

The Heights School
PHIL 209 Natural Philosophy
Mr. Anthony Hadford
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heights.edu/course/natural-philosophy

Course goals:

The first half of this course will offer students a preliminary introduction to the discipline of philosophy and the second half will focus on the “philosophy of nature”. We will begin with some key questions: what is philosophy and why do we study it every other day along with theology at The Heights? What is the full scope of its expertise? After Christmas break, we will follow in the footsteps of Aristotle and begin our investigation of *physics*, or the material world. The course's terminology and related concepts serve as a foundation for the next course in The Heights' philosophy sequence, "metaphysics".

Topics covered:

- Etymology of philosophy
- Relationship between philosophy and the other sciences
- Relationship between philosophy and theology
- Branches of philosophy
- The fact of “change” and its different modes
- The four causes
- the notions of “substance” & “accidents”
- Aristotle’s theory of hylemorphism

Course requirements and grading criteria:

1. **Class Participation** (30% of the total/quarter): includes a daily participation grade, in-class assignments, individual oral presentations / debates, group oral presentations / debates;
2. **Homework** (30% of the total/quarter): take home written assignments; brief quizzes on reading or podcast assignments;
3. **Tests and Papers** (40% of the total/quarter): there will be a test or paper each quarter;
 - a. Students may not “re-take” tests or quizzes;
 - b. Students may rewrite papers;
 - c. Students may request extra-credit assignments.

Homework Assignments: Students will receive homework assignments in class and online. In case a student is absent from class he should consult the week's assignments on the course website (see above).

Office hours: In addition to ad hoc appointments, I encourage students to meet with me during office hours to discuss any course material, homework assignments, tests / papers, and any general philosophical inquiries. Additionally, this is also when quiz make-ups (not re-takes) must be completed. The weekly office hours are:

- Each Monday during lunch (Classroom 16) from 12:45 p.m. until 1:30 p.m.
- Each Thursday after school (Classroom 16) from 3:05 p.m. until 4:05 p.m.

Successful Students

The key of any academically successful student is diligence. The acquisition of this virtue should be highly sought-after for its applicability not only to academic studies, but a wide variety of moments throughout one’s life. Students can even have little interest in a given subject, but still exhibit a diligence toward assignments or in tackling course difficulties, and therefore become a virtuous man.