PHIL 0010: Concepts of Human Nature (Fall 2014)
Instructor: Stephen C. Makin (1009A CoL)
Lectures: Tu: 6-8:30 p.m., 0218A Cathedral of Learning
Office Hours: Tu/Th, 1-2 p.m.
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Précis: This course is intended to introduce students to philosophy by way of a series of opposed concepts of human nature: man as hedonist vs. man as ethical creature; man as machine vs. man as spirit; man as rapacious beast vs. man as noble savage; and so on. Readings will be drawn from across the history of philosophy.

Required Texts:
The readings for this course will either be online, or posted as .pdf’s on a gmail account. The username for the account is pitt.ethics and the password is deontology. (On the left panel you will see a label with the course name.) It is strongly recommended that you print each article and bring it to Lecture. Each reading should be read before the date on which it is listed below, so that you may come to class prepared for the day’s lecture and discussion. This syllabus, and other information pertaining to this course, can also be found on this gmail account.
If you have a disability that requires accommodation you should contact Disability Resources and Services, 140 William Pitt Union, (412) 648-7890 as soon as possible.

Grading:
Paper One: 20%
Paper Two: 25%
Mid-Term: 20%
Final Exam: 25%
Participation: 10%

Papers:
Paper topics will be distributed two weeks before the paper is due. Late papers will be accepted with penalty: one-third of a letter-grade for each day the paper is late. Extensions for papers will be granted only for serious reasons. You should consult your instructor about an extension in advance of the due date (see below for due dates).
The penalty for plagiarizing a paper is non-negotiable failure for the entire course. Students are required to familiarize themselves with the University’s policies on plagiarism: http://www.provost.pitt.edu/info/ai1.html
In order to satisfy the writing requirement for this course, you will be asked to rewrite/revise Paper One and Paper Two. In each case, your final grade for the paper will be a weighted average of the first and second drafts: the first draft will count for 40% of final paper grade, the second draft 60%. Rewrites will be due one week after the original is returned to you. Other writing assignments may be announced during the term; they will be folded into your participation grade.

Examinations:
Exams will consist of both short answer questions and essays. Do not be late on an exam day! (See below for Examination dates.)

Participation:
In order to achieve full participation credit you must: (1) attend class regularly; (2) come to class having carefully done the reading; (3) willingly contribute to discussion in an informed and intelligent way. Good faith efforts, shown through sweat and earnest attempts at improvement, also count towards your participation grade.
Optimistic Schedule (optional readings are in brackets):

**Week 1**: (Tu. Aug 26): Introductory

**Week 2**: (Tu. Sept. 2): Man as Sybarite
  - Nozick, “The Experience Machine,” (excerpt from *Anarchy, State, & Utopia*)

**Week 3**: (Tu. Sept. 9): Man as Ghost
  - Descartes, *Meditations I, II, and VI*
    [http://oregonstate.edu/instruct/phl302/texts/descartes/meditations/meditations.html](http://oregonstate.edu/instruct/phl302/texts/descartes/meditations/meditations.html)

**Week 4**: (Tu. Sept. 16): Man as Machine
  - Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Introduction, §1; Chapter VI, §§1-2:
    [http://oregonstate.edu/instruct/phl302/texts/hobbes/leviathan-contents.html](http://oregonstate.edu/instruct/phl302/texts/hobbes/leviathan-contents.html)
  - La Mettrie, *Man—Machine* (excerpt)
  - Turing, “Computing Machinery and Intelligence”
    [Turing, “Intelligent Machinery, a Heretical Theory”]

**Week 5**: (Tu. Sept. 23): Man as Rapacious Beast Bent on Acquisition

**Week 6**: (Tu. Sept. 30): Man as Noble Savage

**Week 7**: (Tu. Oct. 7): Man as Noble Savage
  - Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*, Part II [see link above]
    *(first paper due)*

**Week 8**: (Tu. Oct. 14): *Monday Make-Up: No Class*

**Week 9**: (Tu. Oct. 21): *Mid-Term Examination*

**Week 10**: (Tu. Oct. 28): Man as Nobel Savage
  - Rousseau, *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*, Part II (continued)

**Week 11**: (Tu. Nov. 4): Man as Instrumental Reasoner
    [http://www.unc.edu/~jjeffrey/Hume%20Files--start%20with%20B3/B2.3.3.html](http://www.unc.edu/~jjeffrey/Hume%20Files--start%20with%20B3/B2.3.3.html)
  - Jollimore, “Why Is Instrumental Rationality Rational?”

**Week 12**: (Tu. Nov. 11): *TBA*

**Week 13**: (Tu. Nov. 18): *TBA (second paper due)*

**Week 14**: (Tu. Nov 25): Man as Self-Creation
  - Sartre, “Existentialism is a Humanism”
  - Exam Review

**Week 15**: (Tu. Dec. 2): *final examination*