

PL 773 INSIGHT & BEYOND, II Spring 2010

Class Meeting Time: Wednesdays, 4:30-7:00pm

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Office Hours: By appointment

“Thoroughly understand what it is to understand, and you will not only understand the broad lines of all there is to be understood but also you will possess a fixed base, an invariant pattern opening upon all further developments of understanding.”

Lonergan, *Insight*

In writing his major philosophical work *Insight*, Bernard Lonergan set himself the task of developing a methodical way of treating philosophical, metaphysical, ethical and theological issues, and simultaneously moving beyond the impasses of modern philosophy. That method, he claimed, is the method of “self-appropriation” – of “making one’s self one’s own” by learning the structured relations among the activities of one’s own consciousness. In addition, Lonergan viewed his method as critical for humanity’s response to the challenge posed by the phenomena of historical existence.

Can the extravagant promises made by Bernard Lonergan in the “Introduction” to *Insight* be realized? That question forms the central theme of this **two-semester course**. During the **Fall and Spring semesters**, we will undertake a careful, detailed and critical investigation of all the chapters of Lonergan's *Insight*. In the second semester, we will study selections his major post-*Insight* writings to consider how he developed and even changed some of his fundamental ideas on meaning, interpretation, history, ethics, values and religion.

This course will be video recorded and be made available online students and scholars who wish to explore *Insight* and these post-*Insight* developments along with us. As student participants in this course, you will have the opportunity to benefit people across the globe through your comments, insights, and questions about the material for this course. In order for you to appear visually in these video recordings, I will need your explicit written permission. Forms will be distributed the first week of class. You may still participate verbally, even if you should you choose to not appear visually.

Course Requirements: (1) **Class preparedness (15%)**: that is to say, careful reading of the weeks assigned chapters, responses to study questions and exercises, and prepared notes of questions and comments for class discussion. (2) **A term paper (of 20-25 pages) (40%)**. Proposals for your paper (a couple of paragraphs plus bibliography) are due no later than April 7!!! Completed papers are due no later than May 5. (3) **Final Oral Exam, Week of May 10 (45%)**. (Sign-up List and Study Questions will be distributed.)

NO INCOMPLETES WILL BE ALLOWED FOR THIS COURSE!!!

Academic Integrity: **Plagiarism, cheating, or any other violation of academic integrity will not be tolerated.** Any such violation, no matter how seemingly minor, is a serious offense against both one’s own intellectual development and the larger intellectual community, and will

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therefore be met with severe consequences, up to and including a failing grade for the course. All such infractions will be reported to the student's academic dean. For detailed information and definitions on Boston College's academic integrity policy, visit:

<http://www.bc.edu/offices/stserv/academic/resources/policy.html#integrity>

BlackBoard Vista (BBV) Website: Elements of this course will be accessible on the BBV website for this class. These will include this syllabus, as well as short reading selections, the Echo 360 video recordings of this class, the PowerPoint presentations used in class, as well as reflection and study questions. As a student registered for this course, you will have automatic access to our course site. You may access it directly through the link <https://cms.bc.edu/webct/entryPageIns.dowebct>

Echo 360 Class Recording: All of the sessions for both semesters of this course will be recorded via the Echo 360 course capture technology. These sessions will be available each week on the BBV website shortly after the conclusion of each class. The sessions will also be available to the global community later on, in edited form, through the Boston College Lonergan Institute website,

http://www.bc.edu/bc_org/avp/cas/lonergan/default.html

Reading List: Required: Lonergan, *Insight*
Lonergan, *Topics in Education*
Lonergan, *Method in Theology*
Lonergan, *Philosophy of God and Theology* [BBV]
Selected essays [BBV]
Crowe, "Lonergan's Universalist View of Religion" [BBV]
Recommended: Lonergan, *Collection*
Lonergan, *Understanding and Being*
Flanagan, *The Quest for Self-Knowledge*
Cronin, *Foundations of Philosophy* (online:
http://www.lonergan.org/online_books/cronin/table_of_contents.htm

Course Calendar **(Spring, 2010)**

<u>Class:</u>	<u>Reading Assignment</u>
January 20	Self-Affirmation, Self-Knowledge, Consciousness & Identity <i>Insight</i> , Chapter 11, "Self-Affirmation" <i>Understanding and Being</i> , Chapter 1, "Self-Appropriation" Recommended: <i>Understanding and Being</i> , Chapter 6 §1, "Self-Affirmation" Flanagan, <i>The Quest for Self-Knowledge</i> , "Introduction"
January 27	Self-Affirmation, Self-Knowledge, Consciousness & Identity continued Lonergan's 3 Questions about Knowing <i>Insight</i> , Chapter 12, "The Notion of Being"

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Insight, Chapter 13, “The Notion of Objectivity”
Lonergan, “Cognitional Structure” (BBV Website)

- February 3 Objectivity continued
Insight, Chapter 13, “The Notion of Objectivity”
Lonergan, “Cognitional Structure” (BBV Website)
- February 10 The Method of Metaphysics
Insight, Chapter 14, “The Method of Metaphysics”
Understanding and Being, Chapter 9, “Metaphysical Analysis & Integration”
- February 17 & 24 The Integral Heuristic Structure of Proportionate Being
Insight, Chapter 14, “The Method of Metaphysics”
Insight, Chapter 15, “The Elements of Metaphysics”
- March 3 **Spring Vacation – No Class**
- March 10 Unity of the Universe, Unity of Humanity
Insight, Chapter 16, “Metaphysics as Science” §§4.1 – 4.3
- March 17 Intrinsic Intelligibility of Being, Humans as Spiritual
Insight, Chapter 16, “Metaphysics as Science” §§4.1 – 4.3
Insight, Chapter 17 §1, “Metaphysics, Mystery & Myth”
- March 24 Religious Experience and Religious Expression
The Way from Below Upward and from Above Downward
Insight, Chapter 17 §1, “Metaphysics, Mystery & Myth”
Method in Theology, Ch. 2 “Religion,”
“Lonergan’s Universalist View of Religion” (Crowe)
Interpretation: Insight, Chapter 17 “Metaphysics as Dialectic,” §§ 2 & 3
- March 31 From Below Upwards & Above Downwards continued
Truth & Interpretation:
Insight, Chapter 17 “Metaphysics as Dialectic,” §§ 2 & 3
- April 7 Insight Chapter 17 §3: Interpretation & the “Universal Viewpoint”;
Interpretation as One of 8 Functional Specialties (*Method in Theology*)
Insight Chapter 18: “The Possibility of Ethics,” § 2 “Notion of Freedom”

Proposals for Term Papers Due April 7!!!

- April 14 Insight Chapter 18: “The Possibility of Ethics,”
Structure of Knowing & Doing (§2);
Method of Ethics & Ontology of the Good (§1)
- April 21 Is there Knowledge about God?

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Insight Chapter 19 §§1-9: “General Transcendent Knowledge”

April 28

Insight Chapter 19 §10: Proof for Existence of God

Insight Chapter 20: “Special Transcendent Knowledge”

§1: “The Problem”;

Insight Chapter 18 §3: “The Problem of Liberation”

May 5

Insight Chapter 19 §§10 & 11 Proof for Existence of God Revisited;

Insight Chapter 20: Solution to Problem of Evil §§1-5

REVIEW FOR FINAL ORAL EXAM

Term Papers Due May 5 !!!

May 11-14

FINAL ORAL EXAM