



**Shih Chien University**

**STP Program (July 01-Aug 02)**

**PHIL 100 Foundations of Philosophy**

**Course Outline**

**Course Code: PHIL 100**

**Instructor: TBA**

**Home Institution: TBA**

**Office Hours: TBA**

**Email: TBA**

**Credits: 4**

**Class Hours:**

This course will have 144 class hours, including 50 lecture hours, professor 30 office hours, 20-hour TA discussion sessions, 10-hour review sessions, 34-hour extra classes.

**Course Description:**

This Introduction to Philosophy course is a survey of many major areas of some European (and some Asian) forms of philosophy. Philosophy, for this course, is characterized as the fundamental inquiry into assumptions and presuppositions of any subject. In this course, students will reflect on philosophical issues through readings, debates, discussions, analyses, and critical writings in order to develop the analytical skills needed to effectively evaluate arguments and to think critically and independently.

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 philosophical issues in ethics, epistemology, metaphysics, social, and political philosophy, questions that matter to our lives, and how philosophers from a variety of perspectives

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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. We will engage philosophical issues that touch human existence in the global context. Although the majority of our readings are from an Anglo-European perspective, there are significant readings from other traditions.

### **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. These philosophical questions and the varied answers that have resulted from philosophers' examination of them will be reviewed, discussed and critiqued from the perspectives offered by the field of philosophy. Questions and approaches we cover will include those arising from metaphysics, rationalism, nativism, epistemology, holism vs. dualism, ethical theories, and utilitarianism, feminist perspectives, justice and other non-traditional and non-western theories and perspectives;
- 2) **Recognize connections and influences among various philosophical perspectives.** Students will be exposed to the historical arc of philosophical perspectives and will be made aware of the contributions of individual philosophers and the traditions from which their perspectives arise;
- 3) **Employ logical skills:** Students will be exposed to traditional formal logic and rhetoric and will demonstrate their understanding of the nature of reasoning, will learn to articulate thoughts in a logical fashion, to recognize fallacies, to construct strong arguments, and to evaluate deductive and inductive arguments.
- 4) **Argue for and against ethical claims and positions:** Students will acquire knowledge and the rhetorical skills necessary to express reasons in support of a moral claim, explain the differences between acts being morally permissible versus morally necessary.

### **Required Course Materials:**

Solomon, R. C., Higgins, K. M., & Martin, C. (2016). *Introducing Philosophy:*

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*A text with integrated readings*. 11<sup>th</sup> Edition. New York, NY USA; Oxford University Press.

Other materials will be made available in electronic format

**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>

The Bertrand Russell Society <http://www.users.drew.edu/~jlenz/brs.html>

**Grading & Evaluation:**

Assignment	Points total	Percent of Grade
5 Unit Quizzes (40 points each)	200 points	50%
Discussion	50 points	12.5%
Video Responses (10 points per Response)	50 points	12.5%
Papers (20 points per Resonse)	100 points	25%
Total	400 points	100%

**Grading System (1 ~ 100):**

Quality Points	Grade	Percentage %
4	A	80-100
3	B	70-79
2	C	60-69
1	D	50-59
0	E	0-49

**Assignments**

1. **Exams**- Structure of the midterm and final exam will be discussed in class. The midterm will cover material in the Introduction, Chapters 1-4, and the lectures to date. The final exam will cover material in Chapters 5-9 and

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lectures since the midterm. There is no opportunity for make-ups because of the tight schedule.

2. **Quizzes**- I will administer a quiz each week in class. Each quiz will cover both readings and lectures covered in the preceding week. Quizzes are a way to check your learning of the material in the text and lecture.
3. **Written Assignments**- Students will write papers totaling 6000 words (24 pages, double-spaced) across the semester.
  - a. **Video Response Papers**- Each week students will write a 2 page (500 word; double-spaced 12 point font) essay response to the video presentation for that week. Please present your response to the video presentation and the philosophical or ethical problem presented in the video. Students should summarize the important ideas in the video and their responses (agreements and disagreements plus rationale for your position) in the two pages.
  - b. **Philosophical Readings Review** – I will distribute Critical Thinking questions for class discussion in on Fridays weekly in class. Each student will be graded for these activities. Each week, students will write a 4 page (double-spaced, 12-point font) response to the philosophical “question of the week.” The questions will be distributed separately as assignments. Students should integrate both lecture and reading materials into their response to the question. Your own opinions will be important in this assignment-how do you feel about the questions and the issues raised in the readings and other materials. The Critical Thinking questions will be the basis for these papers.
4. **Attendance**- This course is online so there is no in-person attendance. Please ignore the instructions in the lectures about “secret words.” We are not using those this term.

#### **STATEMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

Students who require academic accommodations due to any physical, psychological, or learning disability are encouraged to request assistance from a disability services counselor within the first two weeks of class. Likewise, students who potentially require emergency medical attention due to any chronic health condition are encouraged to disclose this information to a disability services counselor within the first two weeks of class.

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## **Academic Honesty**

The college is committed to academic integrity in all its practices. The faculty value intellectual integrity and a high standard of academic conduct.

Activities that violate academic integrity undermine the quality and diminish the value of educational achievement. 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. This includes students who aid and abet as well as those who attempt such behavior.

## **Missed/Late Assignments:**

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

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

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

## **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 Discussion & 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)

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- 10 Paradigms & paradigm shifts
- 11 Discussion & 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 Discussion & Video 3: Ethics in Scientific Research: The Tuskegee Experiment
- 18 Quiz 3

### **UNIT 4: Human Endeavors (Chapters 7)**

- 19 Philosophy of Art & Poetry (Chapter 7)
- 20 Marcuse, Danto & the World of Art
- 21 Visual Art vs. other forms of art
- 23 Discussion & Video 4: What is art and the philosophy of art?
- 24 Quiz 4

### **UNIT 5: DIVINE ENDEAVORS & QUESTIONS (Chapter 8)**

- 25 Philosophy of Religion & Faith (Chapter 8)
- 26 Arguments for God & the Problem of Evil
- 27 Why did religion develop
- 23 Discussion & Video 5: The Debate on God
- 24 Quiz 5

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

*\*As the instructor I maintain the right to modify and change the lecture schedule as needed. The chapters and topics are listed to guide **your** reading schedule. I may alter the lectures and/or discussions based on student feedback and performance in class. Exams and assignments will occur as scheduled in the syllabus even if modifications have been made to the overall schedule.*