



# JINAN UNIVERSITY

## Introduction to Philosophy

**Lecturer:** TBA

**Time:** Monday through Friday (June 17, 2019-July 19, 2019)

**Office hours:** 2 hours (according to the teaching schedule)

**Contact Hours:** 60 (50mins each)

**Credits:** 4

**Location:** MBA Center

**Office:** MBA Center 107

**E-mail:** TBA

### Overview:

This course introduces the general nature of philosophical thought, and its basic methods and goals. The material covered includes selections by both current and historically important philosophers (e.g., Plato, Augustine, Descartes, Marx, Musachi and Heidegger) on such classic philosophical topics as the existence of God, the nature of right and wrong, and the possibility of knowledge. Through our readings and discussions we will also attempt to reach a clearer understanding of ourselves (personal identity), our relationship to other people (moral responsibility), and our relationship to the world around us (freedom of the will).

### Goals:

At the end of this course students will:

1. Gain general skills including the formulating and defending of theoretical positions
2. Develop critical thinking skills—that is, the ability to identify, reconstruct and evaluate arguments
3. Improve writing skills—specifically the ability to write clear, explicit prose about difficult and abstract issues.

**Required Book:**

Kessler, Gary (2016). *Voices of Wisdom: A Multicultural Philosophy Reader*. Cengage Learning: United States.

**Course Hours**

The course has 25 sessions in total. Each class session is 120 minutes in length. The course meets from Monday to Friday.

**Grading Scale**

The instructor will use the grading system as applied by the university:

Definition	Letter Grade	Score
Excellent	A	90-100
Good	B	80-89
Satisfactory	C	70-79
Poor	D	60-69
Fail	E	Below 60

**Classroom Etiquette:** Respect towards the instructor and classmates are expected. Be Civil! Unjustified absences, disrespectful behavior in the classroom and lack of participation in class will have a negative impact on the final grade.

**Technology:** CELL PHONES, IPADS, etc. are allowed but can only be used for class activities. DO NOT use cell phones, ipads, computers, etc. to text, chat, email, or any other activity unless it is related to coursework and you have the permission of the instructor.

**WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:** Good writing skills are essential for employment in today's competitive job market. To project a professional image, make sure all your written assignments are presented in well-developed sentences and paragraphs. All writing assignments should be typewritten, double-spaced; grammatically correct; and free of mechanical, spelling and punctuation errors. Before you submit any written assignment, edit your paper thoroughly and carefully.

**Here's the fine print. Read it.** No make-up assignments for in-class tasks will be allowed. Missing a presentation, assignment or exam will result in a failing grade unless you have physical proof of some serious emergency that prohibited your

presence (e.g., a bill from the paramedics).

### **Cheating**

Cheating is the use of inappropriate and unacknowledged materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise. The use of books, notes, calculators and conversation with others is restricted or forbidden in certain academic exercises. Their use in these cases constitutes cheating. Similarly, students must not request others (including commercial term paper companies) to conduct research or prepare any work for them, nor may they submit identical work or portions thereof for credit or honors more than once without prior approval of the instructor.

### **Fabrication**

Fabrication is the falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise. “Invented” information may not be used in any laboratory experiment or other academic exercise without authorization from the instructor. It is improper, for example, to analyze one sample in an experiment and covertly “invent” data based on that single experiment for several more required analyses. The student must also acknowledge reliance upon the actual source from which cited information was obtained. A writer should not, for example, reproduce a quotation from a book review and indicate that the quotation was obtained from the book itself.

### **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is the representation of the words or idea of another as one’s own in any academic exercise. To avoid plagiarism, every direct quotation must be identified by quotation marks or by appropriate indentation and must be properly cited in the text or in a footnote. Acknowledgment is required when material from another source stored in print, electronic or other medium is paraphrased or summarized in whole or in part in one’s own words. Information which is common knowledge such as names of leaders of prominent nations, basic scientific laws, etc. need not be footnoted; however, all facts or information obtained in reading or research that are not common knowledge among students in the course must be acknowledged.

**Course Schedule** - *The schedule is tentative and will depend on class discussion.*

### **Week 1**

Monday Introduction to the course and Part One of video on “The Greeks”  
Tuesday Chapter One: What is Philosophy  
Wednesday Chapter 2: Thinking and Writing Philosophically

Thursday Chapter 2 Continued: Practice in Logic  
Friday Review of materials

**Week 2**

Monday Chapter Three How shall one live?  
Plato and Aristotle, see 9.3 also  
Tuesday Buddha  
Wednesday Confucius see 11.5 also,  
Thursday *Mid-Term exam* and Bhagavad-Gita, Jesus, Dostoyevsky  
Friday Review of materials

**Week 3**

Monday Chapter Four How can I know what is right?  
Kant, Mill, Nussbaum  
Tuesday Al-Ahshari, Hernandez  
Wednesday Noddings, Pojman  
Friday Review of materials

**Week 4**

Monday - Chapter 5 What makes a society just?  
Wed. El Fadl, Marx and Engels - Rawls, Plato, King, Deloria  
Thursday *Paper / presentations*  
Friday Review of materials

**Week 5**

Monday Chapter 6 Is Justice for all possible?  
West, Pharr  
Tuesday Williams, Singer, Mandela  
Wednesday Arendt, McKibbin, Regan and review  
Thursday *Final Exam* - comprehensive  
Friday Review of Course

**Course Evaluation**

Deliverable & % of grade		Due Date*
Participation / In-Class Exercises	20 %	All Weeks
Mid-Term Exam	20 %	Week 2-3
“Philosophy” Paper / Presentation	30 %	Week 4:
Final Exam (Comprehensive)	30 %	Last 2 sessions
<b>Total</b>	100 %	

### **“Philosophy” Paper / Presentation:**

The objective of this project is to understand various philosophies and how they can be applied in life as well as in the workplace to make decisions.

This paper should include:

1. Descriptive title.
2. Literature of the selected philosophy / philosophers.
3. Discussion of examples how the philosophies and concepts can be applied.
4. Summary.
5. References.

The paper should be fully in APA (American Psychological Association) format with approximately **10-15 pages** of text (3-4 pages of content per group member), excluding references and appendices. If your report ends up being more pages, that is okay. The key is to make your writing as complete, as comprehensive, and as practically useful as possible.

Present the research in 12-15 minutes.

### **Academic Honesty**

Jinan University defines academic misconduct as any act by a student that misrepresents the students' own academic work or that compromises the academic work of another scholastic misconduct includes (but is not limited to) cheating on assignments or examinations; plagiarizing, i.e. misrepresenting as one's own work any work done by another; submitting the same paper, or substantially similar papers, to meet the requirements of more than one course without the approval and consent of the instructors concerned; sabotaging another's work within these general definitions, however, Instructors determine what constitutes academic misconduct in the courses they teach. Students found guilty of academic misconduct in any portion of the academic work face penalties ranging from lowering of their course grade to awarding a grade of E for the entire course.