



Shanghai University of Finance & Economics

2020 Summer Program

PHIL 101 Introduction to Philosophy

Course Outline

Term: June 01-July 03,2020

Course Code: PHIL 101

Instructor: D. Bruce Carter, Ph.D.

Home Institution: Syracuse University

Office Hours: TBA and by appointment

Email: dbcarter@syr.edu

Credits: 4

Course Description:

This Introduction to Philosophy course is a survey of many major areas of some European (and some non-European) forms of philosophy. We will explore the philosophy of science, of mind, of religion, and of language and will examine metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, and philosophical approaches to questions about the nature of the world, knowledge, and ways of knowing. We will explore questions that matter to our lives, and how philosophers from a variety of perspectives have responded to these issues. We will analyze arguments for and against the existence of God, utilize logical systems of thought, and employ logical arguments and empirical evidence to evaluate arguments.

Course Learning Outcomes

Students, at the end of this course, will be able to:

- 1) Identify major philosophical perspectives and approaches to questions that have arisen over time regarding the nature of reality, of truth, of good, and the qualities of human beings.
- 2) Recognize connections and influences among various philosophical perspectives.
- 3) Employ logical skills
- 4) Argue for and against ethical claims and positions



Required Textbooks:

Wolff, R. P. (2012). *About Philosophy* (11th Ed.). New York, NY USA: Pearson Publishing. (ISBN-10: 0205194125 (Available as a Kindle E-Book) (May be rented or purchased online)

Useful web sites: The following general websites for Philosophy are useful:

Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy <http://www.utm.edu/research/iep>

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy <http://plato.stanford.edu>

Writing in Philosophy

<http://www.chass.utoronto.ca:8080/philosophy/phlwrite/index.html> The American

Philosophical Association Online <http://www.udel.edu/apa>

Required Assignments & Assessment

| Assignment | Percent of Grade |
|--|------------------|
| Weekly Quizzes (15% each) | 60% |
| Philosophical Exercises/Debates (4 at 7.5% each) | 30% |
| Attendance | 10% |
| TOTAL | 100% |

Grade Policy

| Grade | Percent | GPA |
|-------|---------|---------|
| A | 90-100 | 4.0-5.0 |
| B | 80-89 | 3.0-3.9 |
| C | 70-79 | 2.0-2.9 |
| D | 60-69 | 1.0-1.9 |
| F | <60 | 0 |



Assignments

1. **Quizzes**- I will administer a quiz every week in the course. These weekly quizzes will be a way to check your learning of the material in the text and lecture. Each quiz will cover the material for that week in the course. There is no opportunity for make-ups because of the tight schedule.
2. **Philosophical Exercises**- On the second day of class we will assign students to debate particular questions or issues. The material for debates are in your text under Contemporary Applications. Half the class (Group 1) will be assigned to debating the issue of the odd-numbered chapter in the first week (i.e., chapter 1); the other half of the class (Group 2) will debate the issue in the even-numbered chapter (i.e., Chapter 2) on Thursday. In the second week, the assignment will switch so that Group 2 will be assigned the odd-numbered chapter and debate on Tuesday; Group 1 will debate the even-numbered chapter on Thursday. Each group will be randomly divide in half for purposes of the debate. The questions/issues will be related to topics being discussed in class; associated readings are at the end of each chapter in the “Contemporary Application” section. and the debates will be based on perspectives presented in the textbook. Each student will participate in four debates (either Tuesday or Thursday of each week). You may coordinate your debate points with your debate partners.
3. **Attendance**- Attendance means showing up to class, paying attention and participating in classroom discussions. Sleeping in class, being distracted or inattentive, etc. may cause you to lose attendance points even if you are present.

Weekly Reading Assignments & Daily Lecture Schedule*

Course Schedule

Week 1: Philosophy, Epistemology, and Pragmatism (Chapters 1 & 2)

Introduction to the field of Philosophy (Chapter 1)

Human Nature and the Universe; Exercise 1: Heidegger & Naziism

Theories of knowledge: Rationalism & Empiricism (Chapter 2)

Unity of Consciousness and the Emergence of Epistemology; Exercise 2:

The Status of Plagiarism; Quiz 1

Discussion 1



Week 2: Understanding ourselves & the universe (Chapters 3 & 4)

Metaphysics defined and explored (and what is materialism anyway?)

Free will, determinism & mid-body dualism

Exercise 3: Virtual & non-virtual reality

Philosophy of science- Method & applications

Paradigms & paradigm shifts; Exercise 4: The Evolutionary Debate; Quiz 2

Discussion 2

Week 3: Ethics & Applied Ethics (Chapter 5 & 6)

The varieties of ethical theory (Chapter 5)

Applied ethics: Medical Model;

Exercise 5: Ethical dimensions of contemporary issues (Group 1)

Liberalism, Socialism, Capitalism & the Social Contract (Chapter 6); Quiz 3

Discussion 3

Week 4: Human Endeavors (Chapter 7)

Social contracts and obligations; Exercise 6: Is health care a right

Philosophy of Art & Poetry (Chapter 7)

Marcuse, Danto & the World of Art

Exercise 7: What is Art?; Quiz 4

Discussion 4

Week 5: Divine Endeavors (Chapter 8)

Philosophy of Religion & Faith

Does God exist?

