

**California State University, Sacramento**

**2020 Winter Program**

**PHIL 101 Introduction to Philosophy**

**Course Outline**

**Course Code: PHIL 101**

**Class Hours: ONLINE**

**Instructor: D. Bruce Carter, Ph.D.**

**Home Institution: Syracuse University**

**Office Hours: TBA and by appointment**

**Email: dbcarter@syr.edu**

**Credit: 3**

**Required Textbook**

Wolff, R. P. (2012). *About Philosophy* (11<sup>th</sup> 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>

**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

Assignment	Points total	Percent of Grade
4 Unit Quizzes (on SchoolIn; 40 points each)	160 points	80%
Video Responses (10 points per Response)	40 points	20%
Total	200 points	100%

### Grade Grade Points

A	4.0
A-	3.7
B+	3.3
B	3.0
B-	2.7
C+	2.3
C	2.0
C-	1.7
D+	1.3
D	1.0
D-	0.7
F	0.0

### Assignments

1. **Quizzes**- I will administer a quiz at the end of each unit. These quizzes will be a way to check your learning of the material in the text and lecture. Each quiz will cover the material covered in class and in readings that week. Each quiz is worth 20% of your grade in the course. Exams will be administered online.
2. **Video Response**- Each week you will be shown a video as one of your lectures. The video will present information that is part of what is being discussed in class that week. The Videos are labelled "Video 1," "Video 2," etc. in the schedule. Your task is to write a one page typed, double-spaced response to the video. You may express agreement or disagreement with one or more of the points the speaker made in the video. OR you can relate the material in the video to something that is happening currently in the world or in your society today. OR you can present your own ideas about the topic discussed in the video. You may watch the video any time during the week the topic is discussed but you must send your response during that week (that is, by the Saturday EDST at the end of the

week) to me attached to an email message. My email address is [dbcarter@syr.edu](mailto:dbcarter@syr.edu) . I will grade your response on a 0 (no response) to 10 (excellent response) scale.

3. **Attendance**- This course is online so there is no in-person attendance.

### **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:** Because this course is online, there is no attendance policy. However, you are expected to listen to the online lectures, participate in the online discussions, and complete all assignments.

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

**Time Zone:** The official time zone for this course is **EASTERN DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME** (New York, NY time). Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) is 4 hours ahead of EDST; China Standard Time is 12 hours ahead of EDST. So 09:00 EDST is 21:00 China Standard Time the same day; 21:00 EDST is 09:00 the following day (Thursday night in New York is Friday morning in Taipei and Beijing). So, if an assignment is due by 10 PM (22:00) EDST then it is due by 10:00 in Beijing/Taipei.

#### **Reading Assignments & Lecture Schedule\***

**(NOTE: Each chapter or topic may have more than 2 lectures associated with it)**

**View ALL lectures in order**

### **Course Schedule**

#### **UNIT 1: Philosophy, Epistemology, and Pragmatism (Chapter 1 & 2)**

- 1 Course Overview & syllabus; Introduction to the field of Philosophy (Chapter 1)
- 2 The beginnings of philosophical inquiry
- 3 Theories of knowledge: Rationalism & Empiricism (Chapter 2)
- 4 The Emergence of Epistemology and Mind Body Dualism
- 5 Video 1: Noam Chomsky & the application of Rationalism
- 6 Quiz 1

#### **UNIT 2: Understanding ourselves & the universe (Chapters 3 & 4)**

- 7 Metaphysics defined and explored (and what is materialism anyway?; Chapter 3)
- 8 Free will, determinism & mind-body dualism
- 9 Philosophy of science- Method & applications (Chapter 4)
- 10 Paradigms & paradigm shifts
- 11 Video 2: Reality and the Brain
- 12 Quiz 2

#### **UNIT 3: Ethics & Applied Ethics (Chapter 5 & 6)**

- 13 The varieties of ethical theory (Chapter 5)
- 14 Utilitarian & other ethical theories
- 15 Liberalism, Socialism, Capitalism & the Social Contract (Chapter 6);

- 16 Capitalism & the Social Contract
- 17 Video 3: Ethical dimensions in Scientific Research: The Tuskegee Experiment
- 18 Quiz 3
- UNIT 4: Human & Divine Endeavors (Chapters 7 & 8)**
- 19 Philosophy of Art & Poetry (Chapter 7)
- 20 Marcuse, Danto & the World of Art
- 21 Philosophy of Religion & Faith (Chapter 8)
- 22 Arguments for God & the Problem of Evil
- 23 Video 4: The Debate on God
- 24 Quiz 4

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

### **PHI 101 Supplemental Readings**

#### **Unit 1 Introduction to the field of philosophy & Theories of knowledge.**

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.

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.

#### **Unit 2 Metaphysics & Philosophy of Science**

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). 2<sup>nd</sup> 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). 2<sup>nd</sup> 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). 2<sup>nd</sup> 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). 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. Malden, MA USA: Blackwell Publishing.

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). 2<sup>nd</sup> 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). 2<sup>nd</sup> 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). 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. Malden, MA USA: Blackwell Publishing.

### **Unit 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.

### **Unit 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.

### **Unit 5 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.