraged to pursue her/his interests.

The teaching materials will materialize in different types of media selected by the student (PowerPoint lectures, syllabi, blogs, assessment tools, videos, and recorded Ted style talks, among other examples suggested below). The intended audience for the teaching materials will depend on the student's professional goals after graduation.

Additionally, the use of technologies in the teaching of philosophy will have particular emphasis. The recent COVID-19 pandemic has shown the need for instruction adaptable to distance learning requirements at all educational levels.

COURSE FORMAT

This is an online course with the following weekly asynchronous and synchronous components:

- 1.5 hours a week will be devoted to group zoom sessions with the instructor. This meeting is structured as follows:
 - ❖ 30 minutes of comments about the short readings on the teaching of philosophy.
 - ❖ 30 minutes of discussion on the weekly assignments.
 - ❖ 20 minutes of sharing of student progress and resources.

- 1.5 hours a week will be dedicated to the student's weekly milestone assignments leading to the completion of the final assignments. These weekly assignments count as 1.5 credits. Additionally, the instructor will set up a weekly optional zoom session for any student who wishes to consult with the instructor about these assignments or about the extended project.
- The student workload for non-lective periods is devoted to developing the teaching materials due at the end of the semester. The available options for this longer assignment are detailed under the "Assignments" section.
- The semester's plan is guided mainly by the student's progress in preparing short teaching materials in connection with the extended end-of-the-semester project, sharing resources and information, and receiving feedback from the rest of the class.

COURSE GOALS

The course aims to give students an early start preparing research and teaching materials and helping them identify the topics and audience they wish to specialize in for their professional development in a variety of educational settings. Therefore, this course seeks to increase readiness for the student's future professional trajectory. This goal aligns with DSPT's institutional goals of 1. *deep learning* and 2. *effective leadership* since:

1. Active creation of educational materials, and ownership of the learning process encourage richer understanding, self-direction, initiative, and leadership as future teachers and educators.
2. Integrative thinking is fostered by merging classical philosophy and contemporary problems in their areas of interest.

COURSE OUTCOMES

The overall outcomes for the course concerning DSPT's institutional goals are:

1. The creation of teaching materials adequate for the type of audience that the student envisions to address.
2. The student's professional development through the production of these materials and an increased familiarity with different teaching resources.
3. The acquisition of pedagogical skills and methods.
4. The enhancement of the student's portfolio and CV, and the consolidation of the education received at the DSPT.

Concerning the specific course contents, by the end of the semester, the student will obtain:

1. A map of topics they would like to develop in their professional future, areas of interest, forums for discussion, and teaching platforms.
2. Proficiency in the teaching of a philosophical topic and its application to theology.
3. Familiarity with the following resources:

- a. The APA Newsletter on Teaching Philosophy
- b. Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy and the Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy.
- c. Crash Philosophy and other videos
- d. The Philosophers Index
- e. Guidelines for writing a syllabus
- f. Philosophical Series on Popular culture.
- g. Information on Philosophical Journals and Conferences.

ASSIGNMENTS

At the beginning of the semester, the student will discuss with the instructor what materials she/he will be creating, the topics, and the target audience.

The course will comprise the following assignments:

1. End of semester project to choose among the following formats:
 - A Powerpoint presentation
 - A college-level lecture
 - A Ted-like talk
 - A YouTube video
 - An improved pre-existing lecture
 - A new lecture for core courses
 - An entry for the SEP or the Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy
 - An application of Philosophy in TV shows/film
 2. Weekly reading of a short paper (5-7 pages) on the teaching of Philosophy (from the American Philosophical Association Group on the Teaching of Philosophy). The student will read different papers and report to the rest about the paper they selected during zoom meeting what they read about (5 to 10 minutes).
 3. Short weekly assignments. The schedule of classes provides guidelines for milestones and deadlines to complete these short materials.
- The course's grade breakdown is the following: completion of weekly assignments 25%, completion of readings 25%, completion of the educational project: 50%. The completion of the above assignments will give the student a passing grade of a B. Students wishing to receive an A in their course should demonstrate high competency in the end of the semester project. Students wishing to receive an A+ should submit a second educational project from the list above.

READINGS

- Short papers (3 to 5 pages) on the Newsletter of the APA for teaching philosophy can be accessed [here](#). The student will select one paper each week.
- The student will select a book from [The Blackwell Philosophy and Pop-Culture Series](#).
- The student will read a monograph or handbook on the topic of her/his choice and related to the end of the semester project.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

SEP 10th – WEEK 1

- No assignments or readings due at the time of our first meeting.
- **Zoom group session:** Explaining the goals and assignments for the course. Sharing the students' interests, goals, and academic experience in the MAPH, MATH, and CCMA.
- **Optional Zoom session:** [Checking-in on identifying topics and readings](#).
- Student Work until next meeting:
 - Short assignment #1: Identifying relevant topics in today's intellectual, cultural, political, ethical, educational, and pastoral settings. Surveying pastoral needs. Selecting the target audience.
 - Short Reading #1: Making Philosophy Accessible 1: Select one paper on the use of examples, thought experiments, marking philosophy papers, and related topics.
 - Deciding on a topic for the end-of-semester project.
 - Deciding on a book from [The Blackwell Philosophy and Pop-Culture Series](#).

