



**PHI 230- AMERICAN PHILOSOPHY**  
**THE COLLEGE OF ST. ROSE, FALL 2013**  
**DR. LAURA E. WEED**

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**Office Hours:** Mon. 2:45-4:45 & Thurs, 2:30 p.m. -4:30 p.m. and by appointment

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**Texts:** *Pragmatism, A Reader* ed. Louis Menand, Random House, Inc., New York, 1997.

*American Philosophies: An Anthology*, eds. Leonard Harris, Scott L. Pratt and Anne S. Waters  
Blackwell Publishers, Ltd., Oxford, UK, 2002

**Course Objectives:**

Welcome to American Philosophy! In this course students will examine a variety of philosophies that have originated or grown on the North American Continent. We will examine some Native American and early American views of reality, but we will concentrate especially on American Pragmatism, a uniquely American point of view that flourished among a group of philosophers at Harvard University who called themselves the Metaphysical Club in the late 1800's and early 1900's. We will also read the works of some of the contemporary followers of that group of philosophers. Students will learn to **read and present** the arguments of the philosophers whose works we will read, **understand and outline** the arguments that the authors are advancing in favor of their positions, and **write about and criticize** pragmatic positions on a wide variety of topics.

1. **Reading and Presenting:** for each class, students will attend with the day's reading organized into arguments in a notebook. Class format will usually be a student presentation, and/or lecture by the professor on the content of the authors' arguments in support of his or her claims, followed by class discussion of the implications of the claims for particular issues or situations. On one day during the semester, each student will have to present the arguments for the day, and lead the discussion. There will be a sign-up sheet for picking presentation times and topics by the second week of the semester.

2. **Understanding, Writing and Criticizing:** Students' ability to understand and outline the arguments of the philosophers will improve with daily practice throughout the semester. I will provide study questions to help students to focus their attention on the readings, and extract the core arguments from them for class discussions and presentations. Over the course of the semester, students will type and hand in two critical papers, of 4-5 pages which outline some argument from the readings and give a critical analysis of the argument. These papers will be due on the schedule specified in the course calendar.

**3. Exams:** Two exams will test your overall knowledge of authors and arguments. Exams will be based on the study questions, and will consist partly of short answer or matching type questions and partly of essays. Makeups will only be given for Death, War, Famine, and Plague.

**Evaluation:** So, your grade in the course will be a result of the quality of your work on six projects;

Presentation:	20%
Exams: two at 25% each	50%
Critical Outline/Essays: two at 15% each	<u>30%</u>
Total	100%

Grading standards are stated in the College catalogue. Numerical equivalents for letter grades are as follows:

A = 93-100	C+ = 77-79
A- = 90-92	C = 70-76
B+ = 87-89	D = 62-69
B = 83-86	F = 61-below
B- = 80-82	

ACADEMIC HONESTY: Plagiarism, or academic dishonesty in any form, including representing anyone's work that is not yours as if it were yours, will result in failure for the class. The College of Saint Rose policy on academic integrity can be found at:

[http://www.strose.edu/officesandresources/academic\\_and\\_student\\_support\\_services/article2575](http://www.strose.edu/officesandresources/academic_and_student_support_services/article2575)

*If you are a student with a documented disability and require academic accommodations please register with Lynn Cantwell, the Director of Services for Students with Disabilities, located in the Academic Support Center on the 2nd floor of St. Joseph Hall (campus extension 2335 or 337-2335, off campus) for disability verification and for determination of recommended reasonable academic accommodations. After you have made arrangements with that office, please see me to discuss your accommodations. Please remember that timely notice will help avoid a delay in your receipt of accommodations*

## **COURSE CALENDAR**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Source</b>
Aug 26	Intro, Syllabus, Arguments, Study Skills	
Aug 28	Chap. 3 <i>How the World Began</i> Chap 20 <i>Confederacy of the Six Nations</i>	<i>Amer Philos</i> p.15 <i>Amer Philos</i> p. 239
Sept 2	LABOR DAY, NO CLASS	
Sept 4	Chap 8 <i>Of Being and Original Sin</i>	<i>Amer Philos</i> p.73
Sept 9	Chap 22 <i>The Federalist Papers</i>	<i>Amer Philos</i> p.270
Sept 11	Chap 12 <i>Race</i> W.E.B. DuBois Chap 29 <i>Oration</i> Frederick Douglass	<i>Amer Philos</i> p.134 <i>Amer Philos</i> p. 337

Sept 16	Chap 6 <i>Nature</i> RW Emerson	<i>Amer Philos</i> p.43
Sept 18	Chap 28 <i>Civil Disobedience</i> HD Thoreau	<i>Amer Philos</i> p.325
Sept 23	Chap 32 <i>Democratic Vistas</i> Walt Whitman	<i>Amer Philos</i> p.374
Sept 25	Chap 34 <i>Anarchism</i> Emma Goldman	<i>Amer Philos</i> p. 405
Sept 30	Chap36 <i>What the Indian Means</i> Standing Bear	<i>Amer Philos</i> p.420
	Chap 38 <i>Cultural Pluralism</i> Alain Locke	<i>Amer Philos</i> p. 433
Oct 2	<b>FIRST PAPER DUE</b>	
Oct 7	Chap 10 Self Consciousness, Social Consciousness Royce	<i>Amer Philos</i> p. 108
Oct 9	<b>WEED LECTURING AT RPI, NO CLASS</b>	
Oct 14	<b>COLUMBUS DAY, NO CLASS</b>	
Oct 16	Chap 18 <i>The Practice of Philosophy</i> SK Langer	<i>Amer Philos</i> p. 211
Oct. 21	Chap 16 <i>What Pragmatism is</i> CS Pierce	<i>Amer Philos</i> p.188
Oct 24	<b>REVIEW DAY</b>	
Oct. 28	<b>FIRST EXAM</b>	
Oct 30	C.S. Pierce	Menand p. 3-49
Nov 4	Wm. James	<i>Amer Philos</i> 88-107
Nov. 6	Wm. James	Menand p. 59-92
Nov 11	Wm. James	Menand 112- 135
Nov 13	John Dewey	Menand p 233-264
	John Dewey	p. 182-204
Nov 18	John Dewey	<i>Amer Philos</i> p 198-210
Nov 22	Adams and Mead	Menand p272-301 <i>Amer Philos.</i> 389-404

Nov 25-Dec 1 **HAPPY THANKSGIVING**



Dec 2	Hilary Putnam 'Fact and Value' Richard J Bernstein "Pragmatism and Healing Wounds"	Menand p 337-363 Menand p. 381-402
Dec 4	West "Prophetic Pragmatism" Posner "Pragmatic Manifesto"	Menand p. 404-417 Menand p 417-435
Dec 9	<b>REVIEW: SECOND CRITICAL PAPER DUE</b>	
<b>FRIDAY DEC. 13</b>	<b>10:45AM - 1:15PM EXAM 2</b>	