Print Name: _____

Introduction to Classical Philosophy
Mr. Hultin
Spring, 2023

Course Description:

Introduction to Classical Philosophy is a course unlike any other. Our goals are unlike any other. More than the history of thought, this is a course in *doing* philosophy. With Socrates we will learn humble self-examination. Reading Aristotle will awaken our most basic, human desire for goodness. The Stoic philosophers will invite us to adopt philosophy as-a-way-of-life.

To *do* philosophy means our class will look different too. Although I will lecture and explain our texts, the rubber will hit the road in *discussion*. Known as Socratic Seminar, discussion will be our primary mode. To truly learn to freely, independently think, we must test our thoughts.

Socrates teaches his reader not *what* to think but *how* to think. Through his dialogues we will learn *how* to think about philosophy's great questions: What is real? What can we know? What is good? How do we become good?

Disclaimer: this course is not about teaching students *what* to think, but *how* to think. The teacher will not impose any one view onto the students, nor require adherence to a particular view.

Course Outline:

Introduction to Philosophy
- Questions**:** What is philosophy? What does it mean to love wisdom?
- Text: *Sophie's World* excerpts, Pre-Socratic fragments from Thales to Democritus

Leo Tolstoy & The Death of Ivan Ilych
- Text: *The Death of Ivan Ilych*
- Questions: What does an unphilosophical life look like? How do humans respond to their mortality? How do suffering and death influence our lives?
- Assessment: Analysis essay

Socrates
- Text**:** *The Apology, Crito, Euthyphro*
- Questions**:** What do we truly know? How can we examine ourselves? How can we discover truth?
- Assessment**:** Essay Assignment – Craft a Socratic Dialogue between Socrates and Ivan

Aristotle
- Text: *The Nicomachean Ethics*
- Questions: What is humanity's basic desire? What is the ultimate good humans strive for? How does one become a good person and live a good life?
- Assessments: Aristotelian analysis of Ivan Ilych's actions and life

Stoics & Other Philosophies
- Text: *Meditations* - Aurelius, *The Enchiridion* - Epictetus, *Letters from a Stoic* - Seneca
- Questions: How can we respond to suffering and misfortune? How can we achieve happiness and tranquility?
- Assessments: Stoic Handbook of Principles and Meditations for Ivan Ilych

Print Name: _____

Assignments & Grading:

- Reading Journal and Homework – 60%
  - Narrations on nightly reading
  - Used for discussion
- Assessments – 30%
  - Unit Narrations, Written Socratic Dialogue, Final Essay
- Participation – 10%
  - Regular classroom participation
  - Participation in Socratic Seminars

Materials:

- Reading Journal – Composition Notebook or Spiral Notebook
- Notepaper

Late Policy

For homework:

- 1 day late = 50% of earned credit
- 2 days late = 0%
- No late coupons

For papers or other major projects:

- No late coupons
- 1 day late = 10% off of earned credit
- 2 days late = 20% off of earned credit
- 3 days late = 30% off of earned credit
- 4 days late = No credit
- ALL papers, even if four days or more late, must be completed to the instructor's satisfaction in order to pass the class. Students who do not complete all papers will receive a maximum grade of 59% for the semester.

Tardy Policy: If you are not in the room at the bell, you will be marked tardy on the school violations page. To be considered on time, you must be in your desk working on your planner and the warm-up assignment or quiz ***before*** the bell.

Absence Policy: If you are absent, ***it is your responsibility*** to obtain and complete all missing assignments from your peers. Please come to me only if there is confusion about what you missed.

_____ _____
Student Signature Date

_____ _____
Parent Signature Date