

Introduction to Philosophy Syllabus

PHI 2010, Summer 2019, June 24 - July 26

Course & Faculty Information

Lecturer: TBA

E-mail: TBA

Time: Monday through Friday

Teaching hours: 45 (1.8 contact hours each day)

Office hours: 2 hours (According to the teaching schedule)

Total Contact Hour: 55

Credit: 3

Course Description

This 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 are discussed in order to present students with the tools for constructing their own philosophy.

Required Textbooks & Readings

This is a course with heavy reading requirements. You should buy these two books:

Nagel, Thomas. *What Does It All Mean?* Oxford University Press, 2004.

Cottingham, John G., editor. *Western Philosophy, An Anthology, 2nd Ed.* Wiley-Blackwell, 2007.

In addition, excerpts from the following books will be provided in class:

Russell, Bertrand. *A History of Western Philosophy.* Routledge, 2015

Durant, Will. *The Story of Philosophy.* Simon and Schuster, 1961.

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.
Have an understanding of the intellectual history of the West.

Collegewide Student Learning Outcomes

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

Communication
Critical Thinking
Information Literacy
Global Socio-cultural Responsibility

Grade Scale and Evaluation Methods

Each student's final grade will be based upon the following:

Class Discussion Participation - 15%

Participate in class discussions and bring a question from the reading to every class meeting.

Three Short Answer Quizzes - 15%

These will be on average three to five (3-5) questions based upon the assigned reading and in-class lectures, to be answered in a few sentences or a short paragraph at most.

Two Critical Response Papers (3-4 pages each) - 30%.

These will expand upon the short answer writings, revised and developed after further class discussion, including more support from the text; or will cover another specific philosophical topic. Detailed instructions will be given out in class.

Midterm Exam - 20%

Final Exam - 20%

Grading Scale:

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

Schedule/Calendar

Note that the reading assignments are to be completed before the class meeting for the day so as to be prepared to discuss the concepts therein during class time. Come to class ready for this, bringing questions with you.

Week 1, June 24-28 – Intro to philosophical thinking, the Ancient Greeks, and Plato

Monday: Course Introduction

Tuesday: **Read** Nagel, pp. 3-37 (Intro, How Do We Know Anything, Other Minds, The Mind-Body Problem) Lecture: Epistemology, Ontology, Logic

Wednesday: **Read** Nagel, pp. 38-75 (The Meaning of Words, Free Will, Right and Wrong). Lecture: Ethics, Politics, Aesthetics

Thursday: **Read** Nagel pp. 76-101 (Justice, Death, and the Meaning of Life) Lecture: Ancient Greek History, Homer, Greek Values, Socrates

Friday: **Read** Durant pp. 1-20 (Plato); Plato in Cottingham, pp. 69-76 (The Allegory of the Cave) Lecture: Plato

Week 2, July 1-5 - Aristotle: A System of Philosophy

Monday: **Read** Russell pp. 104-132 (Chapter XIII-XV, The Sources of Plato's Opinions, Plato's Utopia, The Theory of Ideas): Plato in Cottingham, pp. 487-492 (Morality and Happiness) Lecture: Plato's dramatic approach vs. Aristotle's system of philosophy

Tuesday: **Read** Russell, pp. 159-195 (Chapter XIX Aristotle's Metaphysics - Chapter XX Aristotle's Ethics). Lecture: Aristotle's Ethics, Virtue, and the Golden Mean

Wednesday: **Read** Aristotle in Cottingham, pp. 492-496 (Ethical Virtue), pp. 557-561 (Inequality, Freedom, and Slavery); Russell pp. 184-195 (Aristotle's Politics). Lecture: Aristotle's Politics and Logic. **In class: Quiz 1**

Thursday: **Read** Aristotle in Cottingham, pp. 18-21 (Demonstrative Knowledge and its Starting Points); pp. 413-415 (Four Types of Explanation); pp. 701-706 (The Nature and Function of Dramatic Art. Lecture: Criticism of Aristotle and Aristotle's Influence; Review of Greek Philosophy & Mid-Term review

Friday: **Mid-Term Exam**

Week 3, July 8-12 - From Rome to the Enlightenment: Stoicism, Christianity, Rationalism and Empiricism

