Introduction to Philosophy

This class will introduce students to various philosophers and philosophical concepts. We will study Philosophy chronologically starting with the Ancient Greeks, working through the twentieth-century existentialists, and into modern philosophy. It is the aim of this class to provide a traditional foundation in Philosophy while allowing also for the exploration of our own ideas while also emphasizing the ability to think critically.

Class Expectations:
• To Have an Open Mind: This class will present ideas with which not everyone will agree. It is our job to critically look at ideas and discuss them in a mature and civil fashion.

• Participation: This will be a discussion-based class. Your participation and attendance will be required.

• Responsibility: It is your responsibility to keep up with the reading and assignments. Likewise if you are absent, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed.

• Honesty: Plagiarism will not be tolerated in any form. The school's plagiarism policy will be strictly followed.

• Timeliness: I expect assignments to be turned in on time. Most assignments will not be accepted late – see “Grades” section of syllabus.

Materials Needed:
• Writing Utensil
• Paper
• Folder/Notebook/Binder – just for this class
• Sophie's World by Jostein Gaarder

Grades:
• Reading Quizzes: 20% - No late work accepted
• Participation from Weekly Posts: 20% - No late work accepted
• Assessment/ Midterm: 20%
• Project: 20% - 10% deduction per calendar day late
• Final Exam: 20%

A = 90% - 100%
B = 80% - 89%
C = 70% - 79%
D = 60% - 69%
F = 0% - 59%
Contact Information:

I encourage students and parents/guardians to contact me regarding any questions or concerns. E-mail is my preferred method of communication, but I do check voice mail on a daily basis as well.

Nick Caltagirone

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