



PHI 2010H - 0203: Introduction to Philosophy
Philosophy Department
College of Arts and Humanities, University of Central Florida

COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor:	Luciana Garbayo	Term:	Spring 2018
Office:	Philosophy Department, Psychology Building, Room 229	Class Meeting Days:	Tuesdays & Thursdays
Phone:	407-8234347	Class Meeting Hours:	10:30 to 11:45pm
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Office Hours:	Tuesdays noon to 2:00pm or by appointment		

I. Welcome

Welcome to the study of philosophy - I am looking forward to working with you!

II. University Course Catalog Description

PHI 4633 CAH-PHIL (3,0) Inquiry into the meaning and justification of fundamental ideas and beliefs concerning reality, knowledge, and values; application to relevant topics in ethics, religion, and politics. Fall, Spring.

III. Course Overview

This course will provide you with basic instruction in philosophical inquiry, with a focus on argumentation theory, epistemic norms, scientific and ethical reasoning. It will introduce philosophy fundamentally as a critical discipline and activity, and will expose

students to the major philosophical areas, such as metaphysics, epistemology, moral & political philosophy, philosophy of mind & language, and religion & belief. We shall read the seminal literature in the area and discuss pertinent philosophical puzzles while exploring self-reflective & respectful argumentation practices. By the end of the course you will be able to identify, analyze, discuss and evaluate philosophical problems in the broad domains studied, and consider some of its applications.

IV. Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify and describe key arguments, concepts and principles pertaining to philosophy in the domains of moral & political philosophy, metaphysics & epistemology, religion & belief and philosophy of mind & language;
2. Develop a working knowledge of the cited domains and its main interpretive lines;
3. Discuss critically and evaluate the many theoretical consequences as well as practical applications of philosophy to case studies and puzzles of interest, such as the possibility of time travel, vegetarianism, the ethical dilemmas regarding the global poor, and so on.

V. Course Prerequisites

Completion of the GEP.

VI. Course Credits

3 credits

VII. Required Texts and Materials

Required textbook: Gendler, Tamar .S.; Siegel, Susanna and Cahn, Steven M. “The Elements of Philosophy. Readings from Past and Present”. Oxford University Press, 2008.

All additional required texts will be available either on the website, or free of charge at specialized websites (see below) or at the UCF library. The professor will post and send weekly reading materials for all class. Please see the texts directly in the schedule.

VIII. Supplementary (Optional & Recommended) Texts and Materials

Secondary literature sources

Honderich, Ted (Ed.) “Oxford Companion of Philosophy.” Oxford University Press (available freely online at UCF Library)

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy at <http://www.iep.utm.edu/home/about/>

Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy at <http://www.iep.utm.edu/submit/100-most/>

Weston, Anthony. *A rulebook for arguments*. Second Edition. Hackett Publishing Co., 1992 (Tip: find used copies online for 1 cent – any edition would be ok).

IX. Basis for Final Grade

Students will be graded by means of weekly posts, collective (group and pairs) and individual writing and presentation assignments, and a final research paper, as follows:

Assessment	Percent of Final Grade
Participation	10%
Posting weekly - summaries/questions/short essays (individual)	20%
Project outline	5%
Working in pairs (dialogue posting)	20%
Project presentation (50%)/class debate (50%)	15%
Final research paper	30%
	100%

Grading Scale (%)	
94-100	A
90-93	A-
87-89	B+
84-86	B
80-83	B-
77-79	C+
74-76	C
70-73	C-
67-69	D+
64-66	D
60-63	D-
0 - 59	F

X. Grade Dissemination

Graded materials in this course will be returned individually only by request. You can access your scores at any time using "myUCF Grades" in the portal. Please note that scores returned mid-semester are unofficial grades. If you need help accessing myUCF Grades, see the online tutorial: <https://myucfgrades.ucf.edu/help/>.

XI. Course Policies: Grades

Late Work Policy:

Essays turned in late will be assessed a penalty: a half-letter grade if it is one day late, or a full-letter grade for 2-7 days late. Essays will not be accepted if overdue by more than seven days.

Grades of "Incomplete":

The current university policy concerning incomplete grades will be followed in this course. Incomplete grades are given only in situations where unexpected emergencies prevent a student from completing the course and the remaining work can be completed the next semester. Your instructor is the final authority on whether you qualify for an incomplete. Incomplete work must be finished by the end of the subsequent semester or the "I" will automatically be recorded as an "F" on your transcript.

