

Classical Magnet School  
12<sup>th</sup> Grade Philosophy

	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June
Textbook Chapters	Does the Center Hold? By Donald Palmer, Chap.1	Chap. 2: Rationalist Epistemology	Chap. 3: Empirical Epistemology	Chap. 4: Ontology	Chap. 4: Ontology Chap. 5: Philosophy of Religion	Chap. 5: Philosophy of Religion	Chap. 6: Philosophies of Freedom Chap. 7: Ethics	Chap.8: Critique of Ethical Theories Chap. 9: Political & Social Philosophy	Chap. 10: Philosophy of Art	
Themes/essential questions	What is philosophy? How does philosophy compare to science and religion? Truth Piety Justice	What is knowledge and is it possible? What is the difference between knowledge and opinion?	Are the senses or experience a reliable source of knowledge?	What is real and what is appearance?	What is real and what is appearance? Are there any good reasons for believing in the existence or nonexistence of God?	What kind of God exists or does not exist? What are the implications of God's existence or nonexistence?	How is freedom defined? Does freedom exist? What is the Good? What is the good life?	How can we distinguish between right & wrong? What is a legitimate government? How do we establish justice?	What is the nature of beauty?	The carefully examined life
Topics	Introduction to terms; Socratic Dialogues; Origins and contemporary branches of Philosophy	The rationalist thinking of Plato and Rene Descartes	The empiricism of John Locke; George Berkeley & David Hume: Logical Positivism Immanuel Kant's rational-empirical compromise	Dualism; Materialistic Monism; Behaviorism Logical Positivism; Pluralism	The nexus of ontology and physics	Theism: The Ontological, Cosmological & Teleological proofs Atheism & Volitional belief	Determinism Indeterminism Libertarianism Existentialism	Utilitarianism; Duty-oriented morality; The State of Nature; Social Contracts; Communism; Liberalism	Critiques of art by Plato Sigmund Freud Aristotle Karl Marx Herbert Marcuse	Who Am I? (Essay)
Other Books	The Trial and Death of Socrates By Plato	The Republic By Plato The Hero with a Thousand Faces By Joseph Campbell			What the "Bleep" Do We Know By William Arntz;	The Universe in a Single Atom By Tenzin Gyatso; The World's Religions by Huston Smith	Being and Nothingness By Jean Paul Sartre	Political Philosophy: The Search for Humanity & Order By John Hollowell	Art and Illusion By E.H Gombrich	Synthesizing and evaluating what we have learned
Coached Projects		Writing and performing an original funeral oration for Socrates	Interdisciplinary (Philosophy & British Literature) Archetype Paper	Comparative Analysis Paper: Rationalism v. Empiricism	Connecting themes paper & presentation	Debate: Should Intelligent Design be taught in science class?	Ethical simulation: Was this killing morally justified?	Design your own Polis Interdisciplinary Notebook of Learning	Interdisciplinary Notebook of Learning	Interdisciplinary Notebook of Learning
Seminars	The Allegory of the Cave: Plato; The Apology: Plato	Meditations on First Philosophy: Rene Descartes Treatise Concerning Human Understanding: George Berkeley	Treatise Concerning Human Nature: David Hume	Mind-Brain Identity: J.J.C. Smart & Colin McGinn	Einstein's Grand Quest for a Unified Theory: Tim Folger (Can we ever read "the mind of God"?)	William James: The Varieties of Religious Experience Sigmund Freud: Civilization and its Discontents; Friedrich Nietzsche	The Bhagavad-Gita: (Are we free to choose?)	Leviathan Thomas Hobbes (Why would we choose to limit our own freedom?)	The World as Will and Representation by Arthur Schopenhauer (What is the purpose of art?)	The Allegory of the Cave: Plato (Is the unexamined life really worth living, or not?)

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<b>Major Skills</b>	Philosophy is a culminating social studies course where students will practice and refine all of the critical thinking, writing and research skills that they have practiced throughout their academic careers at Classical. Specifically, this course expects students to work at the upper end of Bloom's taxonomy, focusing upon analysis, synthesis & evaluation of the ideas and values presented in the curriculum. Students will practice: writing properly formatted college style essays; conducting primary and secondary source research for research papers; and, proper MLA & APA source citation. In addition, students will regularly participate in Paideia seminars as well as in daily class discussions that utilize the Socratic method of questioning and response.
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