

UCF Philosophy Department  
Summer Session "B"  
M/T/W/Thurs 12:00-1:50 p.m.  
Location: CB1 0121

# Introduction to Philosophy

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## Course Description:

This course surveys the fundamentals of philosophy through historical and paradigmatic lenses. Our explorations will revolve around questions regarding the nature of philosophy itself as well as the practical significance of thinking and acting philosophically. Specifically, we will examine the differences between various "schools" of philosophy as well as the sub-disciplines of this philosophy (e.g., ethics, metaphysics, epistemology, etc.). The central purpose of this class is to consider the value of philosophy for our lives.

## Course Objectives:

- To give you an overview of the basic problems of philosophy and their relationship to your life.
- To teach you the critical thinking, writing, and reading skills that will contribute to your success in other courses.
- To learn the differences between good and bad arguments.
- To draw connections between the discipline of philosophy and other academic/professional schools.
- To convince you that majoring or minoring in philosophy will help you to achieve your goals in life.

## Required Texts:

Cottingham, John G. *Western Philosophy: An Anthology*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.  
Magee, Bryan. *The Great Philosophers: An Introduction to Western Philosophy*

## Recommended secondary source:

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy <http://plato.stanford.edu/contents.html>

## **Grading Details:**

**15% Movie Analysis**—We will be watching four philosophical movies during class on the following Thursdays: June 29<sup>th</sup>, July 6<sup>th</sup>, July 20<sup>th</sup>, and July 27<sup>th</sup>. Fifteen percent of your final grade will be based on four critical papers based on these movies.

**15% Quizzes**—Two quizzes will be given on two Wednesdays, July 5<sup>th</sup> and July 26<sup>th</sup>. Your performance on these short, quizzes will contribute to fifteen percent of your final grade.

**20% Online Discussion Posts and In-Class Participation**—Twenty percent of your final grade will be determined by the quality of your contributions to 5 online discussion prompts (one for each week with the exception of the sixth week/week one—week five=discussion posts).

**25% Midterm**—25% of your final grade will be based on your midterm grade. Due to the size of this class, the midterm will consist of true/false and multiple choice questions.

**25% Final**—The final will resemble the form and structure of the midterm, **but it will not be cumulative**. The last twenty-five percent of your grade comes from this final test grade.

## **Movie Review Expectations:**

The movie days will require your undivided attention, for you will be required to write a 1-page critical analysis of each movie (Times New Roman, double spaced). To think and write “critically” about the films means that you provide clear and cogent thoughts about their philosophical natures. And for these assignments, you must make at least TWO critical claims about the film’s content (e.g., one of the philosophical ideas presented during the film, something one of the characters said or did, or even something you disagreed with in the film, etc.). Due date for each paper: by 12:01 a.m. on the Monday after each Thursday. You will post your analysis on a discussion post in Canvas/Webcourses.

## ***Rubric for Discussion Posts:***

I cannot express enough how important it is to write thoughtful, clear, and *well-informed* posts in order to do well in this online course. Your discussion posts ought to be considered as a representation of your best comments and thoughts on the material.

Take your time on them.

**For each discussion post you must write you own post and comment on at least two other posts.**

The discussion postings are to be treated--and will be graded--as formal, academic written assignments. For this reason, it is advisable to compose each discussion post in Word (or a similar program) and then copy and paste it into the text box.

When you are composing your posts, you should keep in mind the important difference between expository and critical posts. An expository post merely explains something. And although some of the prompts will call for some explanation, make sure you are also writing something critical. Critical writing involves the construction of an argument--a position or thesis that you defend. This means you need to support the claims you make.

**An argument is not an opinion, an assertion or a belief**, though you should feel free to construct your argument in the first person. **Your posts and replies on the discussion group must original.** What makes a post or reply original?

Answers:

1. One that does not repeat what others have said
2. One that does not cut and paste or copy what is on the internet
3. One that is articulate and answers the prompt

Each week it is assigned, you must post the relevant discussion posts online before Saturday at 12pm.

### **Pace and Exams**

Philosophy is a difficult discipline. It requires one to call into question the "normal" or common way of perceiving and understanding the world and one's place in it. Consequently, it is extremely important not to rush through the material or to "look and find" answers to quizzes and exams. Many of the exam questions—and all your posts—will require serious reflection, without which it will be difficult to do well in this course.

