

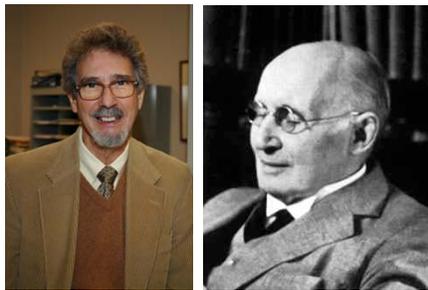
FALL 2007

PHIL 475: Process Philosophy

Pat Shade
Clough 402
Official Office Hours: 11:00-11:50 WF; 2-3 TR & by appt.
Unofficial Office Hours: I'm usually available 3-4 MW

Office: 3935; Home: 272-0401
Email: Shade@Rhodes.edu

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS: This class will be a relatively self-directed intensive exploration of secondary literature on Process Philosophy, especially in relation to Whitehead's metaphysics. Students are expected to develop personal projects and to supplement the shared readings when appropriate to further develop those projects.



JL Nobo

AN Whitehead

II. COURSE OUTLINE

A. Getting Started

1. John Dewey on Whitehead

B. Rewriting Process and Reality

1. J.L. Nobo's interpretation in *Whitehead's Metaphysics of Extension and Solidarity*

C. Extensions of Whitehead beyond metaphysics (if time permits)

1. Schilpp "Whitehead's Moral Philosophy" &/or Goheen "Whitehead's Theory of Value"
2. David Ray Griffin's *Whitehead's Radically Different Postmodern Philosophy: An Argument for Its Contemporary Relevance*

III. COURSE WORK:

Required Course Work:

- 20% Participation
- 30% minor paper
- 50% Major paper

A. Participation (20%): Since this is a seminar, *careful* preparation and *high quality* participation are vital to your learning and expected throughout the semester.

Participation: Discussion participation involves (i) carefully listening to, questioning, and responding to the views of others, and also (ii) contributing your own views, questions, and reactions to the readings and class discussion. I take note of the "ripple effect" of your comments; i.e., I consider whether your comments help advance our discussion. Contributions that respond to those of others or that elicit feedback from your classmates are especially valuable.

When determining your discussion participation grade, I look at the *quality* and *pattern* of your participation over the course of the semester. The *quality* of your work is gauged in terms of its (i)

clarity, (ii) **insight**, and (iii) **sophistication**. In assessing the *pattern* of your work, I look at (i) **consistency**, (ii) **effort**, and (iii) **improvement** and **progress** (or regress) you make in critically discussing materials throughout the semester.

Attendance: You are expected to attend all classes. If you must miss a class, you are responsible for all material covered and assignments distributed or collected. Since I consider attendance a factor of participation, I don't distinguish between "excused" and "unexcused" absences. (If you're not present, you can't contribute.) If you have more than 2 absences (which is the equivalent of 2 weeks), your prep/participation grade will drop 1/2 letter grade per additional day missed. Also, you are expected to contact me so we can discuss your attendance.

B. Papers (80%):

There will be 2 papers. The first will be a 5-7 page paper on the common text(s) we are reading. The second will be a longer paper (9-12 pages) on your own project. More details will be provided at the appropriate time.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS:

• **Grading Criteria:** See "Grading Criteria for Written Work" handout for specifics.

A	94 and up	B+	87-89	C+	77-79
A-	90-93	B	84-86	C	74-76
		B-	80-83	C-	70-73 etc.

• **Successful Classroom:** In our class everyone has a right to express a genuine observation, curiosity or criticism, but no one has a right to put one down. Respect towards all members of the class and to course content is the key. I work hard to generate a setting in which we can be honest and critical, but my efforts are futile without your individual contributions. Impediments to a successful classroom include tardiness, lethargy, excessive absences, and leaving the classroom before the end of the hour. We are biological creatures, but since we also have a certain mastery over our bodies, please take care of your biological needs before class.

• **Computer Component:** You are responsible for any notes, assignments, etc. that I send out via e-mail. In addition, you will be expected to check documents left on the Academic Volume. I will announce new documents which need to be read; if you are absent, you are responsible for reading these. If you're unfamiliar with computer use, please check with one of the computer staff; they'll be happy to help you.

• **Honor Code:** The Honor Code stipulates that *all* the work you submit is to be your own. You are encouraged to discuss topics and assignments with your colleagues, but the work you hand in must be your own, i.e., it must be formulated and written in your own words and style reflecting your own thoughtful treatment. If you have any questions about the Honor Code, please ask me.

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*****This syllabus is subject to revision (but don't worry; I'll discuss any changes with the class before I make them).*****

Our calendar is forthcoming.