

UCF Philosophy Department
T/TH
Professor Fagiano

Introduction to Philosophy

Office Hours: Wednesday 11am – 3pm or by appt.

Office Location: PSY 244

Course Description:

This course surveys the fundamentals of philosophy through historical and paradigmatic lenses. Our explorations will revolve around questions regarding the nature of philosophy itself as well as the practical significance of thinking and acting philosophically. Specifically, we will examine the differences between various “schools” of philosophy, and different sub-disciplines of philosophy (e.g., ethics, metaphysics, epistemology, etc.) for the purpose of discerning the value of philosophy for our lives.

Course Objectives:

- To give you an overview of the basic problems of philosophy and their relationship to your life.
- To teach you the critical thinking, writing, and reading skills that will contribute to your success in other courses.
- To learn the differences between good and bad arguments.
- To draw connections between the discipline of philosophy and other academic disciplines.
- To convince you that majoring or minoring in philosophy will help you to achieve your goals in life.

Required Texts:

Cottingham, John G. *Western Philosophy: An Anthology*. 2nd edition. ISBN-13: 978-140512478

Magee, Bryan. *The Great Philosophers: An Introduction to Western Philosophy*

Recommended secondary source: Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy

<http://plato.stanford.edu/contents.html>

Grading Details (Assignments and/or Tests/Exams):

- Participation=10%
- Journal Entries=15%
- Two short papers= 30%
- Midterm=20%
- Final Paper/Project=25%

10% Participation—your presence is expected at every class and your participation is both invited and necessary. Although the participation part of your grade is the easiest part to earn, you will lose percentage points if you miss more than three classes. Specifically, because your sentience, intelligence, and reflection are greatly desired at each and every class, every unexcused absence (after three) takes a **1/2 of a percentage point** off your final grade. Excused absences (see the full list below) must be supported with a note from your doctor, coach, family, etc. All other absences count against your final grade. It will be impossible to pass this class if you miss class excessively. More than just being present for each and every class, participation includes actively engaging with the material by asking question or making comments during class time, especially during small group discussions. **Note also: if you do not have your book or other materials on a given class day, it is nearly the same as not being there and you will lose participation points.**

15% Entries into Journal/Notes—for every reading assignment, students will be required to enter a short analytical reflection into their journals. The journal may be either a bound notebook or a Word/Pages document, but it must include the student's critical analysis of at least one argument from the assigned reading.

30% Papers—thirty percent of your grade will be determined by your performance on two assignments—two analytic/reflective papers (5 pages). Each paper will be based on a prompt provided to you by your professor. The due dates for these papers are **September 15th and November 17th**. Late papers will be marked down one-half of grade for each day it is late. Exemption: e.g., documented illness.

20% Midterm—the midterm will consist of short answer questions and essays and will be based on lectures, in-class discussions, and the assigned readings. The class day before the midterm will be entirely devoted to reviewing the material for the exam, and I will hand out a list of testable concepts/ideas before the review session. **Students MUST BRING A BLUEBOOK EXAM BOOK for the midterm.**

25% Final Paper/Final Project—the prompt for the final paper (5 pages) will be released on November 8th. In the paper, you will be able to use what you have learned in this class to defend one of *your* philosophical theories; the project will involve creating a philosophical virtual reality narrative.

Midterm and Final Exams:

The midterm/final exams are based on information from **lectures, in-class discussions** and the **assigned readings**. When I grade your exams I am not looking for you to agree with what I think, rather I want you to make **strong arguments**. This means you need to support the claims you make. An argument is not an opinion, an assertion or a belief, though you should feel free to construct your argument in the first person.

Academic Honesty

The integrity of students and their written and oral work is a critical component of the academic process. The submission of another's work as one's own is plagiarism and will be dealt with using the procedures outlined in the University of Tennessee catalog. Remember that allowing another student to copy one's own work violates standards of academic integrity.

Examples of cheating include but are not limited to:

1. **The unauthorized possession or use of notes, texts, electronic devices (e.g., computers, mobile phones), online materials or other such unauthorized materials/devices in fulfillment of course requirements.**
2. **Copying another's person work or participation in such an effort.**
3. **An attempt or participation in an attempt to fulfill the requirements of the course with work other than one's own.**
4. **Forging or deliberately misrepresenting data or results.**
5. **Obtaining or offering either for profit or free of charge materials one might submit or has submitted for academic credit. This includes uploading course materials to online sites devoted in whole or in part, to aiding and abetting cheating under the guise of providing "study aids." There is no prohibition concerning uploading exemplars one's work to one's personal website or to departmental, divisional, University or professional society websites for the purposes of publicity, praise, examination or review by potential employers, graduate school admissions committees, etc.**
6. **Violating the specific directions concerning the operation of the honor code in relation to a particular assignment.**
7. **Making unauthorized copies of graded work for future distribution.**
8. **Claiming credit for a group project to which one did not contribute.**

Late Work, Absences: All out-of-class work is due AT THE BEGINNING of the class. Papers handed in after class but on the due date may be penalized one-third of a letter grade, and will be penalized by an additional one-half of a letter grade for each day they are late. Papers more than three days late will not be accepted. Students with excused absences may be excused from penalty if the excuse is received promptly. Excuses

received at the end of the semester may not remove late penalties for work assigned in advance of the excused period.

