

INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

PHI 2010 – 0007

FALL 2016

Tuesday & Thursday

3:00 PM – 4:15 PM

Dr. Nam T. Nguyen

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Office Hours: Appointment only

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Description and Objective

The objective of this course is threefold. First, this course introduces students to some of the most influential philosophical thinking and problems, such as the existence and nature of God, reason and faith, the problem of evil, knowledge of external world, determinism and freewill, the mind-body problem, and the claims of morality. Secondly, students will analyze meanings in philosophical texts from diverse historical and cultural contexts from the pre-Socratic period to the twenty-first century. Lastly, students will be challenged to demonstrate knowledge of and critical thinking about philosophical concepts and the theoretical and critical principles in philosophical thinking from diverse historical and cultural contexts.

Required Texts

Peter Kreeft, *Philosophy 101 by Socrates*, 2002

Manuel Velasquez, *Philosophy: A Text with Readings*, 13th edition, 2016

Tests

All four exams will be based on lectures, class discussions, and assigned readings. The format of each exam will be that of multiple choices.

Make-Up Policy

1. Any conflict with the exam's scheduled date must be addressed prior to test date.
2. Missed exams cannot be made up except for serious illnesses (requiring a formal doctor's excuse) or emergencies (documents must be given).

Grading

The student's final grade in this course will be the average of the numerical grades from four exams. For the purposes of the final grade, the following scale will be used.

Four Exams = 200 points

180 - 200 = A
173 - 179 = B+
160 - 172 = B
153 - 159 = C+
139 - 152 = C
134 - 138 = D+
120 - 133 = D
-119 = F

Class Attendance and Preparation

Class attendance is essential to your success in this class, for lectures and class discussions are a major part of this course. Assigned readings must be completed prior to class meeting. You can only participate in all class discussions if you are present in class and were prepared for class. If you are unable to attend class, please notify the instructor in advance.

Withdrawal

My goal is that every student successfully completes this course; however, if you cannot meet the requirements and challenges of this course, it is necessary that you withdraw from the course. Students who discontinue attendance and do not withdraw will receive an "F" for the course.

Notes

1. At the instructor's discretion, during the course of the semester this syllabus may be subject to change. Students are responsible for informing themselves of changes announced in class.
2. All reading assignments must be completed prior to class meeting.
3. **NO computers, iPads, smart phones, e-Books, or iPhones allowed in class.** (A device-free classroom policy!)
4. **The student who shows up late for each class meeting will have 10 points deducted.**
5. **The student who did not read the assigned readings for each class meeting will have 10 points deducted.**

(All instructors/faculty are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, please complete the following academic activity by the end of the first week of classes or as soon as possible after adding the course. Failure to do so may result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.)

DATE	READING ASSIGNMENTS
8-23	Introduction to the course
8-25	Peter Kreeft, <i>Philosophy 101 by Socrates</i> : 14-19; 22-25; 62-63
8-30	87-133
9-1	Manuel Velasquez, <i>Philosophy</i> : 4-8, 11-18; 38-41; 45-47
9-6	58-76; 78-86
9-8	86-100 ; 107-117
9-13	118-126 ; 140-145
9-15	Exam # 1
9-20	155-170; 176-188
9-22	200-226
9-27	252-275
9-29	275-289
10-4	290-310
10-6	Exam # 2
10-11	326-330; 341-370
10-13	370-396; 419-425
10-18	428-454
10-20	Exam # 3
10-25	488-500
10-27	501-519
11-1	519-540
11-3	543-562
11-8	568-576
11-10	580-591
11-15	603-614
11-17	622-630
11-22	630-634; 653-660
11-24	NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)
11-29	668-681
12-8	Exam #4 (1:00 PM – 2:30 PM)

