

PHI 2010 Introduction to Philosophy
Fall 2018
3 credit hours
University of Central Florida

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If you have questions, please email me rather than posting in Webcourses.

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

Required Textbook: *Philosophy: The Power of Ideas, 9th edition, Moore & Bruder (McGraw-Hill)*. ISBN 978-0078038358. This book is available in the UCF bookstore but there are also many options available on Amazon and other outlets, including rental and electronic options for immediate access.

***Please obtain your book ASAP. Students choose the method to obtain their books at their own discretion and are still responsible for completing the first assignment by the due date listed below.**

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. The course is designed to enable students to think more constructively about themselves and their place in the world and also to enrich their awareness of philosophy as an integral thread in the fabric of the liberal arts.

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.

Course Access: The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. 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.

Course Modality: This course will be conducted fully online through Webcourses <https://webcourses.ucf.edu/>. Please check your Webcourses messages regularly or ensure that they forward to your regular Knights e-mail.

Grading and Class Guidelines:

- **This syllabus should always be your primary resource for due dates, upcoming assignments, and class policies. PLEASE PRINT AND REVIEW CAREFULLY. Do not rely only on reminders from Webcourses.**
- Please note the menu on the left side of Webcourses. See Modules for additional information regarding each week's assignments and quizzes. Each week's Module will open the weekend immediately before the content begins. Quizzes are also found through this menu on the left side.

Assignments: Each week you will have a reading assignment, discussion assignment, and/or film screening and quiz following. Except when noted below for holidays or special circumstances, quizzes are due on Sunday evenings no later than 11:59 pm. The quizzes are timed as explained in each week's Module. ***The quizzes will expire after the due date and makeups will only be granted in DOCUMENTED EMERGENCY situations that prevented you from completing the work on time.***

- **Reading Assignments: 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 after you have finished reading.
- There are also PowerPoints available for your review in each week's Modules section, but **please note that these are not a replacement for the reading assignments.** The PowerPoints will highlight and expand on certain themes from the reading. **Any material found in the reading assignments is fair game for the quizzes and tests.**
- **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 order to satisfy this requirement no later than **Friday, August 24 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.
- **Discussion Posts (30 points total):** There will be two reflection posts where you respond to an assigned prompt and then engage in a dialogue with your classmates. More information about these posts can be found in Modules on Webcourses on the week they are assigned.

****IMPORTANT NOTES ABOUT ONLINE CLASSES AND ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES****

This is a self-directed, fast-paced course where you MUST work independently, stay organized and complete your work on time. We have the freedom of not having to meet at a set time every week, but

that makes the assignment due dates even more important: they are the equivalent of attendance and quiz grades wrapped in one and they are the only way to keep pace with the class.

****Extensions will not be granted if you forget a due date, have work, personal conflicts, etc.** Each week you have a window of time to complete your assignments. If you wait until the last minute to complete your work and then have internet problems, are not feeling well, etc., it is still your responsibility to find a way to finish your work. It is up to the student to plan accordingly.**

The assignments can only be made up if 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 (235 points possible):

Week 1 Quiz =	20
Quizzes (11 weeks x 15 pts) =	165
Discussion Posts (3 x 15 pts)=	45
Syllabus Quiz =	5

Your points earned/235 = percentage

A	100 %	to 94.0%
A-	< 94.0 %	to 90.0%
B+	< 90.0 %	to 87.0%
B	< 87.0 %	to 84.0%
B-	< 84.0 %	to 80.0%
C+	< 80.0 %	to 77.0%
C	< 77.0 %	to 74.0%
C-	< 74.0 %	to 70.0%
NC	< 70.0 %	to 60.0%
F	< 60.0 %	to 0.0%

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