

UCF Philosophy Department  
T/TH: 1:30-2:45  
Professor Fagiano

## **Honors Introduction to Philosophy**

**Office Hours: T/TH 10:30 am – 11:50 am  
or by appt.**

**Office Location: PSY 244**

**Email: [Mark.Fagiano@ucf.edu](mailto:Mark.Fagiano@ucf.edu)**

### **Course Description:**

This advanced 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, and different sub-disciplines of philosophy (e.g., ethics, metaphysics, epistemology, etc.) for the purpose of discerning the value of philosophy for our lives. As an honors course, we will spend a large portion of the semester carefully analyzing the readings and having philosophical discussions in class.

### **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 convince you that majoring or minoring in philosophy will help you to achieve your goals in life.
- To provide an advanced understanding of philosophy and its relationship with other disciplines

### **Required Texts:**

Cottingham, John G. *Western Philosophy: An Anthology*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.

Solomon, Robert, et. al. *Big Questions/ A Short Introduction to Philosophy*. 9<sup>th</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 (Assignments and/or Tests/Exams):

- Participation=10%
- Reflections=15%
- Two short papers (5 pages)= 30%
- Midterm=20%
- Final Paper=25%

**10% Participation**—your presence is expected at every class and your participation is both invited and necessary. For some the participation grade is the easiest part to earn, but for those who will miss classes regularly, it will be difficult for them to pass the class.

You are allotted two missed days without an excuse. Upon your third absence, and every additional unexcused absence that follows it, ***your final grade will drop one-half of a letter grade.***

Excused absences (see the full list below) must be supported with a note from your doctor, coach, family, etc. All other absences, after two, count against your final grade. It will be impossible to pass this class if you miss it excessively.

More than just being present for each and every class, participation includes actively engaging with the material by asking questions or making comments during class time, especially during small group discussions. Note also: if you do not have your book or other materials on a given class day, it is nearly the same as not being there and you will lose participation points.

**15% Reflections—every week** students will comment on a discussion thread on Webcourses. These weekly assignments will require each student to engage actively with the readings/or selected posts for the week. Students may upload their reflections as early as **Monday** for any given week.

**30% Papers**—thirty percent of your grade will be determined by your performance on two assignments—two analytic/reflective papers (5 pages). Each paper will be based on a prompt provided to you by your professor. The due dates for these papers are **February 2<sup>nd</sup> and April 6<sup>th</sup>**. Late papers will be marked down one-half of grade for each day it is late. Exemption: e.g., documented illness.

**20% Midterm**—the midterm on **March 9<sup>th</sup>** will consist of short answer questions and essays and will be based on lectures, in-class discussions, and the assigned readings. The class day before the midterm will be entirely devoted to reviewing the material for the exam, and I will hand out a list of testable concepts/ideas before the review session. **Students MUST BRING A BLUEBOOK EXAM BOOK for the midterm.**

**25% Final Paper**—the prompt for the final paper (5 pages) will be released on April 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Midterm Exam and Final Paper:**

The midterm exams is based on information from **lectures, in-class discussions** and the **assigned readings**. When I grade the written parts of your exams I am not looking for you to agree with what I think, rather I want you to make **strong arguments**. 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. The same holds for the final paper; speak in your own voice, and make an argument.

**Academic Honesty**

The integrity of students and their written and oral 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 Tennessee catalog. Remember that allowing another student to copy one's own work violates standards of academic integrity.

**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.**

**Late Work, Absences:** All out-of-class work is due AT THE BEGINNING of the class. Papers handed in after class but on the due date may be penalized one-third of a letter grade, and will be penalized by an additional one-half of a letter grade for each day they are late. Papers more than three days late will not be accepted. Students with excused absences may be excused from penalty

if the excuse is received promptly. Excuses received at the end of the semester may not remove late penalties for work assigned in advance of the excused period.

There are NO MAKE UPS for any parts of this course without an excused absence:

**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).

**Laptops and Phones**

Laptops are allowed in class if and only if the laptop is being used for taking notes or, in certain circumstances, for looking up something (I will explain this in detail when appropriate). Phones are not allowed during any time during class. If you use your phone in class or it makes noise, it will be confiscated, then returned at the end of class. Repeated offense will result in a lowering of your participation grade.

