

UCF Philosophy Department
Dr. Mark Fagiano
Tu/Th 9:00-10:15 a.m.

Honors Introduction to Philosophy

PHIL 2010H-0205

Class location: BHC 0126

Office Hours: Tu/Th 10:30-12pm or by appointment

Office Location: PSY 244

Email: Mark.Fagiano@ucf.edu

Course Description:

This advanced course surveys the fundamentals of philosophy through a richly study of philosophy from the Axial Age to contemporary times. 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*. 2nd edition.

Solomon, Robert, et. al. *Big Questions/ A Short Introduction to Philosophy*. 9th 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=5%
- Online Discussion Posts=15%
- Two Papers=30%
- Midterm=25%
- Final=25%

5% Participation—Your presence is expected at every class and your participation is both invited and necessary. Although the participation part of your grade is the easiest part to earn, you will lose percentage points if you miss more than **two classes**. Specifically, because your sentience, intelligence, and reflection are greatly desired at each and every class, every unexcused absence (after two) takes a **1/2 of a percentage point** off your final grade. Excused absences (see the full list below) must be supported with a note from your doctor, coach, family, etc. All other absences count against your final grade. **It will be impossible to pass this class if you miss class excessively.** More than just being present for each and every class, participation includes actively engaging with the material by asking question 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% Online Discussion Posts—Each week, students will be required to enter a short analytical reflection/discussion post online. Each entry will be an answer to a prompt provided by the professor. For each discussion post, student's will defend at least two claims based on their critical analysis of the reading and in relation to the provided prompt.

30% Papers—thirty percent of your grade will be determined by your performance on two assignments—two analytic/critical papers (5 pages). Each paper will be based on a prompt provided to you by your professor. The due dates for these papers are **September 14th and November 9th**. Late papers will be marked down one-half of grade for each day it is late. Exemption: e.g., documented illness.

25% Midterm—The midterm on **October 19th** will consist of short answer questions and essays prompts 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 post a list of testable concepts/ideas online before the review session. **Students MUST BRING A GREENBOOK EXAM BOOK for the MIDTERM.**

25%--Final—The final (T.B.A) will take place during our scheduled time. It will follow the same plan, structure, and format as the midterm. **Students MUST ALSO BRING A GREENBOOK EXAM BOOK for the FINAL.**

Late Work, Absences: Late work will be penalized by one-half of a letter grade for each day they are late. 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.

Laptops and Phones

Laptops and phone are allowed in class if and only if they are being used for taking notes or, in certain circumstances, for research. If you use your either your laptop or phone for other purposes in class (or your phone makes noise), it will be confiscated, then returned at the end of class. Repeated offense will result in a lowering of your 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.

Exams and Papers:

The exams and papers are based on **lectures, in-class discussions** and the **assigned readings**. When I grade your exams and papers, 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.

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 Central Florida 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:

		Session content	Material to be read prior to session
			<p>Reading for 8/24:</p> <p>Washington Post Article: 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/</p>
	Week One		
	8/22	<p>Class One:</p> <p>Syllabus overview</p>	<p>Reading for 8/29:</p> <p><i>Big Questions</i> 15-25; 383-394</p> <p>What is an Argument? http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/vocab/argument.html</p>
	8/24	<p>Class Two:</p> <p>What is philosophy? Is philosophy valuable?</p>	<p>Reading for 8/31</p> <p><i>Big Questions:</i> 27-40 <i>Definitions of</i></p>

			<p><i>Philosophical Terms:</i> http://www.str.org/articles/100-basic-philosophic-terms#.V7yPEJMrKu4</p>
	<p>Week Two 8/29</p>	<p><i>Class Three:</i> What is an Argument?</p>	<p>Reading for 9/5 <i>In Cottingham: 2-12</i></p>
	<p>8/31</p>	<p><i>Class Four:</i> The Language of Philosophy Vocabulary</p>	<p>Reading for 9/7 <i>In Cottingham: 12-18</i></p>