There are NO MAKE UPS for any parts of this course without an excused absence:

Legitimate Excuses: college-sponsored activities closely linked to academics or to other official college functions (administrative, athletic, etc.); student illness or injury—with a note from health services—as well as critical illness/death in one’s immediate family; jury duty (or subpoena for court appearance); religious holidays (for students who actively practice the religion).

Laptops and Phones

Laptops are allowed in class if and only if the laptop is being used for taking notes or, in certain circumstances, for looking up something (I will explain this in detail when appropriate). Phones are not allowed during any time during class. If you use your phone in class or it makes noise, it will be confiscated, then returned at the end of class. Repeated offense will result in a lowering of your participation grade.

Incompletes: The grade of incomplete will be given only in special circumstances such as an illness, an accident, or a death in the family.

Tentative Class Schedule:

		Session content	Material to be read prior to session (it is best to do the reading for each week during the week before it!). Reading for 8/25 -- Washington Post Article: https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/grade-point/wp/2015/12/24/a-harvard-medical-

			school-professor-makes-the-case-for-the-liberal-arts-and-philosophy/
Week One 8/23 8/25	8/23--Class One: Syllabus overview 8/25--Class One: What is Philosophy?	Reading for 8/30: What is an Argument? http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/vocab/argument.html Reading for 9/1 <i>Definitions of Philosophical Terms:</i> http://www.str.org/articles/100-basic-philosophic-terms#.V7yPEJMrKu4	
Week Two 8/30 9/1	8/30--Class Two: What is an Argument? 9/1--Class Three: Philosophy: What's it Good For? The Language of Philosophy	Reading for 9/6 <i>On Webcourses: On the Axial Age</i> Reading for 9/8 <i>In Cottingham:</i> --Plato: Meno, Innate Knowledge: --The Republic: Knowledge versus Opinion	

	<p>Week Three</p> <p>9/6</p> <p>9/8</p>	<p>9/6--Class Four:</p> <p>The Axial Age & the Pre-Socratics</p> <p>The One and the Many</p> <p>Mythos vs. Logos</p> <p>The Problem of Change</p> <p>9/8--Class Five:</p> <p>The Socratic Method</p> <p>The Virtue of <i>Sophrosyne</i></p> <p>FIRST PAPER ASSIGNED</p>	<p>Reading for 9/13:</p> <p><i>In Cottingham:</i></p> <p>--Plato: The Allegory of the Cave</p> <p>Magee: 12-31</p> <p>Reading for 9/15:</p> <p><i>In Cottingham:</i></p> <p>--Aristotle: Individual Substance</p> <p>-- Ethical Virtue</p> <p>Magee: 32-55</p>
	<p>Week Four</p> <p>9/13</p> <p>9/15</p>	<p>9/13--Class Six:</p> <p>Plato, his Dialogues, and the Forms</p> <p>The Allegory of the Cave</p> <hr/> <p>9/15--Class Seven:</p> <p>Aristotle, Virtue, and the forms</p> <p>What is a Substance?</p> <p>Paper ONE DUE</p>	<p>Reading for 9/20:</p> <p>Handout/Assignment</p> <hr/> <p>Reading for 9/22:</p> <p>http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/stoicism/</p> <p>Excerpt Marcus Aurelius:</p> <p>http://www.returnofkings.com/27793/6-powerful-passages-from-meditations-by-marcus-aurelius</p>

<p>Week Five</p> <p>9/20</p> <p>9/22</p>	<p>9/20--Class Eight:</p> <p>Epicureanism</p> <p>What is Happiness? Aristotle vs. Epicurus</p> <p>9/22--Class Nine:</p> <p>Stoicism: Aurelius and Epictetus</p> <p>Logos and <i>Apatheia</i></p>	<p>Reading for 9/27:</p> <p>Sections: 5-20</p> <p>In the link below:</p> <p>http://department.monm.edu/classics/Courses/CLAS210/CourseDocuments/cicero_on_friendship_a_summary.htm</p> <p>Reading for 9/29:</p> <p><i>In Cottingham:</i></p> <p>--Pascal: The Wager</p> <p>--Leibniz: The Problem of Evil</p> <p>Magee: 56-75</p>
<p>Week Six</p> <p>9/27</p> <p>9/29</p>	<p>9/27—Class Ten:</p> <p>Cicero</p> <p>What is Friendship?</p> <p>9/29—Class Eleven:</p> <p>Medieval Philosophy</p> <p>Revelation vs. Reason</p> <p>The Problem of Evil</p>	<p>Reading for 10/4</p> <p>In Cottingham:</p> <p>--Anselm of Canterbury: The Existence of God.</p> <p>--Aquinas: The Five Proofs of God</p> <p>--Maimonides: Negative Theology</p> <p>http://www.sophia-project.org/uploads/1/3/9/5/13955288/maimonides_negativetheology.pdf</p> <p>—</p> <p>—</p>

