

"The unexamined life is not worth living" – Socrates

Philosophy 2010H: Honors Introduction to Philosophy, Fall 2018
M/W/F 11:30-12:20 BHC 126

Instructor Information:

Dr. Jennifer Mundale

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Office hours: M/W 1:30-3:30 and by appt.

Office: 230 Psychology Building

Please note the message below from The Office of the Provost:

"As of Fall 2014, all 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."

Required Academic Activity:

Take the "**Attendance Verification Quiz**", in Quizzes area of course website. This quiz **will not** count toward your course grade or affect it in any way. It is open for the first week of class.

Required Texts:

You do not need to buy any textbooks for this class. A variety of online resources and handouts will be provided free of charge. Note, however, that **this is not an online course**; it is a face to face course. You are responsible for knowing the content of the lectures and for anything that is discussed in class. I do not distribute lecture notes, but I do distribute a review/study guide before each exam.

Course Description:

This is an introductory level course in philosophy, with no prerequisites. The course is intended to introduce students to some of the major philosophical fields, figures and topics.

Course Goals and Objectives:

Students will gain a basic familiarity with major fields as ethics, logic/critical thinking, epistemology and ontology, social and political philosophy, and philosophy of mind. More broadly, students will develop their abilities to think critically about concepts, assertions, and arguments from diverse philosophical texts.

Attendance and Participation:

Regular attendance and thoughtful preparation will be essential to your successful completion of this course. Excessive absence will lower your final grade. Meaningful class participation will figure positively in determining your final grade. Disagreement and debate in the exchange of philosophical ideas are natural and encouraged, but you must observe a courteous, respectful attitude toward others in the class. Disruptive or discourteous behavior will not be tolerated and may result in a lowered grade, a failing grade, or dismissal from the class. If you miss class, you are responsible for the material covered in the missed class, as well as for any missed announcements or handouts.

Email Requirement:

In order to complete this course, you must regularly check your Knight's email. Some class announcements and materials will be distributed exclusively through e-mail. It is up to you to insure that you receive them, and you are responsible for their contents. UCF regards your Knight's email as your official address for your classes and for other information that the university may send you.

Makeup Policy:

If you miss a test, you will not automatically be granted a make-up. These will be given only in exceptional circumstances, with substantial, written documentation, from a competent authority (physician, coach, counselor, etc.) Additionally, you must contact me within 3 calendar days of the missed test in order for me to consider granting a makeup: note that "contact" means actually discussing the matter with me, not merely leaving me a message or an e-mail. **If granted, the make-up will be more difficult than the original that was missed and will be given at the end of the semester.** Alternatively, if you anticipate having to be absent on a test day, and have a legitimate reason for your absence, see me well ahead of time, and if possible, I will arrange for you to take it early. Unexcused absence from an exam will result in a failing grade for the missed exam.

Class Decorum:

How you handle yourself reflects upon who you are, so behave in a way that shows respect for yourself and for those around you. Please turn off your cell phone before you come to class. You are expected to arrive on time and stay for the duration of the class. Coming late, stepping out, and leaving early are generally discourteous and can be disruptive. It is understood that urgent situations may arise which make these things necessary and excusable. In all other cases, this behavior should be avoided. If such behavior becomes excessive, it will be considered disruptive to the class and represent grounds for lowering your grade, failing you in the course, and/or taking disciplinary action. If you know that you will need to leave early, please tell me before class that you will need to do so.

Academic Dishonesty:

I do not tolerate cheating, plagiarism, or other forms of academic dishonesty and will punish cheaters to the fullest extent allowed through the Office of Student Conduct. If you don't have enough integrity to do your own work, drop the class now and re-examine your purpose in life and at UCF. University Guidelines can be found here: [Golden Rule. \(http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/docs/goldenrule.pdf\)](http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/docs/goldenrule.pdf)

Basis for Grades:

Three Incremental Tests - 25% each

Final Exam (cumulative for entire course) - 25%

- Additionally, there will be occasional pop quizzes, for extra credit only, no makeups.

- I will use the plus/minus grading convention (A, A-, B+, B, B-, etc.).

