



Religious Studies 9

Dominican International School



Course Syllabus

School Year 2026–27

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: PHILOSOPHY

Welcome to our Philosophy of the Human Person class!

As you begin Grade 9, you are entering a subject that is not only about books, theories, or difficult words. More importantly, it is a subject about you—who you are, what you believe, how you think, why you make certain choices, and what it truly means to be human.

At first, the word *philosophy* might sound intimidating. You might even wonder, “Why do we need to study philosophy?” The answer is simple: because every day, you are already asking philosophical questions. Who am I? What makes me happy? What is right and wrong? Why do people suffer? What makes a person truly good? What is the meaning of life? What kind of person do I want to become? These are not questions that always have easy answers. And that is exactly why we are here.

In this class, I do not expect you to have all the answers. Instead, I want you to learn how to ask meaningful questions, think deeply, listen carefully, respect different perspectives, and support your ideas with good reasons. Philosophy is not about proving that you are the smartest person in the room. It is about having the courage to say, “I might be wrong. Let me think about it again.”

As we go through this journey together, I encourage you to be curious. Do not be afraid to ask questions. Do not be afraid to disagree respectfully. And most importantly, do not be afraid to examine your own beliefs and experiences. You will discover that philosophy is not something that exists only inside a classroom. It is present in your friendships, your family, your decisions, your struggles, your dreams, and even in the choices you make every day.

This school year, I hope that our classroom becomes a place where everyone feels safe to think, question, speak, listen, and grow. And perhaps, by the end of this course, you will not only understand philosophy better—you will also understand yourself and the people around you a little more deeply. So, Grade 9, welcome to Philosophy of the Human Person! Let us begin this journey with an open mind, a curious heart, and the courage to ask the questions that truly matter.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND CONTENTS:

WORD	<i>To make sure that learners are able to understand and comprehend all the basic concepts of all philosophical landscapes and contents. This is to make them realize how significant and essential Philosophy is in our life, especially in our present time.</i>
WITNESS	<i>As learners are encouraged to understand the value of Philosophy, they are also encouraged to seek the truth as it is the primary goal of all philosophical endeavors. This is the truth that is humanitarian and universal. Learners should become bearers of truth that is motivated by love.</i>
WORSHIP	<i>As learners aim for the truth and become bearers of truth, truth itself will lead and guide them to the real source of truth, who is God. And by the same truth, learners will become truthful and sincere to their beliefs in God who became man and saved us all from our sins.</i>

LITURGICAL FEASTS AND DIFFERENT SEASONS OF THE CHURCH

- Advent
- Christmas
- Lent
- Holy Week
- Easter
- Ordinary Time
- Feasts and Memorials of Dominican Saints
- Feasts in Honor of Mother Mary

DOMINICAN PILLARS AND CORE VALUES

- Study.....Truth
- Prayer.....Joy
- Community.....Justice
- Service/Preaching.....Compassion

PARAGONS OF VALUES: DOMINICAN SAINTS AND BLESSED

Feasts/Memorials of Dominican Saints

August 02- Bl. Jane of Aza

- 08- St. Dominic de Guzmán
- 14- St. Dominic Ibañez
- 17- St. Hyacinth of Poland
- 18- Bl. Mannes de Guzman
- 23- Rose of Lima

September 18- St. John Macías

- 20- St. Francis Posadas
- 28- St. Lawrence Ruiz October

- 09- St. Louis Bertrand
- November 03- St. Martin de Porres**
 - 15- St. Albert the Great
 - 22- Bl. Cecilia
- December 01- Bl. John Vercelli**
 - The Holy Family
- January 07- St. Raymond of Peñafort**
 - 18- St. Margaret of Hungary
- February 13- Bl. Jordan of Saxony**
- March 07- St. Thomas Aquinas**
- April 05- St. Vincent Ferrer; 06/29- St. Peter of Verona**
 - 20- St. Agnes of Montepulciano
 - 29/30- St. Catherine of Siena
 - 30- St. Pius V
- May 10- St. Anthony of Florence**
 - 12- Bl. Imelda Lambertini
 - 20- Bl. Columba of Rieti Others
- June 09- Bl. Diana**
- July 17- Bl. Ceslaus**

GRADING SYSTEM:

