

Introduction to Philosophy I Syllabus

PHI 2010, 2017 summer, June 26 - July 28

Course & Faculty Information

Lecturer: Dr. Tiffany L. Traylor

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Time: Monday through Friday (1.8 contact hours each day)

Contact hour: 45 hours

Credit: 3

Office hours: By Appointment

Course Description

The course covers the study of fundamental philosophical problems and concepts. Speculation about limits of human understanding, value judgments, foundations of morality and speculation about the existence of God will be covered in order to present students with the tools for constructing their own philosophy.

We are going to examine, analyze, question, and think critically about all the fundamental questions of the world and the human condition. We will laugh, we will think until our brains hurt, we will go a bit crazy at times questioning everything, but by the end; we will become philosophers!! ☺

Textbook Information

Author: Donald Abel

Title: Fifty Readings in Philosophy

Publisher: McGraw Hill

Publication Date: 2011

ISBN: 978-0073535807

Edition: 4

There will also be additional mandatory supplementary reading material for this course. All supplementary materials will be either distributed or easily accessible online.

Measurable Course Objectives

Measurable Course Objectives are outcomes students are expected to achieve by the end of the course.

- Discuss philosophical concepts and values relative to a specific philosopher.
- Show how a specific philosopher's theory is manifested in present society.
- Cite and interpret the masterworks from the tradition of philosophy focusing on a specific philosopher or topic.
- Compile papers with appropriate composition skills.
- Prepare a personal philosophical profile including psychology, epistemology, ethics and metaphysics, based on a specific philosopher.

Collegewide Student Learning Outcomes

The Collegewide Student Learning Outcomes assessed and reinforced in this course include the following:

- Communication
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy
- Global Sociocultural Responsibility

Key assignments (graded work) and important things you should note!!

This is a reading heavy course, each week you will be given a reading assignment (see schedule below). Your ability to contribute to the class discussions and successfully pass your weekly test, will be based on having read the material, thus it behooves you to do so.

End of week Testing: There will be a total of 4 test for this course. Each test will be given at the end of weeks 1-4 on Friday. Each test will be related to assigned readings and in-class lectures for the given week. **Each test is worth 50 points for a total of 200 points.**

Formal Paper: Over the course of the semester, you will receive **1 formal writing assignment**. The paper will be approx. 5-7 pages. More details on this paper will be provided later in the semester. **This paper is worth 100 points.**

- All Formal papers must be submitted through turn it in on Canvas.
- Also, please note that I never accept late papers. Therefore, get them in on time and make sure the file opens properly.
- Finally, feel free to turn in a hard copy as well to assure that your paper is received.

Journal assignments: Throughout this 5-week course, I will give various written thought activities related to philosophy or the skills involved in doing philosophy (critical thinking, problem solving, analyzing, developing arguments, etc.) These journaling activities will have varying point values; however, the final total of all completed journal assignments will equal **50 points**.

Final Exam: There will be one final exam at the end of our final week (week 5).
Please note: Any student with a perfect 100% or higher in my course at the time of the final exam, will be exempt from taking the final. My way of rewarding you for excellence!! **This exam is cumulative and worth 100 points**.

End of semester Group presentation in preparation for final exam is worth 35 points; the details of this assignment will be explained later in the semester. Everyone must be present for both the preparation and the presentation day to be granted points. Please see the dates above. **If you will not be available to join a group on the day groups are selected, it will be your responsibility to talk to classmates beforehand and join a group. However, everyone must be present on the day of presentations and must have contributed to the group presentation to receive credit.**

Finally, **Participation is big in my course, worth up to 15 points

****Please note that participating consist of more than simply sitting quietly and being present.**

****Rubric for participation goes as follows:**

- Never heard your voice and I have no idea who you are = 0
- You spoke a couple of times and I can somewhat remember you = 5
- You participate often and I may forget your name sometimes but I know your face and can easily recall that you speak at least once a week = 10
- You talk all the time – on the verge of too much, but for better or worse, at least I know exactly who you are = 15 😊

****Please note that I do not accept late work and there are no makeup exams.**

The only circumstance in which this may be considered is if any student experiences an unusual incident like hospitalization. However, this is per my discretion and you will need proof of hospitalizations, funerals, etc.

In-class Extra-credit will be offered throughout the semester during in class activities **There is a 20 point cap** on this in-class extra credit. **No other additional outside extra credit will be granted!**

Grading Scale: (500 point total)

- A = 90-100%
- B = 80-89%
- C = 70-79%
- D = 60-69%
- F = Below 60%

Course Outline:

Please note that this outline is meant to give an overview of the major concepts this course. Changes may occur in this calendar as needed to aid in the student's development.