			Reading for 10/6: NONE
Week Seven	10/4 10/6	10/4--Class Twelve: Arguments for the Existence of God: Jewish, Christian, and Islamic Constellations 10/6--Class Thirteen: Discussion Groups: Does God Exist?	Reading for 10/11: Handout: Free Will vs. Determinism? Reading for 10/13: <i>In Cottingham:</i> --Descartes: New Foundations for Knowledge Magee: 76-95
Week Eight	10/11 10/13	10/11--Class Fourteen: Discussion: Free Will 10/13--Class Fifteen: <i>Descartes, Skepticism, and the Foundations for Certainty</i> <i>Cogito Ergo Sum</i>	Reading for 10/18: <i>In Cottingham:</i> --Taylor: Selfhood and Narrative Understanding Reading for 10/20: NONE
Week Nine	10/18 10/20	10/18--Class Sixteen: Discussion Groups: Topic: What is the Self? & MIDTERM REVIEW 10/20--Class Seventeen: MIDTERM	Reading for 10/25: <i>In Cottingham:</i> --Hobbes: Sovereignty and Security --Rousseau: Society and Individual --Locke: Consent and Political Obligation: Reading for 10/27: Magee: 118-143

	<p>Week Ten</p> <p>10/25</p> <p>10/27</p>	<p>10/25--Class Eighteen: Modern Philosophy Socio-Political: Hobbes, Religion, and the Leviathan</p> <p>10/27--Class Nineteen: Locke and "Democracy" The Social Contract</p>	<p>Reading for 11/1: No Reading _____</p> <p>Reading for 11/3: Cottingham: --Kant: Duty and Reason as the Ultimate Principle</p> <p>--Hume: Human Feeling as the Source of Ethics</p> <p>Magee: 144-187</p>
	<p>Week Eleven</p> <p>11/1</p> <p>11/3</p>	<p>11/1--Class Nineteen: --Review --What is the Good Society?</p> <p>11/3--Class Twenty: Hume and Kant What is the Foundation of Morality?</p>	<p>Reading for 11/8: --Kant: What is Enlightenment? http://www.allmendeberlin.de/What-is-Enlightenment.pdf</p> <p><i>In Cottingham:</i> --Hegel: From Sense- certainty to Self- consciousness</p> <p>Reading for 11/10: <i>In Cottingham:</i> --Mill: Happiness as the Foundation of Morality</p>

<p>Week Twelve</p> <p>11/08</p> <p>11/10</p>	<p>11/08--Class Twenty-one:</p> <p>The Enlightenment</p> <p>Scottish, English, and German</p> <p>Versions</p> <p>Hegel and the Unfolding of <i>Geist</i></p> <p>FINAL PAPER PROMPT</p> <hr/> <p>11/10--Class Twenty-two:</p> <p>Utilitarianism</p> <p>Bentham and Mill</p> <p>Happiness, Pleasure, and</p> <p>Morality</p> <p>PAPER TWO ASSIGNED</p>	<p>Reading for 11/15:</p> <p><i>In Cottingham:</i></p> <p>--Nietzsche: Against</p> <p>Conventional Morality</p> <p>--The Death of God and</p> <p>the Ascendancy of the</p> <p>Will</p> <p>Magee: 210-251</p> <hr/> <p>Reading for 11/17:</p> <p>-In Cottingham-</p> <p>Kierkegaard: Faith and</p> <p>Subjectivity</p> <p>--Sartre: Existentialism</p> <p>is a Humanism:</p> <p>https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/sartre/works/exist/sartre.htm</p>
<p>Week Thirteen</p> <p>11/15</p> <p>11/17</p>	<p>11/15--Class Twenty-three</p> <p>Schopenhauer: The Will</p> <p>Nietzsche: The Will to Power</p> <p>Transformations of the Soul</p> <hr/> <p>11/17--Class Twenty-four:</p> <p>What is Existentialism?</p> <p>PAPER TWO DUE</p>	<p>Reading for 11/22</p> <p>Magee: 320-347</p> <hr/> <p>Reading for 11/24</p> <p>No Reading</p>

	<p>Week Fourteen</p> <p>11/22</p> <p>11/24</p>	<p>11/22--Class Twenty-five: <i>Logical Positivism: The Vienna Circle</i> <i>Ludwig Wittgenstein and Language</i></p> <hr/> <p>11/24 NO CLASS GIVE THANKS!!</p>	<p>Reading for 11/29: James: What Pragmatism Means: https://www.marxists.org/reference/subject/philosophy/works/us/james.htm</p> <p>Magee: 278-297</p> <hr/> <p>Reading for 12/1: NONE</p>
	<p>Week Fifteen</p> <p>11/29</p> <p>12/1</p>	<p>11/29--Class Twenty-six: Pragmatism Peirce, James and Dewey</p> <hr/> <p>12/1—Class Twenty-Seven The 20th Century: Philosophy and Your Life</p> <hr/>	<hr/>
		<p>FINAL Paper—Due—December 7th</p>	