Part 1: Academic (50 %)	
Section A: Homework, Seatwork, Projects NOTE: Attendance will be included in the RS Grading System.	16.66%
Section B: Quizzes	16.67%
Section C: Major Quarterly Exam/PBL/PETA	16.67%
Part 2: Deportment/Behavior (50 %) STUDENT'S SELF-EVALUATION	
Truthful	19 Points
Organized	19 Points
Reflective	19 Points
Courageous	19 Points
Helpful	19 Points
Total	95 points

Note: *The highest possible grade students can obtain every quarter in Department is 95 points in conformity with the current grading system. Students are guided on how to self-evaluate their department truthfully and reflectively.*

The Project D (Detention/Infraction) significantly affects students' Department Grade.

GUIDELINES REGARDING THE UTILIZATION OF AI AND GADGETS

Academic Dishonesty means employing a method or technique or engaging in conduct in an academic endeavor that contravenes the standards of ethical integrity expected at DIS.

Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to the following:

- *Purposely incorporating the ideas, words, sentences, paragraphs, or parts thereof without appropriate acknowledgment and representing the product as one's own work; and*
- *Representing another's intellectual work like photographs, paintings, drawings, sculpture, or research as one's own, including failure to attribute content to an AI.*
- *Employing a tutor, making use of Artificial Intelligence without acknowledgement, getting a parent to write a paper or do an assignment, paying for an essay to be written by someone else and presented as the student's own work.*
- *Committing any act that a reasonable person would conclude, when informed of the evidence, to be a dishonest means of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work.*

Note: *Any act of academic dishonesty will result in an automatic zero on the entire assignment and deduction from the Department.*

The Google Classroom code will be given to all students to access the Religious Studies learning guide and tasks.

- *There will be NO Homework to be given during the weekend except during major exams or quizzes. It is to give students a chance to spend quality time with their family.*

Gadget and Technology Guidelines

- **Cellphones Out of Sight:** Cellphones are strictly not allowed during class time. Cellphones must be surrendered to the prescribed authority in the school (Homeroom teacher and Discipline Officers, every day).
- **Laptops for Learning Only:** Laptops may only be used when explicitly instructed by your teacher for classwork or research.
- **No Social Media:** Accessing any social media platforms (Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, YouTube, etc.) on any device is strictly prohibited while on school grounds.
- **Follow Digital Ethics:** Always practice responsible digital citizenship. Use school technology respectfully, stay on task, and follow all school internet rules.
- **Strict Usage Rules:** Gadget privileges are a responsibility. Unapproved use, unauthorized gaming, or browsing non-academic sites will result in device confiscation.

PRIMARY TEXTBOOKS AND ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

- Aguas, Jove Jim (2014). *Person, Action and Love: The Philosophical Thoughts of Karol Wojtyla (John Paul II)*. University of Santo Tomas (UST).
- Articulo, Archimedes (2004). *Moral Philosophy*. Great Books Publishing.
- Aquinas, Thomas (1981). *Summa Theologica*. Trans. Fathers of the English Dominican Province. Notre Dame, IN: Christian Classics.
- Co, Alfredo (2009). *Under the Bo-Tree... On the Lotus Flower: Philosophy of the Compassionate Buddha*. University of Santo Tomas (UST).
- Lawhead, William F. (2013). *The Philosophical Journey: An Interactive Approach*. (6th Ed.). McGraw-Hill Education.
- Magee, Bryan (1998). *The Story of Philosophy: A Concise Introduction to the World's Greatest Thinkers and their Ideas*. DK Publishing.
- Martin, Matthew and Eric W. Cowan (2019). *Remembering Martin Buber and the I-Thou in counseling*. American Counseling Association.
<https://ct.counseling.org/2019/05/remembering-martin-buber-and-the-i-thou-in-counseling/>
- Montana, Robert (2015). *Thomistic Ethics: A Beacon in the Contemporary Moral Landscape*. University of Santo Tomas (UST).
 National Geographic Education. Taoism.
<https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/taoism/>
- P.L.E. Thomas Aquinas, "The Five Ways" Philosophy of Religion.
<https://philosophy.lander.edu/intro/aquinas.shtml>
- Russell, Bertrand (1912). *The Problem of Philosophy*. Oxford University Press.
- St. Augustine of Hippo (400 CE). *The Confession of St. Augustine*. Trans. J.G. Pilkington M.A.
<https://ia800301.us.archive.org/1/items/confessionsofsta00augu/confessionsofsta00augu.pdf>
- Aguas, Jove Jim Sanchez. (2020, May 11). *PhiloAnthro Man as Intersubjective p3* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QcW4-zHicC4>
- Cogito. (2021, May 4). *Buddhism Explained* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INdgT6VCuu0>
- CrashCourse. (2016, February 9). *What is Philosophy? Crash Course Philosophy #1* [Video]. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1A_CAkYt3GY
- Forty Movie (2022, March 30). *Spider-Man: No Way Home* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mqX6roYTJd8>
- Gregory, Jason. (2019, October 27). *The Taoist Natural Way vs. Confucian Social Control* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Dz1FgcCbwk>
- HinduismTodayVideos. (2013, June 14). *he History of Hindu India (English narration and English subtitles)* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nB2toz5p5Mw>
- Philosophy Overdose. (2022, May 28). *Sartre & Beauvoir on Feminism & Relationships* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xli779nolHo>
- Rosenzweig Benjamin. (2009, September 12). *Monty Python Philosophy Football* [Video]. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LfduUFF_i1A
- TaiwanPlus News. (2022, December 15). *Taiwan's Poverty Line: How 1 Bill Could Help 600,000 People* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OCwG9-zs90U>