Arguments for God & the Problem of Evil;

Exercise 8: Science & Religion; Quiz 5

Discussion 5

***NOTE: This syllabus is subject to change. All changes will be announced in class.**



CLASS POLICIES

Academic Honesty: The University and the faculty are committed to academic integrity in all its practices. Activities that violate academic integrity undermine the quality and diminish the value of educational achievement and are treated seriously. Cheating on papers, tests or other academic works is a violation of College rules. No student shall engage in behavior that, in the judgment of the instructor of the class, may be construed as cheating. This may include, but is not limited to, plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty such as acquisition without permission of tests or other academic materials and/or distribution of these materials and other academic work. Students who aid and abet as well as those who attempt such behavior will be treated similarly.

Attendance Policy: You are expected to attend class unless you are ill or there is a crisis in your family. Prolonged illness or a pattern of frequent absences can jeopardize your grade. In the case of an absence, it is the student's responsibility to gather class notes from other students. You are encouraged to be on time to class since being tardy can be disruptive to others in the class.

Missed/Late Assignments: Assignments are due on the date listed. Without prior approval from the instructor, no late assignments will be accepted.

Mobile Phones, Computers, & Audio-Recording the Class: (1) You may NOT use your phone during class (for calling or texting). You may use your phones in our classroom *before* class starts. However, turn your phone off until class is complete. (2) Please do not use computers unless directed to do so. A recent study shows that you and your classmates will not do as well in the course if you use computers in class. Feel free to record any part of class if you feel that would be useful.

Civility Policy: Because the classroom is a community of scholars engaged in the pursuit of knowledge, I fully expect every student in this class student to engage in civil and respectful behavior toward one another, including issues where there may be disagreement. Anyone who disrupts the community by their words or actions will be asked to leave the class.



PHIL 101 Supplemental Readings

Summer 2020

Week 1

Introduction to the field of philosophy

Solomon, R. C., Higgins, K. M., & Martin, C. (2016). Introduction. *Introducing Philosophy: A text with associated readings* (pp. 1-23). New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Theories of knowledge.

Plato *Republic* (*Politeia* c. 380 BCE). Bk V, 171b-483e. Trans. B. Jowett (1892), in *The Dialogues of Plato* (Oxford: Clarendon, vol. III, pp. 171-179. In J. Cottingham (Ed.), *Western Philosophy: An Anthology* (pp. 12-18). Malden, MA USA: Blackwell Publishing.

Descartes, R. *Meditations on First Philosophy* [*Meditationes de prima philosophia, 1641*], *Meditation I and part of II*. Trans J. Cottingham (1986), Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. In J. Cottingham (Ed.), *Western Philosophy: An Anthology* (pp. 21-25). Malden, MA USA: Blackwell Publishing.

Week 2

Metaphysics

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Plato *Republic* [*Politeia*, c. 380 BCE], 507b1-517c6. B. Jowett (Trans), *The Dialogues of Plato*, vol. III, pp. 207-217. Oxford, UK: Clarendon. . In J. Cottingham (ed.), *Western Philosophy: An Anthology* (pp. 69-75). 2nd Ed. Malden, MA USA: Blackwell Publishing.

Aristotle, *Categories* [*Kategoriai*, ca. 330 BCE], ch. 5 (2a11-4b19). J. L. Akrill (Trans), pp. 5-12. Oxford, UK: Clarendon. . In J. Cottingham (ed.), *Western Philosophy: An Anthology* (pp. 76-79). 2nd Ed. Malden, MA USA: Blackwell Publishing.

Descartes, R. "Supreme Being and Created Things". *Principles of Philosophy* [*Principia Philosophiae*, 1644]. J. Cottingham, R. Stoothoff, & D. Murdoch (1985, Trans.). In *The Philosophical Writings of Descartes* (pp. 210-211, 215, 223-225, 232, 240, 247). Vol I. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. In J. Cottingham (ed.), *Western Philosophy: An Anthology* (pp. 80-86). 2nd Ed. Malden, MA USA: Blackwell Publishing.

Carnap, R. (1932). The elimination of metaphysics through logical analysis of language



(*Überwindung der Metaphysik durch Logische Analyse der Sprache*). First published in *Erkenntnis*, vol II. Arthur Pap (Trans.). In A. J. Ayer (ed.), *Logical Positivism* (pp. 60-80). New York, NY USA: Free Press. . In J. Cottingham (ed.), *Western Philosophy: An Anthology* (pp. 121-126). 2nd Ed. Malden, MA USA: Blackwell Publishing.

