



PHI 2010: Introduction to Philosophy

Department of Philosophy
College of Arts and Humanities, University of Central Florida

COURSE SYLLABUS

This syllabus may be modified at the Instructor's discretion.

Instructor:	James Martin	Term:	Spring 2017
Office:	PSY 232	Class Meeting Days:	TR
Phone:	407-823-1188	Class Meeting Hours:	430-545 (PM)
E-Mail:	James.Martin@ucf.edu	Class Location:	PSY 106
Website:		Lab Location:	N/A
Office Hours:	TR 1330-1430 and by appointment		

I. Welcome!

I welcome you to continued or first-time studies in a subject that has occupied my entire life, whether through study or application to real-life situations. I intend to show that this course has both academic and practical applications to the world we live in, and that this course has information valuable to all majors. And, I will give you examples of how this knowledge has helped in the past, within my own experience, and how it can help you make decisions in your life both today, and for your future.

II. University Course Catalog Description

Course Description

Introduction to Philosophy

Inquiry into the meaning and justification of fundamental ideas and beliefs concerning reality, knowledge, and values; application to relevant topics in ethics, religion, and politics. Primary sources (in translation) are used in class.

III. Course Overview

The course is designed for first-time studies in philosophy, presenting developments from the Pre-Socratics to the present day.

IV. Course Objectives

Students will know how to read and interpret specified primary sources and connect philosophical theories and writings from the 500 BCE to the late 20th Century and beyond. They will learn to value the contributions of those in the field of philosophy who preceded them and enabled the construction of present-day ideas on knowledge, politics, ethics, and derivative fields. They will create either major changes in one's worldview or support and build on one's current worldview. Studies of rationality and the use of reason in discussion and in writing is paramount. After a few weeks of introductory readings, we will begin to progress, using Bloom's Taxonomy, to more detailed and creative work.

V. Course Prerequisites

Students should have completed the basic requirements for writing and reading at a college level.

VI. Course Credits

This is a three (3) credit course.

VII. Required Texts and Materials

Wolff, Robert Paul, about philosophy, 11th Ed., copyright 2012, Pearson, ISBN 978-0-205-19412-4, in the bookstore, also available in ebook and coursesmartebook. **YOU ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE THE BOOK IN EVERY CLASS, AS WE WILL BE READING DIRECTLY FROM IT FOR PURPOSES OF ANALYSIS.**

VIII. Supplementary (Optional) Texts and Materials

Primary sources, in translation, will be provided orally in class, as support for specific discussions or topics. Additional resources provided by the publisher will be used.

IX. Basis for Final Grade

Provide a listing of assessments and their weighting in the semester total. In addition to (or even in lieu of) tests, consider exploring “authentic” assessments, which are based as closely as possible to real world experiences.

Assessment	Percent of Final Grade
Participation	10%
Paper, 5pgs.MINIMUM, 12 font, double-spaced	20%
Short, written, creative, take-home work analyses(2)	10%
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Final Exam	20%
	100%

Grading Scale This is a Gordon Rule Course: Minimum grade is C-

Grading Scale (%)	
90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
<60	F

X. Grade Dissemination

Graded tests and materials in this course will be returned individually only for review. They must be returned to me the same day for you to receive credit. You must use PEN or PRINTER to receive credit...no pencils. You can access your scores at any time by asking me. Please note that summary scores returned mid-semester are unofficial grades.

XI. Course Policies: Grades

Late Work Policy:

There are no make-ups for in-class writing, quizzes, the midterm, or the final exam. Papers turned in late will be assessed a penalty: a half-letter grade if it is one day late, or a full-letter grade for 2-7 days late. Essays will not be accepted if overdue by more than seven days.

Extra Credit Policy:

There is no extra credit. Please devote all of your personal allocated study time to the assignments and to pre-exam work. The ONLY exception is the occurrence of relevant broadcast or documentary that may be assigned.

Grades of "Incomplete":

The current university policy concerning incomplete grades will be followed in this course. Incomplete grades are given only in situations where unexpected emergencies prevent a student from completing the course and the remaining work can be completed the next semester. Your instructor is the final authority on whether you qualify for an incomplete. Incomplete work must be finished by the end of the subsequent semester or the "I" will automatically be recorded as an "F" on your transcript.

Rewrite Policy:

Rewrites are not permitted. Please take time to write carefully, edit, review, or ask for help at the UCF writing center should you have difficulty. Center information is given below.

Paper Commentary Policy:

Commentary on essays will be delivered in written format, at the end of the essay. However, upon request, an alternate delivery method can be used. If desired, instructor comments will be made verbally and delivered to the student during office hours.

XII. Course Policies: Technology and Media

Email: Email at James.Martin@ucf.edu is for emergency or personal issues, or if time in class is insufficient to answer your question. Generally, questions regarding course material will be answered in class or during office hours, and as email in Webcourse, which automatically transfers to James.Martin@ucf.edu.

Webcourses: Use of Webcourse will be limited primarily to "Announcements". The use of Webcourse, as is indicated by the word itself, is limited because this is a Face2Face course and the University MANDATES attendance. You are free to use it for discussions among other members of the class, such as creating your own study guides. In this sense, Webcourse becomes your *creative* tool. I may occasionally publish announcements of some interest, but no assignments. The textbook is your main source. (Ask me about FERPA and its restrictions)

Laptop Usage: You may use a laptop in class, but only for taking notes or searching for an item that I bring up in class and ask you personally to assist.

Classroom Devices: No other devices, including cellphones, recording devices, and earphones, are permitted. The goal is to keep "NOISE" to an absolute minimum. Raise your hand should you wish to be acknowledged and speak.