Monday: **Read** Durant pp. 123-134 (Aristotle to the Renaissance); Lucretius in Cottingham, pp. 765-768 (How to Accept Reality and Avoid Fear); Seneca in Cottingham pp. 768-771 (Life Guided by Stoic Philosophy) Lecture: Stoics, Christians, and the Individual Soul

Tuesday: **Read** Russell pp. 301-307 (Introduction to Catholic Philosophy) and pp. 452-463 (Saint Thomas Aquinas); Aquinas in Cottingham pp. 348-351 (The Five Proofs of God) Lecture: Christianity, Science, and the Enlightenment

Wednesday: **Read** Russell pp. 525-541 (The Rise of Science); Bacon in Cottingham, pp. 415-422 (Experimental Methods and True Causes) Lecture: Rationalism vs. Empiricism

Thursday: **Read** Descartes in Cottingham pp. 21-25 (New Foundations for Knowledge), Locke in Cottingham pp. 25-31 (The Senses as the Basis of Knowledge); Leibniz in Cottingham pp. 31-35 (Innate Knowledge Defended); Hume in Cottingham pp. 35-40 (Scepticism vs. Human Nature). Lecture: Spinoza. the Romantic Movement, Rousseau, and Roads to Kant

Friday: **Read** Spinoza in Cottingham pp. 227-230 (Mind and Body); Russell pp. 569-580 (Chapter X, Spinoza). **In class: Quiz 2**

Week 4, July 15-19 – Kant and Modernist Philosophy

Monday: **Read** Russell pp. 675-684 (Chapters XVIII-XIX, The Romantic Movement, Rousseau); Rousseau in Cottingham pp. 647-653 (Society and the Individual); Durant pp. 329-239 (Roads to Kant). Lecture: Kant's Ethics

Tuesday: **Read** Russell pp. 684-701 (Chapter XX, Kant) Kant in Cottingham pp. 506-512 (Duty and Reason as the Ultimate Principle). Lecture: Kant's Epistemology and Ontology

Wednesday: **Read** Kant in Cottingham pp. 40-43 (Experience and Understanding; Durant pp. 344-378 (Kant's Critique of Pure Reason, Critique of Practical Reason, On Religion and Reason, On Politics and Eternal Peace). Lecture: Kant's influence, Schopenhauer, Hegel, Nietzsche, and 20th century philosophy

Thursday: **Read** Russell pp. 719-729 (Currents of Thought in the 19th Century), pp. 753-759 (Schopenhauer); Schopenhauer in Cottingham pp. 782-786 (Human Life as a Meaningless Struggle); Hegel in Cottingham pp. 653-659 (The Unified State- from Individual Desire to Rational Self-Determination). Lecture: The Utilitarians. **Due: Critical Response Paper 1**

Friday: **Read** Russell pp. 773-782 (The Utilitarians); Mill in Cottingham pp. 512-517 (Happiness as the Foundation of Morality), pp. 665-671 (The Limits of Majority Rule). Lecture: Nietzsche, World War I, and the Twilight of the Idols. **In class: Quiz 3**

Week 5, July 22-26 – Existentialism, Pragmatism and philosophy today

Monday: **Read** Russell pp.760-773 (Chapter XXV, Nietzsche); Nietzsche in Cottingham pp. 524-529 (Against Conventional Morality); pp. 786-790 (The Death of God and the Ascendency of the Will) Lecture: Existentialism (Religious and Otherwise)

Tuesday: **Read** Kierkegaard in Cottingham pp. 376-382 (Faith and Subjectivity). Heidegger in Cottingham pp. 115-121 (Being and Involvement) Camus in Cottingham pp. 797-800 (Futility and Defiance) Lecture: American Pragmatism, knowledge as a tool rather than a description

Wednesday: **Read** Russell 811-828 (William James, John Dewey); James in Cottingham, pp. 382-387 (Reason, Passion, and the Religious Hypothesis). Lecture: "Post-nihilism": Virtue ethics, language, and logic

Thursday: **Read** MacIntyre in Cottingham 540-546 (Ethics as Rooted in History and Culture); Wittgenstein in Cottingham pp. 744-750 (What is Aesthetics?); Russell in Cottingham pp. 174-180 (Definite and Indefinite Descriptions) Lecture: Review. **Due: Critical Response Paper 2**

Friday: **In class: Final Exam**

Attendance Policy

Seminole State College recognizes the correlation between attendance and both student retention and achievement. Students must be enrolled before they can attend class. Students are expected to attend all class sessions and activities for which they are registered. Any class session or activity missed, regardless of cause, reduces the opportunity of learning and may adversely affect a student's achievement in the course. Students are held responsible for material covered during their absences.