Philosophy of Science

Hempel, C. G. (1962). Explanation in science and in history. In R. G. Colodny (Ed.), *Frontiers of Science and Philosophy* (pp 7-33). Pittsburgh, PA USA: University of Pittsburgh Press. In J. Cottingham (ed.), *Western Philosophy: An Anthology* (pp. 460-468). 2nd Ed. Malden, MA USA: Blackwell Publishing.

Popper, K. (1957). Science: Conjectures and refutations. In C. A. Mace (Ed.), *British Philosophy in Mid-Century*. London UK: Routledge. In J. Cottingham (ed.), *Western Philosophy: An Anthology* (pp. 453-459). 2nd Ed. Malden, MA USA: Blackwell Publishing.

Kuhn, T. (1962). *The structure of scientific revolutions* (pp. 10-11, 64-65, 76-77, 81-83, 93-95, 112, 117-118). Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press. In J. Cottingham (ed.), *Western Philosophy: An Anthology* (pp. 475-481). 2nd Ed. Malden, MA USA: Blackwell Publishing.

Week 3

Ethics and Applied Ethics

Plato. *Republic* (*Politeia* c. 380 BCE). Bk II, 357b2-367c5-483e. Trans. B. Jowett (1892), in *The Dialogues of Plato* (Oxford: Clarendon, vol. III, pp. 36-47. In J. Cottingham (Ed.), *Western Philosophy: An Anthology* (pp. 487-492). Malden, MA USA: Blackwell Publishing.

Aristotle. *Nichomean Ethics* [*Ethika Nikomacheia*, ca. 325 BCE]. Extracts from Bk I, ch. 7 and Bk II, chs 1, 5, and 6 (1097b21-1098a18, 1103a16-b25, 1105b19-1107 a8). In J. Cottingham (Ed.), *Western Philosophy: An Anthology* (pp. 492-495). Malden, MA USA: Blackwell Publishing.

Leopold, A. (1949). The Land Ethic. From A. Leopold, *A Sand Country Almanac and Sketches Here and There*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, pp. 201-226 (abridged). In J. Cottingham (Ed.), *Western Philosophy: An Anthology* (pp. 585-590). Malden, MA USA: Blackwell Publishing.



Kass, L. R. (1997). The wisdom of repugnance. *The New Republic*, 2 June 1997, 17-26 abridged. In J. Cottingham (Ed.), *Western Philosophy: An Anthology* (pp. 608-616). Malden, MA USA: Blackwell Publishing.

Rachels, J. (1975). Active and passive euthanasia. *New England Journal of Medicine*, 78-80. In J. Cottingham (Ed.), *Western Philosophy: An Anthology* (pp. 602-607). Malden, MA USA: Blackwell Publishing.

Week 4

Philosophy of Art and Poetry

Satre, J-P. (1950). The Psychology of Imagination. [From L'iminaire: Psychologie phenomenologique de l'imagination [1940], pp. 21-27. London UK: Rider. In J. Cottingham (Ed.), *Western Philosophy: An Anthology* (pp. 739-744). Malden, MA USA: Blackwell Publishing.

Wittgenstein, L. (1938). Exerpts from Lectures on Aesthetics. In L. Wittgenstein, *Lectures and conversations on aesthetics, psychology and religious belief* (Ed. C. Barrett). Oxford, UK: Blackwell. In J. Cottingham (Ed.), *Western Philosophy: An Anthology* (pp. 744-749). Malden, MA USA: Blackwell Publishing.

Sibley, F. (1959). Aesthetic concepts. *Philosophical Review*, 68, 421-450. In J. Cottingham (Ed.), *Western Philosophy: An Anthology* (pp. 750-755). Malden, MA USA: Blackwell Publishing.

Philosophy of Religion and Faith

Pascal, B. (ca. 1660). *Pensees*. (J. Cottingham, Trans.). In J. Cottingham (Ed.), *Western Philosophy: An Anthology* (pp. 778-782). Malden, MA USA: Blackwell Publishing.

Shopenhauer. "On the vanity of existence." From A. Shopenhauer, *Parega und Paralipomena*(1851), vol. II, ch. 2. (T. B. Saunders, Trans). In J. Cottingham (Ed.), *Western Philosophy: An Anthology* (pp. 782-785). Malden, MA USA: Blackwell Publishing.

Russell, B. (1903). A Free Man's Worship. Reprinted in Russell, *Collected Papers*, vol. 12. In J. Cottingham (Ed.), *Western Philosophy: An Anthology* (pp. 790-796). Malden, MA USA: Blackwell Publishing.



Craig, W. L. (1984). The absurdity of life without God. From W. L. Craig (1984), *Reasonable Faith, Christian Truth and Apologetics* (pp. 57-75). In J. Cottingham (Ed.), *Western Philosophy: An Anthology* (pp. 809-814). Malden, MA USA: Blackwell Publishing.

Nozick, R. (1989). Philosophy's Life. From R. Nozick, *The Examined Life*, chp 26 (pp. 297-302). In J. Cottingham (Ed.), *Western Philosophy: An Anthology* (pp. 815-819). Malden, MA USA: Blackwell Publishing.