Syracuse University

College of Arts and Sciences

Department of Philosophy

Phil 197: Philosophy of Human Nature

Fall, 2021

Dr. Ryan

Contact Info:

Cell: 606-356-6560, feel free to text or call between 9 am and 8 pm

Email: pryan03@syr.edu or drpamryan@gmail.com

Office: Shine Student Center, TTH 1-2

Required Text: None

Pre-Requisite: None

Audience: This is an introductory level intensive writing philosophy class intended for an audience of persons beginning higher education with general knowledge and above average analytical skills. It is best if the student is engaged and interesting.

****

Credits: 3

Course Description:

Philosophical theories of human nature, their underlying metaphysical claims, and their ethical consequences.

Learning Objectives:

After taking this course, the student will be able to demonstrate understanding of major philosophies of human nature as evidenced by exams, essays and presentations. Students should be able to reflect substantively on these theories of human nature in order to make the world make sense to themselves as evidenced by their collaborative reflective interaction with their own philosophies of human nature as well as others. The student will be able to substantively analyze their own views of human nature and how those views affect their metaphysical and ethical viewpoints by collaborative activities on Black Board.

Requirements:

Substantive Reflections (30 x 15 = 450 Points):

Student will have assigned readings, videos or other materials. Students will then be asked to write an Analytical Reflection. **Reflections are graded on 1) evidence of integrating the learned material, 2) the quality of the reflection and basic writing skills**. A Rubric will be posted under the Contents tab. If you have trouble with basic writing skills, make sure to connect to the Tutoring Center, you can do it from MySlice. They have been very helpful with this in the past.

Short Quizzes: (10 x15=150)

As the student works their way through the course material, there will be several quizzes that come up. These are designed to help me make sure everyone is keeping up with the rest of the class and information is not getting lost. These are not terribly difficult quizzes, they're just meant to keep me up to date.

Final Essay: 300 Points

The biggest and last assignment is a Final Essay, due on 12/19. This is a 3-5 page essay about any of the areas we discuss: The Good Life, Consciousness, Artificial Intelligence and Human Nature or Death. There are lots of different ways to go about writing this final essay. It can be analytical or reflective but is ideally both. I expect you to use at least two of the philosophers we have discussed this semester in this essay. It should demonstrate A) an understanding of the philosopher's thoughts and B) your own analysis of those thoughts. We will discuss this more as the semester progresses but do let me know if you have any questions. All semester you should be keeping an eye out for something you could write 3-5 pages about.

Attendance and Participation:

There are no excused absences for this class. However, life does , and I want to help you be successful in this class. Please reach out to me if you find yourself falling behind or have any questions.

Should you need to miss class time, you will need to obtain permission from the professor, you can text at 6063566560 or at pryan03@syr.edu. Any student who misses more than four (4) classes is subject to failing the class. All missed class materials are the responsibility of the student.