SEP 17th – WEEK 2

- Assignment due: Short assignment #1 on identifying topics and audiences.
- **Zoom group session:** [Sharing of the assignment #1, sharing of the reading #1](#).
- **Optional Zoom session:** [Deciding on end of semester projects, Pop-Culture series book and monographic text](#).
- Student Work until next meeting:
 - Short assignment #2: Encyclopedias and Handbooks.
 - Short reading #2: Making Philosophy Accessible 2: Teaching Philosophy to professional audiences (health professionals, lawyers, scientists, among others).

SEP 24th – WEEK 3

- Assignment due: Short assignment #2 on Encyclopedias and Handbooks.
- **Zoom group session:** [Sharing of the assignment #2, sharing of the reading #2](#).
- **Optional Zoom session:** [TBA](#).
- Student Work until next meeting:

- Short assignment #3: Building a bibliography.
- Short reading #3: Philosophy and Philosophy Readings: Devoting a course to the exploration of a book, Marking philosophical texts.

OCT 1st – WEEK 4

- Assignment due: Short assignment #3: Building a bibliography.
- **Zoom group session: Sharing of the assignment #3, sharing of the reading #3.**
- **Optional Zoom session: TBA.**
- Student Work until next meeting:
 - Short assignment # 4: YouTube and Philosophy: Crash Philosophy, Wireless Philosophy. Research on digital platforms to create teaching materials: [Vimeo](#).
 - Short reading # 4: Teaching Philosophy through digital technologies.

OCT 8th – WEEK 5

- Assignment due: Short assignment #4: Research on digital platforms.
- **Zoom group session: Sharing of the assignment #4, sharing of the reading #4.**
- **Optional Zoom session: TBA.**
- Student Work until next meeting:
 - Short assignment #5: Creating a syllabus.
 - Short reading #5: APA papers on APA papers on Teaching Philosophy of Religion and God's existence.

OCT 15th – WEEK 6

- Assignment due: Short assignment #5: Creating a syllabus.
- **Zoom group session: Sharing of the assignment #5, sharing of the reading #5.**
- **Optional Zoom session: TBA.**
- Student Work until next meeting:
 - Short assignment #6: Creating a blog.
 - Short reading #6: APA papers on Teaching Philosophy through digital technologies, effective use of blogs, student group website projects, online discussions.

OCT 22nd – WEEK 7

- Assignment due: Short assignment #6: Creating a blog.
- **Zoom group session: Sharing of the assignment #6, sharing of the reading #6.**
- **Optional Zoom session: TBA.**
- Student Work until next meeting:

- Short assignment #7: Connecting Philosophy with Popular Culture: Applying Philosophy to a show or film. How to relate philosophy with other popular shows and films?
- Short reading #7: Making Philosophy Accessible 2. APA papers on connecting philosophy with pop culture.

OCT 29th – WEEK 8- READING WEEK

NOV. 5th – WEEK 9

- Assignment due: Short assignment #7.
- **Zoom group session: Sharing of the assignment #7, sharing of the reading #7.**
- **Optional Zoom session: TBA.**
- Student Work until next meeting:
 - Short assignment #8: Creating assessment: short quizzes, paper topics, paper reviews, research papers.
 - Short reading #8: APA papers on Assessment methods: Tests, Discussion intensive pedagogy.

NOV. 12th – WEEK 10

- Assignment due: Short assignment #8.
- **Zoom group session: Sharing of the assignment #8, sharing of the reading #8.**
- **Optional Zoom session: TBA.**
- Student Work until next meeting:
 - Short assignment #9: Conferences and Professional Meetings.
 - Short reading #9: APA papers on Philosophy in Culture and Context: APA papers on Teaching Ancient Philosophy, World Philosophy, the value of the history of philosophy in teaching.

NOVEMBER 19th- WEEK 11

- Assignment due: Short assignment #9.
- **Zoom group session: Sharing of the assignment #9, sharing of the reading #9.**
- **Optional Zoom session: TBA.**
- Student Work until next meeting:
 - Short assignment #10: Publishing in Journals.
 - Short reading #10: APA papers on safe environment, race, and gender teaching philosophy in the classroom.

NOVEMBER 26th – WEEK 12- THANKSGIVING

DECEMBER 3rd – WEEK 13

- Assignment due: Short assignment #10.
- **Zoom group session: Sharing of the selected book on popular culture series.**
- **Optional Zoom session: TBA.**
- Student Work until next meeting:
 - No Short assignment. Work on end of the semester project.
 - Prepare for sharing of the book of Popular culture series

DECEMBER 10th – WEEK 14

- **Zoom group session: Sharing of the selected monography or textbook.**
- **Optional Zoom session: TBA.**
- Student Work until next meeting: work on the end of the semester project.

DECEMBER 17th – WEEK 15- End of the semester assignment. No meetings.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

For a comprehensive compilation of papers that the student can choose from for the weekly assignments, click [here](#). Some references are:

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