

INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

FALL 2017



Instructor contact information:

Dr. Shelley Park

Department of Philosophy

PSY 239; 407-823-2273

E-mail: Please contact me via course mail at web courses.

Office Hours: Virtual: M 10-noon; F2F: T noon-1.

Course Description:

In this course, we will examine a variety of philosophical concepts and themes, focusing on the nature of the good life (a classical philosophical concern). We will explore several theories of the good life as well as other philosophical issues in light of their interplay with popular culture and everyday life.

Course Objectives:

- To provide students with an introductory survey of classical and contemporary philosophical conceptions of the good life
- To engage students in critical thinking, about diverse beliefs, values, and practices in relation to diverse philosophical and cultural values
- To foster students' ability to engage in philosophical discussions about self, community, and culture

- To encourage self-reflection about academic and other life choices

Required texts:

You do not need to purchase any texts for this class. There are, however, a number of required readings (both classical and contemporary philosophical texts and relevant videos) that I will make available online. Please use the links provided on the relevant course pages.

Course requirements:

Philosophy happens through dialogue and critical self-reflection informed by diverse thinkers. Thus your grade in the class will reflect the following components:

Quizzes: 30%

Quizzes are designed to ensure you understand the reading and viewing material assigned. There will be 7 quizzes during the semester worth 5% each. Your final grade for this portion of the class will reflect your 6 highest quiz scores. Each quiz will consist of 5-10 objective questions (MC, T/F, fill in the blank, etc.). Quizzes will be timed. They are open-book but you should read and view the material carefully prior to taking the quiz as there will not be time to read as you take a quiz. See deadlines on calendar.

Discussions: 35%

Philosophy requires dialogue about what you are learning. Thus 35% of your course grade will reflect the quantity and quality of your efforts to engage with your peers in philosophical discussions about the good life. Deadlines are on the course schedule. Each discussion forum will be worth 5% and you will be evaluated on the quantity and quality of your participation, as well as your professionalism (i.e., your ability to meet deadlines, proofread your work, etc.). There are 8 discussion forums during the semester; your grade here will be comprised of your 7 highest scores.

Surveys: 15%

You will take 8 surveys during the semester. Questions are designed to have you engage in self-reflection regarding your own conceptions of the good life and how these beliefs are (or are not) embodied in your choices and actions. You will not be evaluated on the content of your answers but simply on your efforts to take the time to reflect during each unit. Surveys are untimed to give you as much time as you like to think about the questions. However, you must complete the survey by the deadline. Deadlines are on the calendar. The first unit's survey is worth 1%. Each subsequent survey is worth 2% and you will receive full marks for each one you complete.

Final exam: 20%

A final exam will consist of both objective and open-ended (e.g. short answer and/or essay) questions. It will be a comprehensive exam designed to assess your ability to understand, compare and contrast, and synthesize course material. See course schedule for date. As with quizzes, your final exam will be timed and open book.

Grading Policies:

I use a plus/minus scale for grading as follows:

A (Exceptional, Outstanding, Wow!)	93% or better	C (Satisfactory, Meets expectations)	73-76%
A-	90-92%	C-	70-72%
B+	87-89%	D+	67-69%
B (Very good, exceeds expectations)	83-86%	D (Below satisfactory, fails to meet basic expectations)	63-66%
B-	80-82%	D-	60-62%

C+

77-79%

F (Fail)

Less than 60%

Academic Integrity:

There is a zero tolerance policy for cheating and plagiarism. Cheating occurs when someone else does your work for you or gives you test answers, etc. Plagiarism occurs when you quote or paraphrase someone else's words or borrow their ideas and fail to cite your source. It is a form of cheating because this failure (whether intentional or unintentional) represents someone else's work as your own. It is an infraction of the student code of conduct and will result in a referral to the Office of Student conduct and an automatic "F" on that assignment. If you have questions regarding when or how to cite something, please consult the MLA style guide, the University Writing Center, or your professor.

Disability accommodations:

I want to ensure this class is accessible to all students. If you need accommodations, please contact the Student Accessibility Services who will inform me how to best provide individualized accommodations consistent with your documented disability. To be eligible for disability related accommodations, students must have a disability as defined by applicable federal and state laws and documented by an appropriate health care provider or professional.

Late Submissions:

Late submissions will not be given full credit unless you have an excuse recognized by UCF policy, e.g. hospitalization, death or life-threatening illness of a family member, or other documented medical excuse. Other legitimate reasons for absence (e.g. religious holidays, UCF related travel) are not excuses for late submissions; work should be turned in early when you know you will be unable to submit it on the deadline. Please also note that a broken computer, or the inability to retrieve, produce, or submit assignments from a computer will not be accepted as a valid excuse for submitting an assignment late. Back up your work and avoid procrastination in order to meet deadlines.

Extra-credit:

Do not ask for extra-credit. Do your best throughout the class and you will not need it. If I decide a substantial portion of the class would benefit from an additional opportunity, it will be offered to everyone. I will not select you out for special treatment. Don't ask.

Federal Financial Aid Regulation:




All faculty members are required to document students' engagement in the course based on their academic activity at the beginning of each semester. In order to document that you have begun this course, the introductory discussion forum assignment included in this module must be completed within the first week of classes (or, if adding the course late, as soon as you have access to the course). Failure to complete this assignment prior to the deadline may result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.



















Course Schedule:



















Specific topics and assignments are below: Note that the course proceeds on a biweekly schedule with regular deadlines to enable you to remember deadlines more easily. (You have something due every Friday and Sunday.) If you check into the course regularly, you will also see upcoming deadlines in your course feed and instructor announcements regarding both upcoming and past assignments.