Rewrite Policy:

Rewrites are entirely optional; however, only the final essay may be rewritten for a revised grade. Note that an alternate grading rubric will be used for the rewrite, featuring an additional column that evaluates the changes made specifically.

Group Work Policy:

Everyone must take part in a group project. All members of a group will receive the same score; that is, the project is assessed and everyone receives this score. Once formed, groups cannot be altered or switched, except for reasons of extended hospitalization.

Philosophical Dialogue pairs:

Everyone should find a colleague to meet virtually/F2F to discuss their questions. These pairs will also do tasks in class.

XII. Course Policies: Technology and Media

Webcourses: All assignments should be uploaded through webcourse, unless required otherwise by the professor.

Laptop Usage: Laptop usage in this class is acceptable exclusively for note-taking.

Classroom Devices: Video-recording is not allowed; audio recorders are acceptable if for personal instructional use only - no further dissemination is permitted.

XIII. Course Policies: Student Expectations

Inclusion, Safety, and Disability Accommodation at UCF:

The University of Central Florida considers the diversity of its students, faculty, and staff to be a strength and critical to its educational mission. UCF expects every member of the university community to contribute to an inclusive and respectful culture for all in its classrooms, work environments, and at campus events. Dimensions of diversity can include sex, race, age, national origin, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, intellectual and physical ability, sexual orientation, income, faith and non-faith perspectives, socio-economic class, political ideology, education, primary language, family status, military experience, cognitive style, and communication style. The individual intersection of these experiences and characteristics must be valued in our community.

Title IX prohibits sex discrimination, including sexual misconduct, sexual violence, sexual harassment, and retaliation. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find resources available to support the victim, including confidential resources and information concerning reporting options at www.shield.ucf.edu and <http://cares.sdes.ucf.edu/>.

If there are aspects of the design, instruction, and/or experiences within this course that result in barriers to your inclusion or accurate assessment of achievement, please notify the instructor as soon as possible and/or contact Student Accessibility Services.

For more information on diversity and inclusion, Title IX, accessibility, or UCF's complaint processes contact: Title IX – EO/AA - <http://www.eo.ucf.edu/> & askanadvocate@ucf.edu
Disability Accommodation – Student Accessibility Services - <http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/> & sas@ucf.edu
Diversity and Inclusion Training and Events – www.diversity.ucf.edu
Student Bias Grievances – Just Knights response team - <http://jkrt.sdes.ucf.edu/>
UCF Compliance and Ethics Office - <http://compliance.ucf.edu/> & complianceandethics@ucf.edu
Ombuds Office - <http://www.ombuds.ucf.edu>

Attendance Policy:

Regular attendance is expected.

Professionalism Policy:

Per university policy and classroom etiquette; mobile phones, iPods, *etc.* **must be silenced** during all classes. Those not heeding this rule will be asked to leave the classroom immediately so as to not disrupt the learning environment. Please arrive on time for all class meetings. Students who habitually disturb the class by talking, arriving late, *etc.*, and have been warned may suffer a reduction in their final class grade.

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.

University Writing Center:

The University Writing Center (UWC) is a free resource for UCF undergraduates and graduates. At the UWC, a trained writing consultant will work individually with you on anything you're writing (in or out of class), at any point in the writing process from brainstorming to editing. Appointments are recommended, but not required. For more information or to make an appointment, visit the UWC website at <http://www.uwc.ucf.edu>, stop by MOD 608, or call 407.823.2197.

Religious Observances

Students are expected to notify their instructor in advance if they intend to miss class to observe a holy day of their religious faith. For a current schedule of major religious holidays, see the Faculty Center's main web page under "Calendars," and for additional information, contact the Office of Diversity Initiatives at 407-823-6479.