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

**Tentative Class Schedule:**

|  |  | <b>Session content</b> | <b>Material to be read prior to session (it is best to do the reading for each week during the week before it!).</b><br><b>Reading for 1/12:</b><br>Washington Post Article:<br><a href="https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/grade-point/wp/2015/12/24/a-harvard-medical-school-professor-makes-the-case-for-the-liberal-arts-and-philosophy/">https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/grade-point/wp/2015/12/24/a-harvard-medical-school-professor-makes-the-case-for-the-liberal-arts-and-philosophy/</a> |
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|  | <p>Week One</p> <p>1/10</p> <p>1/12</p> | <p><b>1/10--Class One:</b></p> <p>Syllabus overview</p> <p><b>1/12--Class Two:</b></p> <p>What is Philosophy?</p>   | <p><b>Reading for 1/17:</b></p> <p><i>Big Questions</i> 15-25; 383-394</p> <p>What is an Argument?</p> <p><a href="http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/vocab/argument.html">http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/vocab/argument.html</a></p> <p><b>Reading for 1/19</b></p> <p><i>Big Questions:</i> 27-40</p> <p><i>Definitions of Philosophical Terms:</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.str.org/articles/100-basic-philosophic-terms#.V7yPEJMrKu4">http://www.str.org/articles/100-basic-philosophic-terms#.V7yPEJMrKu4</a></p> |
|  | <p>Week Two</p> <p>1/17</p> <p>1/19</p> | <p><b>1/17--Class Three:</b></p> <p>What is an Argument?</p> <p><b>1/19--Class Four:</b></p> <p>Philosophy: What's it Good For?</p> <p>The Language of Philosophy</p> | <p><b>Reading for 1/24</b></p> <p><i>In Cottingham:</i></p> <p>2-12 Plato Innate Knowledge</p> <p><b>Reading for 1/26</b></p> <p><i>In Cottingham:</i></p> <p>12-18 Plato Knowledge versus Opinion</p>   |

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|  | <p>Week Three</p> <p>1/24</p> <p>1/26</p> | <p><b>1/24--Class Five:</b></p> <p>The Axial Age &amp; the Pre-Socratics</p> <p>The One and the Many</p> <p>Mythos vs. Logos</p> <p>The Problem of Change</p> <p><b>1/26--Class Six:</b></p> <p>The Socratic Method</p> <p>The Virtue of <i>Sophrosyne</i></p> <p><b>FIRST PAPER ASSIGNED</b></p> | <p><b>Reading for 1/31:</b></p> <p><i>In Cottingham:</i></p> <p>68-75 Plato: The Allegory of the Cave</p> <p>Magee: 12-31</p> <p><i>Big Questions:</i> 112-123</p> <p><b>Reading for 2/2:</b></p> <p><i>In Cottingham:</i></p> <p>76-80 Aristotle: Individual Substance</p> <p>492-496 Ethical Virtue</p> <p>Magee: 32-55</p>   |
|  | <p>Week Four</p> <p>1/31</p> <p>2/2</p>   | <p><b>1/31--Class Seven:</b></p> <p>Plato, his Dialogues, and the Forms</p> <p>The Allegory of the Cave</p> <hr/> <p><b>2/2--Class Eight:</b></p> <p>Aristotle, Virtue, and the forms</p> <p>What is a Substance?</p> <p><b>Paper ONE DUE</b></p>   | <p><b>Reading for 2/7:</b></p> <p>None</p> <hr/> <p><b>Reading for 2/9:</b></p> <p><a href="http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/stoicism">http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/stoicism</a></p> <p>Excerpt Marcus Aurelius:</p> <p><a href="http://www.returnofkings.com/27793/6-powerful-passages-from-meditations-by-marcus-aurelius">http://www.returnofkings.com/27793/6-powerful-passages-from-meditations-by-marcus-aurelius</a></p> |