	<p>Week Five</p> <p>9/19</p> <p>9/21</p>	<p>Class Nine: Epicureanism What is Happiness? Aristotle vs. Epicurus</p> <p>Class Ten: Stoicism: Aurelius and Epictetus Logos and <i>Apatheia</i></p>	<p>Reading for 9/26 Sections: 5-20 In the link below: http://department.monm.edu/classics/Courses/CLAS210/CourseDocuments/cicero_on_friendship_a_summary.htm</p> <p>Reading for 9/28 <i>In Cottingham:</i> 359-365 <i>Big Questions:</i> 83-104 Magee: 56-75</p>
	<p>Week Six</p> <p>9/26</p> <p>9/28</p>	<p>Class Eleven: Cicero What is Friendship?</p> <p>Class Twelve: Revelation vs. Reason The Problem of Evil</p>	<p>Reading for 10/3 <i>In Cottingham:</i> 343-356 <i>Big Questions:</i> 65-82</p> <p>Reading for 10/5 NONE</p>
	<p>Week Seven</p> <p>10/3</p> <p>10/5</p>	<p>Class Thirteen: Arguments for the Existence of God: Ontological, Cosmological, and Teleological</p> <p>Class Fourteen: Discussion Groups:</p>	<p>Reading for 10/10: <i>Big Questions:</i> 234-249</p> <p>Reading for 10/12: <i>Big Questions:</i> 174-183</p>

		Does God Exist?	<i>In Cottingham:</i> 21-25 Magee: 76-95
Week Eight 10/10 10/12	<i>Class Fifteen:</i> Discussion: Free Will <i>Class Sixteen:</i> <i>Descartes, Skepticism, and the Foundations for Certainty</i> <i>Cogito Ergo Sum</i>	Reading for 10/17: <i>In Cottingham:</i> 302-307 Reading for 10/19: NONE	
Week Nine 10/17 10/19	<i>Class Seventeen:</i> Discussion Groups: Topic: What is the Self? & MIDTERM REVIEW <i>Class Eighteen:</i> MIDTERM	Reading for 10/24: <i>In Cottingham:</i> 631—641 Magee: 118-143 Reading for 10/26: --Kant: What is Enlightenment? http://www.allmendeberlin.de/What-is-Enlightenment.pdf <i>Big Questions:</i> 269-272	

			Cottingham: 500-512 Magee: 144-187
Week Ten	10/24	Class Nineteen: Modern Philosophy Socio-Political: Hobbes, Religion, and the Leviathan Locke and “Democracy” The Social Contract	Reading for 11/2: <i>In Cottingham:</i> 227-229; 496-500
	10/26	Class Twenty: Hume and Kant What is the Foundation of Morality?	Reading for 11/4: <i>In Cottingham:</i> 43-48
Week Eleven	11/2	Class Twenty-one: Spinoza’s Ethics PAPER TWO ASSIGNED	Reading for 11/7: <i>In Cottingham:</i> 512-516 <i>Big Questions:</i> 272-276
	11/4	Class Twenty-two: Hegel and the Unfolding of Geist	Reading for 11/9: Magee: 320-347

	<p>Week Twelve</p> <p>11/7</p> <p><i>Class Twenty-three:</i></p> <p>Utilitarianism</p> <p>Bentham and Mill</p> <p>Happiness, Pleasure, and Morality</p> <p>11/9</p> <p><i>Class Twenty-four:</i></p> <p>Logical Positivism: The Vienna Circle</p> <p>Ludwig Wittgenstein and Language</p> <p>PAPER TWO DUE</p>	<p>Reading for 11/14</p> <p><i>In Cottingham:</i> 236-240 524-529; 786-790 Magee: 210-251</p> <p>Reading for 11/16</p> <p><i>In Cottingham:</i> 376-382</p> <p>--Online: Sartre. Existentialism is a Humanism: https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/sartre/works/exist/sartre.htm</p>
	<p>Week Thirteen</p> <p>11/14</p> <p><i>Class Twenty-five:</i></p> <p>Schopenhauer: The Will</p> <p>Nietzsche: The Will to Power</p> <p>Transformations of the Soul</p> <p>11/16</p> <p><i>Class Twenty-six:</i></p>	<p>Reading for 11/21:</p> <p>James: What Pragmatism Means: https://www.marxists.org/reference/subject/philosophy/works/us/james.htm Magee: 278-297</p>

		Existentialism	Reading for 11/23 NONE
Week Fourteen	11/21	<i>Class Twenty-seven:</i> Pragmatism Peirce, James and Dewey	Reading for 11/28: NONE/Study for Final
	11/23	THANKSGIVING	Reading for 11/30: NONE/Study for Final
Week Fifteen	11/28	<i>Class Twenty-eight</i> 20 th Century Trends Philosophy & Your Life	
	11/30	<i>Class Twenty-nine</i> REVIEW FOR FINAL	
T.B.A.		FINAL	