First Quarter Tentative Course Content

Week & Date	Topics / Projects / Assessments
Week 1 Aug 10 - 14	A. Orientation Agenda: Religious Studies as a Subject of Life • Google Classroom: <i>Setup, notifications, and material access</i> • Course Overview: <i>Objectives, core content, references, and requirements</i> • Grading System: <i>Evaluation criteria (refer to syllabus)</i> • Values and Character: <i>RS Transformative Stamp and TORCH department standards</i> • Classroom Expectations: <i>Rules, responsibilities, and accountability</i> B. Orientation and Classroom Management Plan • Community Building and Engagement • Student Welcome: <i>Celebrating the gift of students' presence and participation</i> • Classroom Culture: <i>Group dynamics</i> C. Expectations and Values • Classroom Norms: <i>RS Collective Agreement in the light of the D'TORCH Values</i> D. DIS: Home of the D'TORCH! • <i>Vision-Mission and Philosophy</i> • <i>Basic Prayers (Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Angelus, and Dominican Blessings)</i> • <i>The Fundamentals of the Holy Mass</i> • <i>Common Mass Songs</i> • <i>Class Saint: The Practice of the Dominican Pillar</i> Thursday: <i>Opening Mass of the Holy Spirit 8:00</i>
Week 2 Aug 17 - 21	Topics: Foundations of Philosophy (1) Etymological Definition (2) Academic Definition Students' Engagement: <i>Watch: What is Philosophy?: Crash Course Philosophy #1. What is Philosophy?: Crash Course Philosophy #1</i> Pedagogy: <i>Socratic Method (Question and Answer)</i> Assessment: (1) Journal Writing (2) Activity

Week 3 Aug 24 - 28	Topics: Foundations of Philosophy (3) Significance in Studying Philosophy Students' Engagement: Read: <i>The Value of Philosophy</i> by Bertrand Russell, https://openeducationalberta.ca/saitintrophil/chapter/the-value-of-philosophy/ Pedagogy: Socratic Method (<i>Question and Answer</i>) Assessment: (1) Summative Test
Week 4 Aug 31 - Sep 4	Topics: Foundations of Philosophy (4) Six (6) Branches of Philosophy Students' Engagement: Watch: Branches of Philosophy by Philosophy KUKPS Pedagogy: Socratic Method (<i>Question and Answer</i>) Assessment: (1) Journal Writing (2) Seatwork
Week 5 Sep 7 - 11	Topics: Foundations of Philosophy (5) Five (5) Theories on Truth Students' Engagement: Read: The Story of the Blind men and the Elephant, https://www.peacecorps.gov/educators-and-students/educators/resources/blind-men-and-elephant/story-blind-men-and-elephant/ Pedagogy: Socratic Method (<i>Question and Answer</i>) Assessment: (1) Activity (2) Summative Test
Week 6 Sep 14 - 18	Special Topic: Biblical and Historical Accounts of the Holy Rosary (1) Biblical Supports of the Rosary (2) Historical Accounts of the Rosary (3) Significance of the Rosary Students' Engagement: Watch: Is the Rosary Biblical? Is the Rosary Biblical? Is the Rosary idolatry? Where is Hail Mary in the Bible? Holy Rosary Story