XIII. Course Policies: Student Expectations

Disability Access:

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students who need accommodations must be

registered with Student Disability Services, Ferrell Commons Room 185, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Attendance Policy: The policy is “no absences allowed”. There may be exceptions, all of which require documentation or other evidence, i.e., extreme acts of nature.

Professionalism Policy:

Per university policy and classroom etiquette; mobile phones, iPods, *etc.* **must be silenced** during all classroom periods. Those not heeding this rule will be asked to leave the classroom/lab immediately in order to avoid ANY disruption of the learning environment. Please arrive on time for all class meetings. Students who habitually disturb the class by talking, arriving late, *etc.*, and have been warned may suffer a reduction in their final class grade. In addition, etiquette extends to email, as netiquette. Civility in all actions shall be maintained.

Academic Conduct Policy:

Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. If you are uncertain as to what constitutes academic dishonesty, please consult The Golden Rule, the University of Central Florida's Student Handbook (<http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/>) for further details. As in all University courses, The Golden Rule Rules of Conduct will be applied. Violations of these rules will result in a record of the infraction being placed in your file and receiving a zero on the work in question AT A MINIMUM. At the instructor's discretion, you may also receive a failing grade for the course. Confirmation of such incidents can also result in expulsion from the University.

University Writing Center:

The University Writing Center (UWC) is a free resource for UCF undergraduates and graduates. At the UWC, a trained writing consultant will work individually with you on anything you're writing (in or out of class), at any point in the writing process from brainstorming to editing. Appointments are recommended, but not required. For more information or to make an appointment, visit the UWC website at <http://www.uwc.ucf.edu>, stop by MOD 608, or call 407.823.2197.

XIV. Important Dates to Remember

All the dates and assignments are tentative, and can be changed at the discretion of the professor.

Consult the Academic Calendar for Spring 2017, or the syllabus, concerning the following issues or deadlines.

Confirm class activity for Financial Aid: Mon Jan 9-Fri Jan 13

Drop/Swap Deadline: Thursday, Jan. 12

Spring Break: Monday, Mar. 13, to Saturday, March 18

Grade Forgiveness Deadline: Wed., March 22

Withdrawal Deadline: Wed, Mar. 22

Study Day-No Classes: Tuesday, Apr. 25

Final Examination: Thursday, Apr. 27 1000(AM)-1250

Religious Observances

Faculty should include in their syllabi procedures for resolving conflicts between the normal class schedule and major religious observances. Students are expected to notify their instructor in advance if they intend to miss class to observe a holy day of their religious faith. For a current schedule of major religious holidays, see the Faculty Center's main web page under “Calendars,” and for additional information, contact the Office of Diversity Initiatives at 407-823-6479.

READING AND COMPREHENSION IS THE CORE OF THIS CLASS. BE READY TO READ.

XV. Schedule

Date	Finish This Homework Before Class	Topics to be Discussed in Class
1/10-12	First week of class Acquire textbook; Begin reading pp. x-41	What is philosophy? What practical applications does it have? Begin creating a word bank and a list of etymological roots. What do philosophers do OUTSIDE of academia? Discuss Eddington's "Two Tables". Discuss reason, logic, and consistency.
1/17-1/19	Finish reading Chapter 1 Complete take-home assignment over weekend	Read selected passages in class and analyze, critique, and discuss. Describe the history of the various branches of philosophy.
1/24-26	Read Chapter 2	What is epistemology? Why is it especially relevant TODAY? What is Cartesian Doubt? What are its criticisms? Selected reading of primary sources.
1/31-2/2	Read Chapter 3	Contrast rationalism and empiricism. What is metaphysics? What is Hobbes' Social Contract theory? Discuss the problem of free will and determinism.
2/7-2/9	Research and find an original source on scientific method as understood in the 1600's. Review Chapters 1,2,3 for Exam 1.	Create a list of scientists of the Renaissance and their contributions to various fields. Trace some of their work that is in use today. Review in class Chapters 1, 2, and 3 for Exam 1.
2/14-16	EXAM 1 2/14 For 2/16 Begin reading Chapter 4	2/16 Discuss "The Structure of Scientific Revolutions"
2/21-23	Finish reading Chapter 4, Chapter 5 to p. 158	Critique the Categorical Imperative Describe the differences between deontology, teleology, and virtue ethics
2/28-3/2	Read Chapter 5 to p. 188	Compare Kant, Bentham/Mill, and Aristotle Read citations from Feminist Ethics
3/7-3/9	Present paper topics for approval Finish Chapter 5, second take-home assignment Review rubric	Present paper rubric, requirements, and discuss fundamentals of medical ethics
3/13-	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK

3/18		
3/21-23	Read 222-250	Higher and Lower pleasures; socialism and capitalism; social contract theory
3/28-30	Read 250-269	John Locke and private property, Pluralist theory, The Racial Contract
4/4-4/6	4/4 Review for exam EXAM 2 4/6 Read pp.270-296 (Chapter 7)	Exam 2 (4/6)
4/11-4/13	Read pp. 302-322	Why did Plato eschew poets, and even the arts? What is the difference between esthete and techne? Are forgeries art?
4/18-4/20	Read pp. 322-344	Discuss arguments for the existence of a god, or God. Present the critiques. Discuss Hume on miracles
4/24	Last day of class. Review for final.	Study Day
4/25	Study day	
4/27	FINAL EXAM (cumulative) Ask me what I mean by this. We are to progress in our reasoning and analytical abilities, from easier attempts to more difficult attempts. In this way, our last exam requires the use of our practices from the very first day. However, the chapters covered will be 7&8	400-650PM No scantron needed

* Note: The Schedule is subject to revision

SAMPLE