## **Tentative Schedule:**

### **Color Coding of Activities:**

**YELLOW=YOUR THOUGHTS/WORK IN SMALL GROUPS**

**GREEN= GROUP DISCUSSION**

**SILVER=SCEPTRE POWER;**

**RED=READING/SMALL GROUPS**

**PURPLE=PROFESSOR**

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## **Week One: Ancient Philosophy, Part One**

**Discussion Post # 1 Released on Sunday, the 25<sup>th</sup>: Due Saturday, the 31<sup>th</sup> before 12 p.m.**

## Class One, Monday, June 26th:

--What is Philosophy?

--Introduction to the Syllabus

--What is an Argument? (PP)

--The Axial Age

--The Pre-Socratics

--The One and the Many

--Questions?

READING FOR NEXT CLASS:

On Webcourses: *What is an Argument Power Point*

Online: <https://www.biography.com/people/socrates-948812>

In Cottingham:

Plato: *Knowledge versus Opinion*

Plato: *The Allegory of the Cave*

In Magee,

On Plato: 12-31

## Class Two, Tuesday, June 27<sup>th</sup>

--Questions and Discussions

--The Life of Socrates

--Was Socrates Wise?

--The Allegory of the Cave

--Socrates's Student: Plato

--Dialogues, the Kallipolis, and the Forms

--Check Understanding

READING FOR NEXT CLASS:

Online: <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/aristotle-ethics/> and sections Intro, 8, 9, & 10 here:

<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/aristotle/>

In Cottingham:

Aristotle: *Individual Substance*

Aristotle: *Soul and Body, Form and Matter*

Aristotle: *Four Types of Explanation*

Aristotle: *Ethical Virtue*

In Magee:

On Aristotle, 32-55

## Class Three, Wednesday, June 28<sup>th</sup>

--Review

-- Forms v. forms: What are the Main Differences?

--The Platonic Forms vs. the Aristotelian forms

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--Aristotle: Substance and Hylomorphism

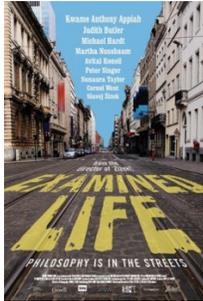
--Teleology, Virtue, and the Mean

--Discussion: What is Friendship?

READINGS FOR NEXT CLASS: NONE

## Class Four, Thursday, June 29<sup>th</sup>

Movie—in class: *The Examined Life* by Astra Taylor



**Assignment for next class:** Complete Movie Review—Due July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**READING FOR NEXT CLASS:**

Online: On Epicureanism, sections 3 and 4 here: <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/epicurus>

In Cottingham:

Lucretius: *How to Accept Reality and Avoid Fear*

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## Week Two: Ancient Philosophy, Part Two

Discussion Post # 2 Released on Sunday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>: Due Saturday, the 8<sup>th</sup> before 12 p.m.

## Class Five, Monday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>

--The Socratic Effect

--Hellenistic Philosophy: The Schools: Epicurean, Stoic, Cynic

--The Natures of Pleasure and Pain?

--Democritus and Epicurus

--Desires and Happiness

--Handout: Aristotle vs. Epicurus on Happiness

- -What is Happiness?

**READING FOR NEXT CLASS:**

Online: On Stoicism: <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/stoicism> Marcus Aurelius aphorisms:  
<https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/31010>

In Cottingham:

Seneca: *Life Guided by Stoic Philosophy*

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**4<sup>th</sup> OF JULY, NO CLASS, HAPPY 4<sup>th</sup>!!!**

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### **Class Six, Wednesday, July 5<sup>th</sup>**

--QUIZ #1

--Stoicism

--Life Guided by Stoic Philosophy

--The Logos

--What is the goal of life? and What is the purpose of my life?

--What is the good life?

--The Stoic Answer: Virtue

--Apatheia and Ataraxia

READING FOR NEXT CLASS: NONE

### **Class Seven, Thursday, July 6<sup>th</sup>**

Movie—in class: *The Seventh Seal* by Ingmar Bergman



**Assignment for next class:** Complete Movie Review—Due July 10<sup>th</sup>

READING FOR NEXT CLASS:

Online: NONE

In Cottingham:

Leibniz: *The Problem of Evil*

In Magee:

Medieval Philosophy: 56-75

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**Week Three: Modern Philosophy, Part One**

Discussion Post # 3 Released on Sunday, the 9<sup>th</sup>: Due Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup> before 12 p.m.

## Class Eight, Monday, July 10<sup>th</sup>

--The History of Philosophy: One Version

--Premodern and Modern Philosophical Traditions

--What is the nature of evil?