	Pedagogy: Socratic Method (<i>Question and Answer</i>) Assessment: (1) Activity (2) Summative Test
Week 7 Sep 21 - 25	Review of the Topics for the Quarterly Examination: (1) FOUNDATIONS OF PHILOSOPHY: (1) Etymological Definition of Philosophy (2) Academic Definition of Philosophy (3) Significance in studying Philosophy (4) Branches of Philosophy (5) Theories on Truth (2) SPECIAL TOPIC: (1) Biblical and Historical Accounts of the Holy Rosary Assessment: (1) Visit to the Peace Pole (2) One-on-one Conference (Department) (3) Checking of Notes and Bible Reflections Wednesday: Pre-Exam Days Thursday: Pre-Exam Days Friday: Moon Festival ~ Public Holiday
Week 8 Sep 28 - Oct 2	1ST QUARTERLY EXAMINATION (Paper and Pen) Monday: Confucius' Birthday ~ Public Holiday Wednesday Thursday: Major Exams Day 1 Friday: Major Exams Day 2
Week 9 Oct 5 - 9	NO CLASS Monday: Record Day ~ Student Holiday T-W-Th: Teachers Conference ~ Student Holiday Friday: Double 10 Day ~ Public Holiday

Second Quarter Tentative Course Content

Week & Date	Topics / Projects / Assessments
	PRELIMINARIES
Week 1 (10) Oct 12 - 16	• Rechecking of 1st Quarter Exam • Consultation of Grades • Subject Course Orientation for 2nd Quarter • Marian Activities Announcement • Other Matters/ Announcement
Week 2 (11) Oct 19 - 23	Special Topic: Biblical and Historical Accounts of the Holy Rosary (cont.) (1) Significance of the Rosary Students' Engagement: Watch: The Rosary is a Spiritual Weapon, The Rosary is a Spiritual Weapon w/ Bishop Scott McCaig Pedagogy: Socratic Method (<i>Question and Answer</i>) Assessment: (1) Activity
Week 3 (12) Oct 26 - 30	MARIAN ACTIVITIES (Making)
	Monday Retrocession Day ~ Public Holiday
Week 4 (13) Nov 2 - 6	Topics: Foundations of Philosophy (1) Critical Thinking, Creative Thinking and Caring Thinking Students' Engagement: Watch: What is Critical Thinking,  What is Critical Thinking? Pedagogy: Socratic Method (<i>Question and Answer</i>) Assessment: (1) Seatwork (2) Journal Writing
Week 5 (14) Nov 9 - 13	Topics: History of Philosophy (1) Basic similarities and dissimilarities of Western and Eastern/Oriental Philosophy

	Students' Engagement: Watch:  Eastern Philosophy vs Western Philosophy: Key Differences Explained by Technology and Culture pcweb Pedagogy: Socratic Method (Question and Answer) Assessment: • Activity • Summative Test
Week 6 (15) Nov 16 - 20	PBL (Project-Based Learning)/PETA (Performance Task)
Week 7 (16) Nov 23 - 27	PBL (Project-Based Learning)/PETA (Performance Task) Wednesday: Pre-Exam Days Thursday: Pre-Exam Days Friday: Grade 12 Exams
Week 8 (17) Nov 30 - Dec 4	PBL (Project-Based Learning)/PETA (Performance Task) Monday Grade 12 Exams Wednesday Thursday Friday
Week 9 (18) Dec 7 - Dec 11	Monday TBD Tuesday Foundation Day Mass 9:00, Cutting of the Cake Ceremony, Christmas Fair (Whole day) Wednesday: TBD Thursday: Major Final Exams half day Friday: Major Final Exams half day
<i>Dec 14 to Jan 1: Christmas Break</i>	

"Ripple by Ripple, Charity in Action: A Year to Seven Decades"