

Fitchburg State University
Introduction to Western Philosophy
PHIL 1000
Summer 2020
June 29 – July 31

Instructor: Dr. Yasser Derwiche Djazaerly
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Textbook:

John Cottingham (ed), *Western Philosophy: An Anthology*, second edition

Course Description:

This course introduces students to the ideas, arguments, and history of Western philosophy from antiquity to the twentieth century. The course examines how philosophers from different epochs and cultures dealt with ten topics (listed below) in philosophy. Using a comprehensive anthology, students will read, discuss, present, and write about how philosophers debated questions about the meaning of life, reality, human nature, God's existence, justice, reason, knowledge, and freedom (among others). In every session, there will be a lecture that introduces students to concepts, which will prepare them for reading the texts of the next session.

Course Goals:

1. Promote students' ability to think critically.
2. Engage students with the ideas and methods of prominent philosophers and help them evaluate their arguments.
3. Cultivate students' ability to undertake philosophical analysis, both orally and in writing.
4. Offer students a history of Western philosophical thought.
5. Relate texts to contemporary issues.

Course Format:

Lecture and discussion: Each session will lay out the arguments and discuss them with the students.

Daily Schedule:

Week 1

Monday	June 29	Knowledge and Certainty	Read pages: 3-20
Tuesday	June 30	Knowledge and Certainty	Read pages: 21-42
Wednesday	July 1	Being and Reality	Read pages: 69-90
Thursday	July 2	Being and Reality	Read pages: 102-126
Friday	July 3	Review and Discussion	

Week 2

Monday	July 6	Mind and Body First paper is due	Read pages: 203-235
Tuesday	July 7	Mind and Body	Read pages: 236-267
Wednesday	July 8	God and Religion	Read pages: 345-369
Thursday	July 9	God and Religion	Read pages: 370-404
Friday	July 10	Review and Discussion	

Week 3

Monday	July 13	Self and Freedom First Hour: Midterm Exam Second Hour: Lecture & Discussion	Read pages: 275-305
Tuesday	July 14	Self and Freedom	Read pages: 307-338
Wednesday	July 15	Authority and the State	Read pages: 623-652
Thursday	July 16	Authority and the State	Read pages: 653-689
Friday	July 17	Review and Discussion	

Week 4

Monday	July 20	Language and its Meaning Second paper is due	Read pages: 143-169
Tuesday	July 21	Language and its Meaning	Read pages: 170-196
Wednesday	July 22	Beauty and Art	Read pages: 695-722
Thursday	July 23	Beauty and Art	Read pages: 723-749
Friday	July 24	Review and Discussion	

Week 5

Monday	July 27	Morality and the Good Life	Read pages: 487-511
Tuesday	July 28	Morality and the Good Life	Read pages: 512-539
Wednesday	July 29	Human Life and its Meaning	Read pages: 765-789
Thursday	July 30	Human Life and its Meaning First hour: Lecture & discussion Second hour: Review	Read pages: 790-819
Friday	July 31	Final Exam	

Grading Policy:

Midterm	20%
Final Exam	25%
First Paper	15%
Second Paper	15%
First Presentation	5%
Second Presentation	10%
Participation	10%

Fitchburg State University Undergraduate Grading Policy

4.0	A	95 – 100
3.7	A-	92 – 94
3.5	A-/B+	89 - 91
3.3	B+	86 – 88
3.0	B	83 – 85
2.7	B-	80 – 82
2.5	B-/C+	77 – 79
2.3	C+	74 – 76
2.0	C	71 – 73
1.7	C-	69 – 70
1.5	C-/D+	67 – 68
1.3	D+	64 – 66
1.0	D	60 – 63
0.0	F	0 – 59
	IN	Incomplete
	IP	In Progress
	W	Withdrawn

Basis of Assessment:

Two Short Papers

In coordination with the instructor, students select two texts and write a short paper (4-5 pages) presenting and critically comparing the arguments of the texts.

Two Tests

There will be two test during the semester: a shorter test, a midterm, and a longer (non-cumulative) final.

Two Group Presentations

In order to help students develop their ability to present and discuss philosophical texts, students will do group presentations of a text. The first presentation will be in the **second week** and will be in groups of three students. The second presentation will be in groups of two students and will be in **fourth week**. Different groups have to select different texts.

Participation

Since the class will be conducted in lecture and discussion format, students are called upon to participate by asking and answering questions and expressing their views.

Attendance Policy:

Since this is an accelerated course, it is imperative that students attend all meetings. Students who miss more than three meetings could fail the course, depending on the reasons for their absences and their overall performance in the course. **Please do not use your cell phone in class.**

Academic Integrity Policy:

The faculty at Fitchburg State University require that work submitted in fulfillment of course requirements will be solely that of the individual student and all other sources will be cited appropriately. University Academic Integrity Policy, as outlined in the University Catalogue, will be strictly adhered to.

Policy on Disability:

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medication information, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment at the beginning of the course to talk with me.