View complete policy from the college catalog at:
http://www.seminolestate.edu/catalog/studentinfo/academic_policies/attendance.htm

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 author'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. Students may also be subject to further sanctions imposed by a judicial officer, such as disciplinary probation, suspension or dismissal from the College.

This course strictly adheres to all policies concerning academic integrity as set forth in the current Seminole State College of Florida Catalogue. Any student who violates these policies is subject to receiving a failing grade for the course. This includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, furnishing false information, forgery, alteration or misuse of documents, misconduct during a testing situation, and misuse of identification with intent to defraud or deceive. Any student determined by the professor to have been guilty of engaging in an act of academic dishonesty shall be subject to a range of academic penalties as determined by the professor. These penalties may include, but not be limited to, one or more of the following:

- loss of credit for an assignment, examination, or project;
- reduction in the course grade;
- a grade of "F" in the course;
- withdrawal from the course.



Selected Studies in Philosophy Syllabus

PHI 2931, Summer 2019, June 24 - July 26

Course & Faculty Information

Course: PHI 2931 Selected Studies in Philosophy- Introduction to Philosophy I- PHI 2010

Lecturer: TBA

E-mail: TBA

Time: From Monday to Friday, 5 weeks

Office Hours: Mondays and Tuesdays or by Appointment

Credits: 1

Course Description

Many students come to a philosophy class with their own particular philosophical interests and views. Sometimes these interests are not covered in an introductory class. Hence, this course is offered to individual students who wish to explore topics supplementary to the curriculum in Introduction to Philosophy I (PHI2010). The student, with the professor's consent, may choose a topic that interests them.

Pre-reqs: To be taken in conjunction with Introduction to Philosophy (PHI2010).

Measurable Course Objectives

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

- Be able to communicate ideas and thoughts in person, to the professor at weekly meetings.
- Provide a critical analysis of a thinker's ideas but also other diverse perspectives and alternative points of view.
- Make cogent arguments for or against a thinker's position as well as offer your own analysis and possible solutions.
- Conduct thorough research in a university library or online to supplement your essay and presentation.
- Be able to demonstrate the contemporary relevance of your topic.
- Use information ethically and legally.

Textbook Information

There are no textbooks required for this course. The student and professor will consult on suitable resources for the topic.

Attendance Policy

The College recognizes the correlation between attendance and both student retention and achievement. Per College Policy 3.060 **students are expected to attend all classes and meetings, actively participate and complete all assigned course work for all courses for which they are registered.**

College-wide Student Learning Outcomes

The College-wide Student Learning Outcomes assessed and reinforced in this course include the following:

- Communication
- Critical Thinking
- Scientific, Quantitative, and Qualitative Reasoning
- Information Literacy
- Global Sociocultural Responsibility

Course Content:

You will be required to complete a project for this session. The project consists of two discussion and status meetings, a reflection paper, a presentation outline, and a class presentation which summarizes your findings. The purpose of this course is to provide the student with the opportunity to personally pursue an aspect of philosophy of personal interest, supplemental to the classroom experience. The professor will not assign a topic or area of interest (unless the student requests it) but will allow the student in consultation with the professor to choose their own. The student may choose a thinker or a topic from our reading in Introduction to Philosophy or something outside the scope of the class. If the student chooses a topic from any of the class readings he or she must tap other works by this thinker that are not covered in the class.

Grading Scale:

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

Course Requirements:

- 1 Two discussion and status meetings 20%
- 2 A reflection essay 20%
- 4 Presentation outline 10%
- 5 Final class presentation 50%

Course Schedule

Two discussion/status meetings will be held as scheduled by the professor. The professor may schedule additional meetings at his discretion, if needed. The tasks for each week are listed below:

Week 1

- Initial Discussion and meeting about project
- Topic selection by student or assigned by professor

Week 2

- Student to work independently on chosen topic

Week 3

- Discussion and status meeting
- Review of research materials

Week 4

- Submit presentation outline on or before Thursday's class (July 19)

Week 5

- Class presentation (date to be determined)
- Evaluation and summary

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.