INTEGRATION SEMINAR – Fall 2016
PHIL 5098-001 – Syllabus

Tom Krettek, S.J.
Class Hours: Wednesday 9:00—11:00 A.M.
Room: Collins 139
Office: Collins B27
Office Hours: TBD
Office Phone: 718-817-5896
Email: gkrettek@fordham.edu

Course Purpose: “The purpose of studies in the Society is apostolic” (NC 81).

Studies are aimed at helping Jesuits grow in their capacity to fulfill the mission of the Society of Jesus today: the service of faith, the promotion of justice, dialogue with cultures and religions.

Thus, the intellectual formation of Jesuits should provide them with the ability to
1.2.1. Analyze profoundly the complex and changing CONTEXTS of our mission;
1.2.2. Understand deeply the CONTENT of Catholic faith;
1.2.3. Acquire the ministerial COMPETENCIES needed to communicate the Gospel and to help make real the Kingdom of God in our world;
1.2.4. Appropriate the meaning and implications of the Jesuit CHARISM for life and mission.

First studies will focus on the CONTEXT of mission

The study of the CONTEXT of mission involves all that allows Jesuits:
2.1.1. To understand and appreciate the complexities of the human condition (arts and humanities)
2.1.2. To analyze structures and developments in society and culture, especially those that are relevant to faith, justice, religious pluralism, and ecological issues (social and natural sciences)
2.1.3. To understand, through an encounter with important texts, how thinkers and cultures have sought to respond to fundamental questions and dimensions of human and social existence
2.1.4. To acquire a method for continually reflecting on changing contexts of mission.

(From “The Intellectual Formation of Jesuit Brothers and Scholastics: Initial Formation”)

“The ‘habitus philosophicus’ which this time of studies enables us to acquire to some extent is more than ever necessary today. … In this context, philosophy offers itself as a means for understanding with greater clarity the nature and worth of aspirations for a new social and international order. The problems of justice and of human rights, dialogue between religions and cultures, the new ethical questions which loom up in a changing world, are so many challenges to human thought. … The service of faith also requires the contribution of philosophical discussion as an indispensable instrument to take up the challenge of a world wherein one confronts the loss of all sense of transcendence, the pretensions of totalitarian ideologies, or finally the reduction of religious values to meaninglessness.” (Fr. Kolvenbach, Letter on First Studies)

Course Goals: Introduce or reintroduce the Jesuit in First Studies to the discipline of philosophy in its relation to the Judeo-Christian and Greco-Roman background to the relation between Faith and Reason, Modernity and Post-modernity. Assist Jesuit students in developing a personal synthesis of their philosophical education that
prepares them for working in our mission of service of the faith that does justice and at the frontiers in dialogue with the natural sciences, social sciences, modern communications, other religions, and culture. Enable the Jesuit students to grasp some of the relationships between Faith and Reason and Philosophy and Theology. Read and analyze an original text in philosophy, which involve identifying, explaining the meaning of, assessing the truth of, and articulating the assumptions and consequences of the fundamental ideas presented. Respectfully assess and discuss the cogency of one's own and another's philosophical position.

**Schedule of Classes:**

- **August 31:** Introductory Material: SJ background; Context; Delicata, Sokolowski and Spitzer articles
- **September 14:** Woodhouse, *Preface to Philosophy* (Mainly chapters one through five, but familiarize yourself with the rest.)
- **September 21:** Allen, D. and Springsted, E.O., *Primary Readings in Philosophy for Understanding Theology*, “Plato” (Read “Creation” first, the “Sun, Line, Cave”) *Philosophy for Understanding Theology*, Introduction through Chapter 2 *Retrieving the Ancients* – Introduction and Chapters 1 and 2
- **September 28:** Allen, D. and Springsted, E.O., *Primary Readings in Philosophy for Understanding Theology*, “Aristotle” *Philosophy for Understanding Theology*, Chapters 4 and 5 *Retrieving the Ancients* – Chapters 3 and 4
*Philosophy for Understanding Theology*, Chapter 9  

*Philosophy for Understanding Theology*, Chapter 10  

*Philosophy for Understanding Theology*, Chapter 11  
The Modern Philosophical Revolution, Chapter 8

The Modern Philosophical Revolution, Chapters 4 & 5  

December 14: *Philosophy for Understanding Theology*, Chapter 12  
The Modern Philosophical Revolution – Chapters 6 and 7 and Epilogue  

December 21: Exam

**Texts:**

Allen, D. and Springsted, E.O., *Primary Readings in Philosophy for Understanding Theology*.  
Augustine, *Soliloquies*  
Galgan, G. *Logic of Modernity*  
Kreeft, Peter. *A Shorter Summa*  
Roochnik, David. *Retrieving the Ancients*  
Walsh, David. *The Modern Philosophical Revolution*  

**Handouts**

**Course Requirements:**

1. Attendance is required. More than three absences will result in a failing grade for the semester.  
2. Reading the Assignments and Participation (5%).  
3. Writing Exercises (50%).  
4. Papers (30%).  
5. Final Oral Exam (15%)