--Theodicy

--The “Best of all Possible Worlds”

--Voltaire: *Candide*

--Review and Questions

READING FOR NEXT CLASS:

Online: None

In Cottingham:

St. Anselm: *The Existence of God*

St. Thomas Aquinas: *The Five Proofs of God*

David Hume. *The Argument from Design*

## Class Nine, Tuesday, July 11<sup>th</sup>

--Does God Exist?

--What do you Mean by “God?”

--Some God-Related “Isms”

--Arguments for the Existence of God

--Moral Accountability and Ideas of God

--Discussion

READING FOR NEXT CLASS:

Online: None

In Cottingham:

Descartes. *The Incorporeal Mind*

Spinoza. *The Identify of Body and Mind*

In Magee:

On Descartes: 76-95

## Class Ten, Wednesday, July 12<sup>th</sup>

--What is a Problem?

--What is a Philosophical Problem?

--The Body and the Mind: Dualisms vs. Distinctions

--MIDTERM IN-CLASS REVIEW

READING FOR NEXT CLASS: NONE

## Class Eleven, Thursday, July 13<sup>th</sup>

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# MIDTERM EXAM

MAKE SURE TO BRING A PEN AND A BLUE/GREEN BOOK TO CLASS. YOU WILL WRITE YOUR RESPONSES TO THE SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS AND THE ESSAY PROMPTS IN THIS BOOK— IN PEN NOT PENCIL

READING FOR NEXT CLASS:

Online: <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/hobbes-moral> and <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/locke-political>

In Cottingham:

Hobbes: *Sovereignty and Security*

Locke: *Consent and Political Obligation*

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## Week Four: Modern Philosophy, Part Two

Discussion Post # 4 Released on Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup>: Due Friday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> before 12 p.m.

### Class Twelve, Monday, July 17<sup>th</sup>

--What is Political Philosophy?

--What is the Good Society?

--The State of Nature

--Hobbes vs. Locke

--The Social Contract

--Hobbes vs. Locke, Take Two

--Legitimacy and Sovereignty

READING FOR NEXT CLASS:

Online: <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/hume-moral/> and <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/kant-moral/>

In Cottingham:

Spinoza: *Virtue, Reason and the Passions*

Hume: *Human Feeling as the Source of Ethics*

Kant: *Duty and Reason as the Ultimate Principle*

In Magee:

On Hume and Kant: 144-187

### Class Thirteen, Tuesday, July 18<sup>th</sup>

--What Does it Mean to Act Morally?

--What is the Source of Our Moral Sense?

--Hume: Reason, Passion, Sentiment

--Sympathy and Empathy

--Kant: The Moral Law Within

--Hypothetical vs. Categorical Imperatives

--Did the Enlightenment Project Fail?

READING FOR NEXT CLASS:

Online: Kant's "What is Enlightenment?": <http://www.allmendeberlin.de/What-is-Enlightenment.pdf>

In Cottingham: NONE

**Class Fourteen, Wednesday, July 19<sup>th</sup>**

## GUEST SPEAKER

READING FOR NEXT CLASS: NONE

**Class Fifteen, Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup>**

Movie—in class: *Waking Life* by Richard Linklater



Assignment for next class: Complete Movie Review—Due July 24<sup>th</sup>

READING FOR NEXT CLASS:

Online: NONE

In Cottingham: Mill: *Happiness as the Foundation of Morality*

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## Week Five: Contemporary Philosophy, Part One

Discussion Post # 5 Released on Sunday, the 23<sup>rd</sup>: Due Saturday, the 29<sup>th</sup> before 12 p.m.

**Class Sixteen, Monday, July 24<sup>th</sup>**

--Don't Worry, Be Happy

--Is Happiness the Goal of Life?

--Utilitarianism and Consequentialism

--Bentham: Hedonism, Calculating Pleasure—The Quantitative Approach

--Mill: A Qualitative Approach

--The Greatest Happiness Principle

--The Trolley Car: Thoughts, Reflections, Questions

READING FOR NEXT CLASS:

Online: Sartre: "Existentialism is a Humanism?":

<https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/sartre/works/exist/sartre.htm>

In Cottingham:

Kierkegaard: *Faith and Subjectivity*

## Class Seventeen, Tuesday, July 25<sup>th</sup>

--What is Existentialism?

--What Should I do with My Life?

--Who Should I Turn to When I have to Mark a Decision?