XV. Schedule

Date	Readings	Topics to be Discussed in Class & Activities
		Part I: Foundations of philosophical inquiry. Locating philosophy and ourselves in the philosophical landscape
1/9 Week 01	First day of class	Introductions, Overview of the course, class contract Introduction to philosophical inquiry, principal and operational questions, plural definitions Pairs
1/11	No reading required - bring your envelope to class	Group, pairs and individual activity - conceptual games, writing, voice
1/16 Week 02	Introduction to logic and argumentation I Blackburn, S. "The Elements of Logic", p. 5	Logic and Argumentation in Philosophical inquiry - writing arguments, understanding inferences
1/18	Introduction to logic and argumentation II Blackburn, S. "The Elements of Logic", p. 5 Additional reading: Vaughn, 'Moral argumentation'	Logic and Argumentation in Philosophical inquiry - writing arguments, cooperative disagreement
1/23 Week 03	The Ontological Argument and Replies, p. 15	Part II: Philosophical inquiry: Religion & Belief Traditional arguments for and against the existence of God I
1/25	The Cosmological Argument and Replies, the Argument from Design - and Replies, p. 25 The Problem of Evil, 39	Philosophical inquiry: Religion & Belief Traditional arguments for and against the existence of God II
1/30 Week 04	Grounds for Belief, 48	Philosophical inquiry: Religion & Belief Traditional arguments for and against the existence of God III
		Part III: Metaphysics & Epistemology
2/01	Knowledge & Reality, 337 Defining knowledge, 343	Philosophical inquiry: Knowledge & Reality I
2/06 Week 05	Skepticism & Responses, 351	Philosophical inquiry: Knowledge & Reality II
2/8	Knowledge & the Nature of Reality, 380 Induction, 422	Philosophical inquiry: Knowledge & Reality III Short Essay 1 due (individual, one page)
2/13 Week 06	Time & time travel, 455	Philosophical inquiry: Knowledge & Reality IV
2/15	Free will, 475	Philosophical inquiry: Knowledge & Reality V

2/20 Week 07	Identity and personal identity, 512	Philosophical inquiry: Knowledge & Reality VI
2/22	Mind, 549 Metaphysics of Mind, 553	Philosophical inquiry: Philosophy of Mind & Language I
2/27 Week 08	Physicalism, 578 Challenges to Physicalism, 604	Philosophical inquiry: Philosophy of Mind & Language II
3/01	Consciousness, 620 Minds & Machines, 663	Philosophical inquiry: Philosophy of Mind & Language III
3/06 Week 09	Perception, 684	Philosophical inquiry: Philosophy of Mind & Language IV
3/08	Language, 706 Language, Meaning, and Reference	Philosophical inquiry: Philosophy of Mind & Language V Project Outline Due
3/13	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK
3/15	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK
3/20 Week 10	Life, 741	Part V: Life Conduct - Life & Death I
3/22	Death, 769	Part V: Life Conduct - Life & Death II
3/27 Week 11	Moral Philosophy, 71 Utilitarianism, 77	Part VI: Moral & Political Philosophy I
3/29	Deontology, 105	Part VI: Moral & Political Philosophy I Short Essay 2 due (individual, one page)
4/03 Week 12	Virtue Ethics, 114	Part VI: Moral & Political Philosophy III
4/05	Students choose puzzles and challenges TBA	Part VI: Moral & Political Philosophy VI
4/10 Week 13	Political Philosophy, 280 Justice, Equality and the State, 282	Part VI: Moral & Political Philosophy V
4/12	Students choose puzzles and challenges TBA	Part VI: Moral & Political Philosophy VI
4/17 Week 14	Course wrap-up: looking back & beyond	Wrap-up, Symposium Preparation
4/19	One Slide Wonder Symposium: Students' Presentations	Student Symposium and Feedback
4/24 Week 15	STUDY DAY	No classes
4/25	Term Paper due with minor revisions	No classes
5/01	Final Exam Day - 10am to 12:50pm	Final Student Symposium

* Note: The Schedule is subject to revision

XVI. Essays and Project Assignments (Proposal)

Individual and group assignments

Students can pick an area of specialization (let's say, epistemology) and collaborate in class, generate debate participation, while each might end working on a separate final project.

Pairs: Students will be paired for maintaining a philosophical dialogue along the semester, and shall post the result of their work together as the course progresses.

Individual assignments:

All students will post online individually weekly summaries, (02) short essays (one page) and/or questions & answers regarding the assigned week reading.

Project Outline (one time): A project outline for your final essay should be presented, including: question, possible thesis, argument structure, plus supporting literature. It could either be theoretical or applied, in case you would like to present a case study. One of two pages suffice (be brief). The objective of this assignment is to help to prepare students to succeed in his/her/their final paper, setting up his/her research. I would expect all students to come at least once during the semester to discuss their project with me during my office hours, so that I can support them individually.

The final individual essay: It is the result of the research project presented in the outline, the final individual essay should be around 8 pages long.