

Honors Introduction to Philosophy
PHI 2010H 0201
3 credit hours

MWF 10:30-11:20 Spring 2017
University of Central Florida

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

Office Hours: MWF 9:45-10:15, or by appointment
PSY 247

Textbook: Philosophy: The Power of Ideas, 9th edition, Moore & Bruder (McGraw-Hill)
ISBN 9780078038358

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. In addition to deepening their awareness of philosophy as an integral thread in the fabric of the liberal arts, the course is also designed to compel students to think more constructively about their place in the world and consider how philosophical concepts can be utilized in response to challenges of modern-day society.

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.
5. Consider how philosophical ideas can be used to address problems facing our world today.

Grading and Class Guidelines:

- **Reading Assignments:** You are to complete the reading assignments *before* class time. We will discuss the readings in class on the date listed on the syllabus. While you are not expected to have a mastery of the material, you are expected to be able to answer basic questions about the readings if called on by the instructor.

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 before the class discussion. I also suggest that you review your notes and readings again after class.

- **Webcourses:** Although we meet face to face, there is also a Webcourse enabled for this class (accessed through myUCF or <https://webcourses.ucf.edu/>) that we will use occasionally for announcements, grade postings, quizzes, study guides, film links or supplemental readings.

Please make sure that you check your Webcourses messages frequently or have them forwarded to your main Knights account as it is how I will communicate with the class.

- **Exams:** There will be 3 tests (**175 points total**). The tests will be short answer/essay format and conducted in class. Study guides will be posted online in Webcourses before the tests. Please bring Bluebooks/Greenbooks (available in the Union or for purchase in the bookstore or office supply store) to class for the essay. Some of the tests include concepts from movies that you will watch outside of class. **Please take note of the test dates now; you MUST attend class on those days and there will be NO make-up tests with the exception of documented EMERGENCY situations (see policy below).**
- **Movie Discussion posts (30 points total):** We will watch two films that illustrate philosophical themes. You will have a graded discussion assignment where you comment about the film and respond to others' posts. Links for the films and additional information about these assignments will be available in Modules on Webcourses.
- **Final Project (50 points):** We will have a final project that consists of a written component and post in the discussion forum where you can also comment on others' work. More information will follow regarding the final project, but broadly speaking this will be an opportunity for you to consider philosophy put into practice, namely how philosophical ideas could be used to remediate a specific social, political, or cultural problem.
- **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 Webcourses** in order to satisfy this requirement no later than **Friday, January 13 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.
- **Class Lead (10 points):** For one class this semester, you will be required begin the class with a brief presentation (5 minutes) with your personal observations about the readings. *This is not about providing a simple summary, but this is your opportunity to ask probing questions about the reading. You will be graded on your ability to make **original** observations based on the reading assignment.* A sign-in sheet for presentations will be distributed the first week of class. Some suggestions for comments include:
 - what is incisive or profound about this reading/thinker? ***why?***
 - what do you think is inconsistent, problematic or unhelpful? ***why?***
 - is there anything that is unclear to you? ***why?***
 - how does this link to other thinkers/themes we have discussed?
 - how do the themes or ideas from this segment relate to cultural phenomena or real-life events?
- **Participation & Attendance (50 points):** Your *quality* comments and questions are an important part of the class. They help to make the discussion interesting and relevant to real-life

experiences, and it also helps me gauge how well everything is sinking in. Beyond comments in discussion, there are other ways to participate both in and out of class: arrive on time, be attentive and take notes, be respectful of others, ask me questions during office hours, e-mail with questions about the material. These points are yours to take. Actions that will cause you to earn fewer of them: arriving late/leaving early, sleeping, doing work for other classes, texting, e-mailing in class, etc. You will be allowed three absences without penalty, as long as it is not on one of the exam dates. After this, I will deduct 3 points per absence.

- **The exams cannot be made up unless there is an EMERGENCY situation (hospitalization, death in immediate family, etc.) that absolutely prevents you from completing the work on time. This situation MUST be documented and you MUST contact me immediately in order to inform me of the situation. Make-up assignments will be given only at the discretion of the instructor and in very rare circumstances.**
- **Final Grade Totals (320 points possible):**

Tests 1 and 2 (2 x 50) :	100 points
Final Exam	75
Final Project:	50
Movie Discussion Posts:	30
Attendance & Participation:	50
Class Lead	10
Syllabus Quiz	5

Your points earned/320 = 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.

Religious Holidays: If you must miss class due to a religious holiday, please notify me **in advance** and I will provide an alternate assignment if necessary.

The dates and assignments are tentatively assigned and can be changed by the instructor with advance notice. **Readings marked with an asterisk can be accessed through Webcourses.**