



National Taiwan University of Science and Technology

2021 Summer Program

PHIL 101 Introduction to Philosophy

Course Outline

Term: June 14-July 09, 2021

Class Hours: 16:00-17:50 (Monday through Friday)

Course Code: PHIL 101

Instructor: Prof. Patton E. Burchett

Home Institution: The College of William & Mary

Office Hours: TBA and by appointment

Email: peburchett@wm.edu

Credit: 4

Course Description:

This course offers a broad introduction to major philosophical debates about the nature of reality, the possibility and limits of knowledge, the nature of the mind (and its relationship to the body), personal identity, moral theory, and ethical choice. In the course, students will engage in meaningful contemplation on their own assumptions about the nature of reality, knowledge, and values as they relate to the pursuit of a good life. Through primary sources (writings of major philosophical thinkers throughout history), students will learn to navigate the forms of reasoning philosophers employ in addressing questions about reality, knowledge, selfhood, and the good life.

Required Textbooks:

Rosen, Gideon, et al. 2018. The Norton Introduction to Philosophy. 2nd Edition. W.W. Norton. ISBN: 978-0-393-63146-3. You may use either the e-book or the paperback of this text.



Any additional readings will be provided in form of PDFs uploaded to the course website.

Course Requirements & Grading:

- **Class Participation & Attendance (20%)**

Student-driven discussions and activities will constitute a key component of this class, thus class attendance, preparation, and participation are absolutely essential.

- **Comparative Analysis & Reflection Papers (30%) [2 x 15% each]**

Two 2-3 page single-spaced analysis-reflection papers on topics/questions to be specified prior to the assignment. In these, I look, most importantly, for genuine personal engagement with, analysis of, and reflection upon the course material.

In grading these I will consider, most importantly (1) degree of personal engagement with ideas in readings and lecture, (2) correctness of explanations of concepts discussed in class and readings, and (3) comparative analysis of at least two authors positions, and (4) logical argumentation of one's own position on the issue/topic at hand.

- **Midterm Exam (20%)**

Will consist of identification (of key terms), short answer, and short essay questions. Study guide and list of terms will be distributed ahead of time.

- **Final Exam (30%)**

Cumulative exam involving multiple choice, matching, identification, and essay questions. Study guide will be distributed ahead of time.

Course Policies:

- **Punctuality.** Please come to class on time. Entering class more than a couple minutes late is very disruptive and will result in deductions to your attendance and participation grade.
- **Attendance.** An attendance roster will be passed around each class. You are allowed two unexcused absences. All other unexcused absences will result in hefty deductions to your participation grade.
- **Illnesses.** Absences due to illness can be excused, but a make-up assignment is required.
- **Religious Observances.** Absences for religious observances will be excused (pending completion of a make-up assignment); however, it is the responsibility of each student to inform me ahead of time of any religious observances that conflict with classes or other required academic activities.
- **Make-up assignments.** All absences will be excused only if a make-up assignment is submitted. The standard make-up assignment is a 1-2 page single-spaced summary of, and response to, the assigned readings for the class day missed. Make-up assignments must be emailed in to me within one week of the missed class day.



- Academic Integrity. At all times, the work you submit must be solely your own, with all sources properly cited. Instances of cheating or plagiarism will have severe consequences. Plagiarism occurs when a student, with intent to deceive or with reckless disregard for proper scholarly procedures, presents any information, ideas, or phrasing of another as if they were his or her own and does not give appropriate credit to the original source.
- Communication. Throughout this course, I expect you to keep lines of communication open with me. You can always come and talk to me so that we can try to make reasonable arrangements to accommodate any adverse circumstances you may be facing.
- Grading Policy. A 93 – 100%; A- 90 – 92.9%; B+ 87 – 89.9%; B 83 – 86.9%; B- 80 – 82.9%; C 73-76.9%; C- 70 – 72.9%; D+ 67 – 69.9%; D 64 – 66.9%; D- 60 – 63.9; F below 60

Course Schedule:

Week 1

Mon Introduction to Course: The Value of Philosophy

Rosen, et al., The Norton Introduction to Philosophy, pp. xxvii-li (“Getting Started”)

Bertrand Russell, “The Value of Philosophy” [5pp]

Tue Philosophy of Religion: On Belief, Faith, & Rationality

Rosen, et al., The Norton Introduction to Philosophy, Chptr 2, pp. 63-106

Intro, Pascal, Hajek, Clifford, & James readings

Wed Epistemology I: Knowledge of Self & Others

Rosen, et al., The Norton Introduction to Philosophy, Chptr 5, pp. 211-233

Intro, Russell, Kripke, & Merleau-Ponty readings

Thu Epistemology II: Knowledge of the External World

Rosen, et al., The Norton Introduction to Philosophy, Chptr 6, pp. 259-278

Intro, Descartes, & Hume readings

Fri TA-Led Discussion Session; Analysis-Reflection Paper #1 Due

Week 2

Mon The Nature of Mind I

Rosen, et al., The Norton Introduction to Philosophy, Chptr 7, pp. 307-332

Intro, Descartes, Elisabeth of Bohemia, & Arnauld readings

Tue The Nature of Mind II

Rosen, et al., The Norton Introduction to Philosophy, Chptr 7, pp. 333-350

Ryle, Smart, & Searle readings

Wed What Is Consciousness? I

Rosen, et al., The Norton Introduction to Philosophy, Chptr 8, pp. 351-383

Intro, Nagel, & Jackson readings



Thu What Is Consciousness? II

Rosen, et al., The Norton Introduction to Philosophy, Chptr 8, pp. 384-409

Chalmers & Tye readings

Fri TA-Led Discussion Session; Review Session

Week 3

Mon Midterm Exam

Tue What is the Right Thing to Do?

Rosen, et al., The Norton Introduction to Philosophy, Chptr 14, pp. 671-696, 714-732

Intro, Singer, O'Neill, Harman, & Diamond readings

Wed Moral Theory I: Utilitarianism and Kantian Ethics

Rosen, et al., The Norton Introduction to Philosophy, Chptr 16, pp. 784-812

Intro, Mill, & Kant readings

Thu Moral Theory II: Aristotle, Virtue Ethics, & Nietzsche

Rosen, et al., The Norton Introduction to Philosophy, , Chptr 16, pp. 813-843

Aristotle, Hursthouse, & Nietzsche readings

Fri TA-Led Discussion Session; Analysis-Reflection Paper #2 Due

Week 4

Mon The Meaning of Life I

Rosen, et al., The Norton Introduction to Philosophy, Chptr 19, pp. 973-995

Intro, Taylor, & Wolf readings

Tue The Meaning of Life II

Rosen, et al., The Norton Introduction to Philosophy, Chptr 19, pp. 996-1020

Nagel & Scheffler readings

Wed Philosophy of Race & Gender I

Rosen, et al., The Norton Introduction to Philosophy, Chptr 12, pp. 543-570

Intro, Appiah, & Haslanger readings

Thu Philosophy of Race & Gender II // Review Session

Rosen, et al., The Norton Introduction to Philosophy, Chptr 12, pp. 571-594

Spencer & Barnes readings

Fri Final Exam