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|  | <p>Week Five</p> <p>2/7</p> <p>2/9</p>    | <p><b>2/7--Class Nine:</b></p> <p>Epicureanism</p> <p>What is Happiness? Aristotle vs. Epicurus</p> <p><b>2/9--Class Ten:</b></p> <p>Stoicism: Aurelius and Epictetus</p> <p>Logos and <i>Apatheia</i></p> | <p><b>Reading for 2/14:</b></p> <p>Sections: 5-20</p> <p>In the link below:</p> <p><a href="http://department.monm.edu/classics/Courses/CLAS210/CourseDocuments/cicero_on_friendship_a_summary.htm">http://department.monm.edu/classics/Courses/CLAS210/CourseDocuments/cicero_on_friendship_a_summary.htm</a></p> <p><b>Reading for 2/16</b></p> <p><i>In Cottingham:</i></p> <p>359-365 Leibniz: The Problem of Evil</p> <p><i>Big Questions:</i> 83-104</p> <p>Magee: 56-75</p> |
|  | <p>Week Six</p> <p>2/14</p> <p>2/16</p>   | <p><b>2/14—Class Eleven:</b></p> <p>Cicero</p> <p>What is Friendship?</p> <p><b>2/16—Class Twelve:</b></p> <p>Revelation vs. Reason</p> <p>The Problem of Evil</p>   | <p><b>Reading for 2/21</b></p> <p><i>In Cottingham:</i></p> <p>343-356</p> <p>--Anselm of Canterbury: The Existence of God.</p> <p>--Aquinas: The Five Proofs of God</p> <p><i>Big Questions:</i> 65-82</p> <p><b>Reading for 2/23</b></p> <p>NONE</p>   |
|  | <p>Week Seven</p> <p>2/21</p> <p>2/23</p> | <p><b>2/21--Class Thirteen:</b></p> <p>Arguments for the Existence of God:</p> <hr/> <p><b>2/23--Class Fourteen:</b></p> <p>Discussion Groups:</p>   | <p><b>Reading for 1 2/28:</b></p> <p><i>Big Questions:</i> 234-249</p> <p><b>Reading for 3/2:</b></p> <p><i>Big Questions:</i> 174-183</p>   |

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|            |      | Does God Exist?  | <p><i>In Cottingham:</i></p> <p>21-25 Descartes: New Foundations for Knowledge</p> <p>Magee: 76-95</p>  |
| Week Eight | 2/28 | <p><b>2/28--Class Fifteen:</b></p> <p>Discussion: Free Will</p> <hr/> <p><b>3/2--Class Sixteen:</b></p> <p><i>Descartes, Skepticism, and the Foundations for Certainty</i></p> <p><i>Cogito Ergo Sum</i></p> | <p><b>Reading for 3/7:</b></p> <p><i>In Cottingham:</i></p> <p>302-307 Taylor: Selfhood and Narrative Understanding</p> <p><b>Reading for 3/9: NONE</b></p>   |
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| Week Nine  | 3/7  | <p><b>3/7—Class Seventeen:</b></p> <p>Discussion Groups:</p> <p>Topic: What is the Self?</p> <p>&amp;</p> <p>MIDTERM REVIEW</p> <hr/> <p><b>3/9—Class Eighteen:</b></p> <p><b>MIDTERM</b></p>                | <p><b>Reading for 3/21</b><br/>(reading is for the first class after Spring Break)</p> <p><i>In Cottingham:</i></p> <p>631—641</p> <p>Hobbes: Sovereignty and Security</p> <p>&amp; Locke: Consent and Political Obligation:</p> <p>Magee: 118-143</p> <hr/> <p><b>Reading for 3/23:</b></p> <p>--Kant: What is Enlightenment?</p> <p><a href="http://www.allmendeberlin.de/What-is-Enlightenment.pdf">http://www.allmendeberlin.de/What-is-Enlightenment.pdf</a></p> <hr/> |

