

# PHI 2010: Introduction to Philosophy

Section: OW68

University of Central Florida, Fall 2017

Dr. Peter Olen

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## Course Description:

The point of Introduction to Philosophy is to offer a wide survey of various philosophical problems and topics in the western tradition. This will include addressing various issues in ethics, epistemology (the theory of knowledge), science, the existence of God, death, the constitution of the mind, and various approaches to life in general.

## Textbook & Other Course Materials:

*Introduction to Philosophy: Classical and Contemporary Readings* (**seventh edition**) and online readings

## Accommodations Statement:

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 with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Accessibility Services <http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu>, Ferrell Commons, 7F, Room 185, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823- 2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

## Privacy Policy (FERPA):

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of a student's education records. In order for your information to be released, a form must be signed and in your records located in the Admissions/Registrar's Office.

## Attendance/Withdrawal Policies:

Once the Add/Drop period passes, students deciding to discontinue class attendance and/or online participation have the responsibility for formal withdrawal by the withdrawal deadline.

## Withdrawal Deadline:

**10/30/2017**

## Instructor Policies:

*You should allow yourself plenty of time to do the readings.* Some of our assignments can be quite long and difficult. Please keep yourself up to date with our reading schedule. This is especially true for summer students, as our time together is substantially shorter!

*There is no extra credit for this course.* There are also no opportunities to re-do or resubmit assignments, quizzes, or exams. All work must be submitted on time.

*Plagiarism and Cheating* of any kind on an examination, quiz, or assignment will result at least in an "F" for that assignment (and may, depending on the severity of the case, lead to an "F" for the entire course) and may be subject to appropriate referral to the Office of Student Conduct for further action. See the UCF Golden Rule for further information. I will assume for this course that you will adhere to the academic creed of this University and will maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. In other

words, don't cheat by giving answers to others or taking them from anyone else. I will also adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity, so please do not ask me to change (or expect me to change) your grade illegitimately or to bend or break rules for one person that will not apply to everyone.

**Using any outside or uncredited (i.e., plagiarized) sources in your discussion posts will result in a zero for the assignment.** I have no tolerance for plagiarism. Even if you “only” plagiarize a sentence, you will receive a zero for the week and possibly be dismissed from the course (upon the professor’s discretion).

**Absolutely no late assignments will be accepted.** No assignments will be accepted that are emailed or messaged to me. All assignments must be completed through Blackboard and submitted during normal class hours.

**Rude, dismissive, or offensive emails are subject to submission to student services and dismissal from the course.** Simply because you are not in a classroom does not mean you can be rude to myself or other students. Please keep this in mind before writing your discussion posts or sending me an email. The readings are to be done *prior* to class. You should allow yourself plenty of time to do the readings as some of them can be quite long and difficult. Please keep yourself up to date with our reading schedule.

## Grading Information:

### Grading Scale:

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
59% and below	F

## Assignment Overview & Grade Breakdown:

Category	Description	Points or %
Online Discussion Posts and Replies	You must participate in online discussions each week. There will be a prompt asking you to write a response ( <b>a minimum of 300 words</b> ) to a philosophical argument. In addition, you need to write a response to one of your classmate’s posts ( <b>a minimum of 200 words</b> ).	280 Points
Quizzes	There are weekly quizzes consisting of multiple-choice and true/false questions.	140 Points
Exams	These exams consist of multiple-choice and true/false questions.	75 Points
	Total Points	495

## Course Calendar:

Week	Begin Date	End Date	Objectives & Reading Assignments	Items Due
1	8/21	8/27	Read: Plato “Apology” (22-37)	Quiz, discussion post, and reply
2	8/28	9/3	Read: The Problem of Evil + St. Thomas Aquinas on God’s Existence (44-46); Pascal’s Wager (52-55)	Quiz, discussion post, and reply

Week	Begin Date	End Date	Objectives & Reading Assignments	Items Due
3	9/4	9/10	Read: W. K. Clifford on Belief (online); William James on Belief (online)	Quiz, discussion post, and reply
4	9/11	9/17	Read: Rene Descartes' Meditations (157-163)	Quiz, discussion post, and reply <b>Exam 1 due by 11:59 p.m. on 9/17</b>
5	9/18	9/24	Kitcher on the Internet, Democracy, and Knowledge (online)	Quiz, discussion post, and reply
6	9/25	10/1	Read: Richard Taylor on the Meaning of Life (820-836)	Quiz, discussion post, and reply
7	10/2	10/8	Read: Christy Wampole on Irony (online)	Quiz, discussion post, and reply
8	10/9	10/15	Read: Lisa Cassidy, "Starving Children in Africa: Who Cares?" (online)	Quiz, discussion post, and reply
9	10/16	10/22	Read: Matthew Crawford, "Shop Class as Soulcraft" (online); Bertrand Russell, "In Praise of Idleness"	Quiz, discussion post, and reply <b>Exam 2 due by 11:59 p.m. on 10/22</b>
10	10/23	10/29	Read: Debra Satz on Markets and Reproductive Labor (675-688)	Quiz, discussion post, and reply
11	10/30	11/5	Read: Martha Nussbaum, "Towards a Globally Sensitive Patriotism" (online); James Baldwin "My Dungeon Shook" (online); Garnette Cadogan "Walking While Black" (online)	Quiz, discussion post, and reply
12	11/6	11/12	Sally Haslanger "Future Genders? Future Races?" (online)	Quiz, discussion post, and reply
13	11/13	11/19	Paul Feyerabend "How to Defend Society Against Science" (online)	Quiz, discussion post, and reply
14	11/20	11/26	Thanksgiving Break!	Nothing is due this week
15	11/27	12/3	Epictetus "The Enchiridion" (online)	Quiz, discussion post, and reply
16	12/4	12/9	Take your final exam!	<b>Final exam due by 11:59 p.m. on 12/9</b>