Note: You can *always* complete required tasks in advance of the deadline and I encourage this. When you wait until the last minute, crises arise and technology may fail you. You cannot and should not count on instructor sympathy for last minute crises that could have been averted by starting your work earlier in the week.

Course Summary:

Date	Details
Mon Aug 21, 2017	 Classes start (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1417875&include_contexts=course_1258603) 12am
	 MODULE 1 OPENS: Introductions and Choices (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1417866&include_contexts=course_1258603) 12am
Thu Aug 24, 2017	 Drop/Swap deadline (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1417876&include_contexts=course_1258603) 12am

Date	Details	
Fri Aug 25, 2017	 Add deadline (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1417877&include_contexts=course_1258603)	12am
	 Quiz 1: Syllabus, Student Protocols and Chang (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1258603/assignments/5244374)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Aug 27, 2017	 First Module 1 discussion posting due (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1417858&include_contexts=course_1258603)	12am
Fri Sep 1, 2017	 Introductions (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1258603/assignments/5244391)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Sep 3, 2017	 What I Value 1 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1258603/assignments/5244383)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Sep 4, 2017	 Labor day (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1417867&include_contexts=course_1258603)	12am
	 MODULE 2 OPENS. What is the Good Life?: Classical Western Philosophies (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1417864&include_contexts=course_1258603)	12am
Fri Sep 8, 2017	 Quiz 2: Classical Western Philosophies of the Good Life (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1258603/assignments/5244385)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Sep 10, 2017	 First Module 2 discussion posting due (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1417883&include_contexts=course_1258603)	12am
Fri Sep 15, 2017	 Aristotle's Values and Our Own (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1258603/assignments/5244392)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Sep 17, 2017	 What I Value 2 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1258603/assignments/5244384)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Sep 18, 2017	 MODULE 3 OPENS. What is the Good Life?: Classical Eastern Philosophies (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1417865&include_contexts=course_1258603)	12am
Fri Sep 22, 2017	 Quiz 3: Classical Eastern Philosophies of the Good Life (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1258603/assignments/5244382)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Sep 24, 2017	 First Module 3 discussion posting due (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1417882&include_contexts=course_1258603)	12am
Fri Sep 29, 2017	 Education and the Good Life: Confucius (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1258603/assignments/5244393)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 1, 2017	 What I Value 3 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1258603/assignments/5244376)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Oct 2, 2017	 MODULE 4 OPENS: Sustaining the Good Life: Environmental and Biomedical Philosophies (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1417863&include_contexts=course_1258603)	12am
Fri Oct 6, 2017	 Quiz 4: Environmental Philosophies (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1258603/assignments/5244377)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	
Sun Oct 8, 2017	 First Module 4 discussion posting due (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1417878&include_contexts=course_1258603)	12am
Fri Oct 13, 2017	 The Environment and the Good Life (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1258603/assignments/5244390)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 15, 2017	 What I Value 4 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1258603/assignments/5244381)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Oct 16, 2017	 MODULE 5 OPENS: Sharing the Good Life: Philosophies of Love (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1417862&include_contexts=course_1258603)	12am
Fri Oct 20, 2017	 Quiz 5: Philosophies of Love (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1258603/assignments/5244388)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 22, 2017	 First Module 5 discussion posting due (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1417881&include_contexts=course_1258603)	12am
Fri Oct 27, 2017	 Love and the Good Life (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1258603/assignments/5244394)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Oct 29, 2017	 What I Value 5 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1258603/assignments/5244373)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Oct 30, 2017	 MODULE 6 OPENS: Fighting for the Good Life: Social and Political Philosophies (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1417861&include_contexts=course_1258603)	12am
Mon Oct 30, 2017	 Withdrawal deadline (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1417873&include_contexts=course_1258603)	12am
Fri Nov 3, 2017	 Quiz 6: Social and Political Philosophies (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1258603/assignments/5244380)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 5, 2017	 First Module 6 discussion posting due (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1417880&include_contexts=course_1258603)	12am
Fri Nov 10, 2017	 Veteran's day (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1418980&include_contexts=course_1258603)	12am
Fri Nov 10, 2017	 Social Justice Struggles and the Good Life (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1258603/assignments/5244395)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 12, 2017	 What I Value 6 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1258603/assignments/5244379)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Nov 13, 2017	 MODULE 7 OPENS: Gratitude for the Good Life (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1417860&include_contexts=course_1258603)	12am
Thu Nov 16, 2017	 Thanksgiving break begins (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1417870&include_contexts=course_1258603)	12am
Fri Nov 17, 2017	 Quiz 7: Gratitude (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1258603/assignments/5244378)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	
Sun Nov 19, 2017	 First Module 7 discussion posting due (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1417879&include_contexts=course_1258603)	12am
	 Thanksgiving break ends (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1417874&include_contexts=course_1258603)	12am
Fri Nov 24, 2017	 Gratitude and the Good Life (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1258603/assignments/5244389)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Nov 26, 2017	 What I Value 7 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1258603/assignments/5244375)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Nov 27, 2017	 MODULE 8 OPENS: Wrapping up (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1417859&include_contexts=course_1258603)	12am
Fri Dec 1, 2017	 Farewells (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1258603/assignments/5244396)	due by 11:59pm
Sat Dec 2, 2017	 Classes end (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1417872&include_contexts=course_1258603)	12am
	 What I Value 8 (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1258603/assignments/5244386)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Dec 4, 2017	 Study day (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/calendar?event_id=1417871&include_contexts=course_1258603)	12am
Fri Dec 8, 2017	 Final Exam (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1258603/assignments/5244387)	due by 11:59pm