**All readings, assignments, and due dates that correspond with each topic are listed below as well as on Canvas under each module

Week 1 – Epistemology, Metaphysics, and personhood

- 6/26 - Introduction to Course, value of Philosophy
- 6/27 – Plato (Cave) & Rene' Descartes
- 6/28 – John Locke, Marya Schechtman, Ifeanyi Menkiti
- 6/29 – David Hume & Theory in Application
- 6/30 – Testing Day

Week 2 – Gender, Free-will, Evil, and God

- 7/3 – Judith Butler
- 7/4 – Baron d'Holbach & W.T. Stace,
- 7/5 – J. L. Mackie & Blaise Pascal [Details of paper #1 presented today](#)
- 7/6 – Theory in Application
- 7/7 – Testing Day

Week 3 – Ethics, Society, Government, Power

- 7/10 – John Stuart Mill & Nietzsche
- 7/11 – Hobbes and Plato (Crito)
- 7/12 – John Rawls
- 7/13 – Flex day – work on papers/journals
- 7/14 – Testing Day

Week 4 – Language, Death, Purpose of Life, The Good Life

- 7/17 – Ludwig Wittgenstein
- 7/18 - Thomas Nagel

- 7/19 -Albert Camus, Epictetus
- 7/20 – Philosophy on film/ Discussion
- 7/21 – **Testing Day**

Week 5

- 7/24 – Unanswered Questions/ Socratic Café / Final presentation prep day
- 7/25 – **Final Group Presentations** / Speed philosophical debates
- 7/26 – Final Exam Review
- 7/27 – Study Day
- 7/28 - **Final Exam**

Academic Integrity

As members of the Seminole State College of Florida community, students are expected to be honest in all of their academic coursework and activities.

Academic dishonesty, such as cheating of any kind on examinations, course assignments or projects, plagiarism, misrepresentation and the unauthorized possession of examinations or other course-related materials, is prohibited.

Plagiarism is unacceptable to the college community. Academic work that is submitted by students is assumed to be the result of their own thought, research or self-expression. When students borrow ideas, wording or organization from another source, they are expected to acknowledge that fact in an appropriate manner. Plagiarism is the deliberate use and appropriation of another's work without identifying the source and trying to pass-off such work as the student's own. Any student who fails to give full credit for ideas or materials taken from another has plagiarized.

Students who share their work for the purpose of cheating on class assignments or tests are subject to the same penalties as the student who commits the act of cheating.

When cheating or plagiarism has occurred, instructors may take academic action that ranges from denial of credit for the assignment or a grade of "F" on a specific assignment, examination or project, to the assignment of a grade of "F" for the course. Students may also be subject to further sanctions imposed by the judicial officer, such as disciplinary probation, suspension or dismissal from the College.

****SIMPLY STATED: DON'T CHEAT!**

*****IF YOU COPY ANYTHING OFF THE INTERNET OR PARAPHRASE VERY CLOSELY TO THE INTERNET, THEN YOU MUST ADD QUOTES AND CITATIONS.**

*****IF YOU TURN IN ANYTHING THAT REMOTELY SEEMS TOO CLOSE TO MATERIAL FROM THE INTERNET, THAT DOES NOT HAVE A CITATION AND QUOTES; IT WILL BE CONSIDERED CHEATING.**

****ALSO NOTE, DUE TO PREVIOUS ISSUES WITH THIS PROBLEM; ANYONE FOUND CHEATING WILL AUTOMATICALLY FAIL THE COURSE and IT WILL BE REPORTED TO THE SCHOOL.**

Get this from a library! Fifty readings in philosophy. [Donald C Abel] Fifty readings in philosophy. Author: Donald C Abel. Publisher: New York : McGraw-Hill, ©2012. Edition/Format: Print book : English : 4th edView all editions and formats. Fifty Readings in Philosophy (2nd ed.). New York: McGraw Hill. has been cited by the following article: TITLE: Philosophy of Education: A Tool for National Development? AUTHORS: Godwin Abiogu. KEYWORDS: Philosophy of Education, National Development, Channels of Education, Policy Formulation, The Teacher and the Learner. JOURNAL NAME: Open Journal of Philosophy, Vol.4 No.3, August 11, 2014. It postulated that philosophical ideas have been responsible for shaping the development of societies through the channels of education. Contextually, the concepts of "education", "philosophy", and the nexus between philosophy and philosophy of education were articulated. The term "development" was analyzed. Fifty Readings in Philosophy. Kombo Sibwoga. Download PDF. This problem of evil has led some philosophers to claim that we can prove that God does not exist. A third major topic in the philosophy of religion is the connection of faith to reason. Is it reasonable to accept religious beliefs, or does faith lie wholly outside the realm of reason? Can there be legitimate nonrational grounds for accepting claims that cannot be decided rationally? 31
abel3580x_ch02_031-129.qxd 5/19/11 6:21 PM Page 32 32 Chapter 2 Philosophy of Religion Our readings present a diversity of views on each of these three topics. The first group of readings, "The Existence of God," includes arguments both for and against God's existence. Donald C. Abel. This is a flexible and affordable collection of classic and contemporary primary sources in philosophy. The readings cover all the main topics of Western Philosophy, and each one is carefully edited to be long enough to present a self-contained argument but not so lengthy that students lose track of the main point. A wide selection of new readings at an attractive price makes this text the most versatile introduction to philosophy reader on the market. show more. Given that this is a reading list for philosophy, we will set aside some of the various ways of studying logic. For the most part philosophers study logic in three (general) ways: mathematical logic, philosophy of logic and philosophical logic. Mathematical logicians generally concern themselves with the technicalities of logic - what we are able to prove in some given system and the connections between logic and other areas of mathematics. Philosophical logic on the other hand is use of the formal methods of logic applied to philosophical problems, most notably the paradoxes. As a final note: Prof. Peter Smith (Cambridge) has compiled an extensive reading list to teach oneself logic - i.e. to acquaint oneself with the formal systems used in studying logic.