

Introduction to Philosophy
PHI 2010-16 Fall 0W58
3 credit hours
University of Central Florida

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If you have questions, please email me rather than posting in Webcourses.

(I will usually respond immediately, but please allow up to 24 hours for a response.)

Required Textbook: Philosophy: The Power of Ideas, 9th edition, Moore & Bruder (McGraw-Hill)

Course Description: This course is designed to introduce students to the fundamental concepts of philosophy from a historical perspective. Beginning with its ancient roots and continuing into contemporary thought, we will consider such questions as the nature of being, existence, human selfhood, morality, justice, religion, and the metaphysical foundations of knowledge. The course is designed to enable students to think more constructively about themselves and their place in the world and also to enrich their awareness of philosophy as an integral thread in the fabric of the liberal arts.

Course Objectives:

1. Analyze and evaluate basic terms commonly used in the study of philosophy.
2. Recognize and be able to describe key figures and trends in the history of philosophy.
3. Enhance reading, critical thinking skills and problem-solving abilities.
4. Provide the relevant arguments and justifications for different views in philosophy through lucid discussion and clearly written work.

Grading and Class Guidelines:

- **Reading Assignments: These readings are difficult.** While I will never assign long sections of reading, it will take some time to complete them *and* understand what you read. Be sure to give yourself enough time to read the assignments – and ideally, to read them more than once and take notes. Be sure that you can identify the main ideas of the readings after you have finished reading.

There are also PowerPoints available for your review in each week's Modules section, but **please note that these are not a replacement for the reading assignments.** The PowerPoints will highlight and expand on certain themes from the reading. Any material found in the reading assignments is fair game for the quizzes and tests.

- **Syllabus Quiz (5 points):** The Registrar's office needs to document student activity the first week of class in order for financial aid to be disbursed on time. Please review the syllabus and complete the brief syllabus quiz in order to satisfy this requirement no later than **Friday, August 26 at 5:00 pm.** If you complete the quiz after this time you will still receive your financial aid but it may be late. Even if you are not receiving financial aid you should complete this quiz in order to receive credit for the 5 points.

- **Assignments:** Each week you will have a reading assignment and/or film screening and quiz following. Quizzes are due on Sunday evenings no later than 11:59 pm with the exception of the weekend following Thanksgiving. The quizzes are timed as explained in each week's Module.

- **The quizzes will expire after the due date and makeups will only be granted in DOCUMENTED EMERGENCY situations that prevented you from completing the work on time.**

- Please note the menu on the left side of Webcourses. See Modules for additional information regarding each week's assignments and quizzes. Each week's Module will open the weekend immediately before the content begins. Quizzes are also found through this menu on the left side.

- **Final Grade Totals (235 points possible):**

Week 1 Quiz =	20
Quizzes (14 weeks x 15 pts) =	210
Syllabus Quiz =	5

Your points earned/235 = percentage

(A= 94-100; A- = 90-93.5; B+ = 87-89.5; B = 84-86.5; B- = 80-83.5; C+ = 77-79.5; C = 74-76.5; C- = 70-73.5; D+ = 67-69.5; D= 64-66.5; D- = 60-63.5; F = below 60)

Course Access: The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Accessibility Services, Ferrell Commons Room 185, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

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.

The dates and assignments are tentatively assigned and can be changed by the instructor with advance notice. **Most readings are in the textbook; additional readings marked with an asterisk can be accessed through the URL links below or files found on Webcourses.**