Technical Resources:

For further assistance:

- UCF Home Page - a search will help find UCF resources - <http://www.ucf.edu>

- Helpdesk - <http://helpdesk.ucf.edu/> - You can also call the helpdesk at 407-823-5117.

- Techrangers - <https://techrangers.cdl.ucf.edu/>, or 407-823-3808

- Learning Online - <http://learn.ucf.edu> This URL also includes access to information on study skills for distance learners, the library and the writing center.

Important Dates on the UCF Academic Calendar

Last Day to Drop and Request Full Refund Thursday, August 23, 2018
Drop/Swap Deadline on myUCF Thursday, August 23, 2018 11:59 PM
Add Deadline on myUCF Friday, August 24, 2018 11:59 PM
Withdrawal Deadline Friday, October 26, 2018 11:59 PM
Classes End, Last Day to Remove Incomplete Saturday, December 1, 2018
Final Examination Period Monday, December 3 - Saturday, December 8, 2018
Grades Due From Faculty (at 12 noon) Wednesday, December 12, 2018

Holidays

Labor Day Monday, September 3, 2018
Veterans Day Monday, November 12, 2018
Thanksgiving Thursday, November 22, 2018 -Saturday, November 24, 2018

Preliminary Schedule. The schedule may be modestly revised, depending on class interest and progress. Except for the first class meeting, please have readings completed before class on the day they are scheduled.

Week One, August 20-24.

M Student Questionnaires, and What is Philosophy?
W Continue introducing academic philosophy, begin discussion of Existentialism. See handout titled, "Introductory Notes on Existentialism".
F Sartre, [Existentialism is a Humanism](#)

Week Two, August 27-31

M Camus, "Letters to a German Friend", and handout titled, "Notes on Camus".
W Finish discussion of Camus and Existentialism.
F Begin discussion of ethics. Aristotle, excerpt from Nicomachean Ethics.

Week Three, September 3-7

M Labor Day holiday
W Finish excerpt from Nicomachean Ethics.
F Mill, excerpt from Utilitarianism.

Week Four, September 10-14

M Utilitarianism, cont'd.
W Kantian ethics
F Finish Kantian ethics

Week Five, September 17-21

M Feminist ethics
W Applications, selected examples
F Conclude section on ethics, Review for Test 1

Week Six, September 24-28

M Test 1

W Begin epistemology and ontology; excerpts from Plato's Republic, Books I, VI and VII.

F Guest speaker, Dr. Mundale away at conference (Continue Plato's Divided Line and Cave)

Week Seven, October 1-5

M Descartes, the Rationalist: [First Meditation](#) and [Second Meditation](#); also, *skim* through [Introduction](#), [Preface to the Reader, and Synopsis](#)

W Finish Descartes, begin Hume (empiricism and skepticism):

F Finish Hume

Week Eight, October 8-12

M Puzzles of Induction

W [Basic Logical Concepts](#), [Four Argument Forms](#)

F Basic Logical Concepts, continued

Week Nine, October 15-19

M Scientific reasoning

W Selected Informal Fallacies

F Conclude section on logic and critical thinking

Week Ten, October 22-26

M Review for Test 2

W Test 2

F Social and Political Philosophy: Plato's Apology

Week Eleven, October 29-November 2

M Plato's Five forms of Government, King's, Letter from Birmingham Jail

W King, Letter from Birmingham Jail

F King, "Mountaintop" speech

Week Twelve, November 5-9

M Begin Philosophy of Mind: handout

W Ramachandran's Notebook, Phantom Limbs

F Ramachandran's Notebook, cont'd.

Week Thirteen, November 12-18

M Veteran's Day holiday

W TBD

F TBD

Week Fourteen, November 19-23

M TBD

W TBD

F Thanksgiving Holiday

Week Fifteen, November 26-30

M TBD

W Review for Test 3, and cumulative review for Final Exam

F Test 3

* FINAL EXAM: 10:00 AM – 12:50 PM Wednesday, December 5, 2018 *

Note that exam starts earlier than regular class time