--Kierkegaard: **Faith and Subjective Truths**

--The Three Stages

--Religion and the Knight of Faith

--Sartre: Existentialism is a Humanism

READING FOR NEXT CLASS:

Online: Read: <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/nietzsche-life-works/#MidPeriWrit1878>

and sections 2,3,4, and 6 here: <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/nietzsche/>

In Cottingham:

Nietzsche: *Against Conventional Morality*

Nietzsche: *The Death of God and the Ascendancy of the Will*

In Magee:

On Schopenhauer & Nietzsche, 210--251

## Class Eighteen, Wednesday, July 26<sup>th</sup>

--QUIZ # 2

--What is Truth?

--What is the Will?

--Schopenhauer and the WILL

--Nietzsche, God and the WILL

--Perspectivism

--The Camel, The Lion, and The Baby (PP)

READING FOR NEXT CLASS: NONE

## Class Nineteen, Thursday, July 27<sup>th</sup>

Movie—in class: *I Heart Huckabees* by David O. Russell



Assignment for next class: Complete Movie Review—Due July 31<sup>st</sup>

READING FOR NEXT CLASS:

Online:

<http://155.97.32.9/~phanna/classes/ling5981/autumn03/web/webnotes/13oct/node19.html>

Section 3 here: <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/wittgenstein/>

In Cottingham: NONE

In Magee:

On Wittgenstein, 322--347

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## Week Six: Contemporary Philosophy, Part Two

### Class Twenty, Monday, July 31<sup>th</sup>

--Review

--Logic, Truth, and Nonsense

--Logical Positivism

--The Early Wittgenstein

--The Picture Theory of Language

--The Late Wittgenstein

--Aphorisms

--Games and Universes

READING FOR NEXT CLASS:

Online: James, What Pragmatism Means:

<https://www.marxists.org/reference/subject/philosophy/works/us/james.htm>

On Feminism: <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/feminism-topics/> and

<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/feminism-approaches/>

In Cottingham: None

### Class Twenty-one, Tuesday, August 1<sup>st</sup>

--Theory vs. Practice

--What Pragmatism Means

--The Answer to Your Metaphysical Problem: A Squirrel

--Relationalism

--What is Feminism?

--Women Philosophers and Sexism (PP)

--Begin Review for the Final

READING FOR NEXT CLASS: NONE, begin studying for the final.

### Class Twenty-two, Wednesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>

--Does Objective Truth Exist?

--The Motifs of Postmodernism

--Review for Final

Class Twenty-three, Thursday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>

## LAST DAY OF CLASS and FINAL EXAM

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### **Academic Honesty**

The integrity of student's work is a critical component of the academic process. The submission of another's work as one's own is plagiarism and will be dealt with using the procedures outlined in the University of Central Florida catalog.

**Examples of cheating include but are not limited to:**

1. The unauthorized possession or use of notes, texts, electronic devices (e.g., computers, mobile phones), online materials or other such unauthorized materials/devices in fulfillment of course requirements.
2. Copying another's person work or participation in such an effort.
3. An attempt or participation in an attempt to fulfill the requirements of the course with work other than one's own.
4. Forging or deliberately misrepresenting data or results.
5. Obtaining or offering either for profit or free of charge materials one might submit or has submitted for academic credit. This includes uploading course materials to online sites devoted in whole or in part, to aiding and abetting cheating under the guise of providing "study aids." There is no prohibition concerning uploading exemplars one's work to one's personal website or to departmental, divisional, University or professional society websites for the purposes of publicity, praise, examination or review by potential employers, graduate school admissions committees, etc.
6. Violating the specific directions concerning the operation of the honor code in relation to a particular assignment.
7. Making unauthorized copies of graded work for future distribution.
8. Claiming credit for a group project to which one did not contribute.

**There are NO MAKE UPS for any parts of this course without a legitimate excuse.**

**Legitimate Excuses:** college-sponsored activities closely linked to academics or to other official college functions (administrative, athletic, etc.); student illness or injury—with a note from health services—as well as critical illness/death in one's immediate family; jury duty (or subpoena for court appearance); religious holidays (for students who actively practice the religion).

**Incompletes:** The grade of incomplete will be given only in special circumstances such as an illness, an accident, or a death in the family.

### Accessibility 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 connect with [Student Accessibility Services](#), Ferrell Commons, 7F, Room 185, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

## Copyright

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## Third-Party Software and FERPA

During this course you might have the opportunity to use public online services and/or software applications sometimes called third-party software such as a blog or wiki. While some of these could be required assignments, you need **not** make any personally identifying information on a public site. Do not post or provide any private information about yourself or your classmates. Where appropriate you may use a pseudonym or nickname. Some written assignments posted publicly may require personal reflection/comments, but the assignments will not require you to disclose any personally identity-sensitive information. If you have any concerns about this, please contact your instructor.