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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American Philosophies: An Anthology, eds. Leonard Harris, Scott L. Pratt and Anne S. Waters

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exams: two at 25% each</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical Outline/Essays: two at 15% each</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
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Grading standards are stated in the College catalogue. Numerical equivalents for letter grades are as follows:

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

**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

*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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Source</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 26</td>
<td>Intro, Syllabus, Arguments, Study Skills</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 28</td>
<td>Chap. 3 <em>How the World Began</em></td>
<td><em>Amer Philos</em> p.15</td>
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<td>Chap 20 <em>Confederacy of the Six Nations</em></td>
<td><em>Amer Philos</em> p.239</td>
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<td>Sept 2</td>
<td>LABOR DAY, NO CLASS</td>
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<td>Sept 4</td>
<td>Chap 8 <em>Of Being and Original Sin</em></td>
<td><em>Amer Philos</em> p.73</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 9</td>
<td>Chap 22 <em>The Federalist Papers</em></td>
<td><em>Amer Philos</em> p.270</td>
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<td>Chap 29 <em>Oration</em> Frederick Douglass</td>
<td><em>Amer Philos</em> p.337</td>
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Sept 16     Chap 6 Nature RW Emerson   Amer Philos p.43
Sept 18     Chap 28 Civil Disobedience HD Thoreau   Amer Philos p.325
Sept 23     Chap 32 Democratic Vistas Walt Whitman   Amer Philos p.374
Sept 25     Chap 34 Anarchism Emma Goldman   Amer Philos p.405
Sept 30     Chap 36 What the Indian Means Standing Bear Amer Philos p.420
            Chap 38 Cultural Pluralism Alain Locke Amer Philos p.433
Oct 2       FIRST PAPER DUE
Oct 7       Chap 10 Self Consciousness, Social Consciousness Royce Amer Philos p.108
Oct 9       WEED LECTURING AT RPI, NO CLASS
Oct 14      COLUMBUS DAY, NO CLASS
Oct 16      Chap 18 The Practice of Philosophy SK Langer Amer Philos p.211
Oct 21      Chap 16 What Pragmatism is CS Pierce Amer Philos p.188
Oct 24      REVIEW DAY
Oct 28      FIRST EXAM
Oct 30      C.S. Pierce Menand p.3-49
Nov 4       Wm. James Amer Philos 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 Amer Philos p.198-210
Nov 22      Adams and Mead Menand p272-301 Amer Philos 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  
REVIEW: SECOND CRITICAL PAPER DUE

FRIDAY DEC. 13  
10:45AM – 1:15PM  
EXAM 2