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|             |              |  | <p><i>Big Questions: 269-272</i></p> <p>Cottingham:</p> <p>506-512 Kant: Duty and Reason as the Ultimate Principle.</p> <p>500-506 Hume: Human Feeling as the Source of Ethics</p> <p>Magee: 144-187</p>  |
| Week Ten    | 3/14<br>3/16 | <b><i>SPRING</i></b><br><b><i>BREAK</i></b>  | <b><i>:SPRING</i></b><br><b><i>BREAK</i></b>  |
| Week Eleven | 3/21<br>3/23 | <p><b><i>3/21--Class Nineteen:</i></b></p> <p>Modern Philosophy</p> <p>Socio-Political: Hobbes, Religion, and the Leviathan</p> <p>Locke and “Democracy”</p> <p>The Social Contract</p> <p><b><i>3/23--Class Twenty:</i></b></p> <p>Hume and Kant</p> <p>What is the Foundation of Morality?</p> | <p><i>In Cottingham:</i></p> <p>227-229 Spinoza: The Identity of Mind and Body &amp;</p> <p>496-500 Virtue, Reason and the Passions</p> <p><b>Reading for 3/30:</b></p> <p><i>In Cottingham:</i></p> <p>43-48 Hegel: From Sense-certainty to Self-consciousness</p> |

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|  | <p>Week Twelve</p> <p><b>3/28</b></p> <p><b>3/30</b></p> | <p><b>3/28--Class Twenty-one:</b><br/>         Spinoza's Ethics<br/> <b>FINAL PAPER PROMPT</b><br/>         _____</p> <p><b>3/30--Class Twenty-two:</b><br/>         Hegel and the Unfolding of Geist</p> <p><b>PAPER TWO ASSIGNED</b></p>  | <p><b>Reading for 4/4:</b><br/> <i>In Cottingham:</i><br/>         512-516 Mill: Happiness<br/>         as the Foundation of<br/>         Morality<br/> <i>Big Questions: 272-276</i><br/>         _____</p> <p><b>Reading for 4/6:</b><br/>         Magee: 320-347</p>   |
|  | <p>Week Thirteen</p> <p>4/4</p> <p>4/6</p>               | <p><b>4/4--Class Twenty-three:</b><br/>         Utilitarianism<br/>         Bentham and Mill<br/>         Happiness, Pleasure, and Morality</p> <p><b>4/6--Class Twenty-four:</b><br/>         Logical Positivism: The Vienna<br/>         Circle<br/>         Ludwig Wittgenstein and Language</p> <p><b>PAPER DUE</b></p> | <p><b>Reading for 4/11</b><br/> <i>In Cottingham:</i><br/>         236-240—Schopenhauer:<br/>         Body and Mind as<br/>         Manifestations of Will</p> <p>524-529 Nietzsche:<br/>         Against Conventional<br/>         Morality</p> <p>786-790 The Death of<br/>         God and the Ascendancy<br/>         of the Will</p> <p>Magee: 210-251<br/>         _____</p> <p><b>Reading for 4/13</b></p> |

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|  |  |   | <p><i>In Cottingham:</i><br/> 376-382 Kierkegaard:<br/> Faith and Subjectivity<br/> --Sartre: Existentialism is<br/> a Humanism:<br/> <a href="https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/sartre/works/exist/sartre.htm">https://www.marxists.org/<br/> reference/archive/sartre/w<br/> orks/exist/sartre.htm</a></p> |
| <p>Week Fourteen</p> <p>4/11</p> <p>4/13</p> | <p><b>4/11--Class Twenty-five:</b><br/> Schopenhauer: The Will<br/> Nietzsche: The Will to Power<br/> Transformations of the Soul</p> <hr/> <p><b>3/30--Class Twenty-six:</b><br/> Existentialism</p>  | <p><b>Reading for 4/18:</b><br/> James: What Pragmatism<br/> Means:<br/> <a href="https://www.marxists.org/reference/subject/philosophy/works/us/james.htm">https://www.marxists.org/ref<br/> erence/subject/philosophy/w<br/> orks/us/james.htm</a></p> <p>Magee: 278-297</p> <hr/> <p><b>Reading for 4/20</b><br/> NONE</p> |   |
| <p>Week Fifteen</p> <p>4/18</p> <p>4/20</p>  | <p><b>4/18--Class Twenty-seven:</b><br/> Pragmatism<br/> Peirce, James and Dewey</p> <hr/> <p><b>4/20—Class Twenty-eight</b><br/> The 20<sup>th</sup> Century: Philosophy<br/> Philosophy &amp; Your Life<br/> <b>FINAL PAPER PROMPT</b></p> <hr/> |   |   |
| <b>T.B.A.</b>                                | <b>FINAL</b>   |   |   |