



Beijing Jiaotong University

2019 Summer Session

PHIL 101 Introduction to Philosophy

Course Outline

Term: July 08-August 09,2019

Class Hours: 14:00-16:00 (Monday through Friday)

Course Code: PHIL 101

Instructor: Alexander Angelov

Home Institution: College of William and Mary

Office Hours: TBA

Email: aangelov@wm.edu

Credit: 4

Class Hours: This course will have 72 class hours, including 40 lecture hours, 10 lecturer office hours, 10-hour TA discussion sessions, 2-hour review sessions, 10-hour extra classes.

Course Description:

This course will introduce students to the fundamentals of philosophical discourse and reasoning. We will explore the nature of philosophical life and writing by exposing students to different thinkers in their intellectual context. In addition to learning how to think philosophically about moral, political, cultural, and religious issues, we will observe the discursive dimensions and changes in the history of philosophy.

Course Objectives:

The course is designed to teach careful reading, logical interpretation, and systematic reasoning. Students will also learn how to engage with philosophical arguments and debates. A series of writing exercises will improve students' abilities to express themselves academically.

Required Textbooks:

Louis P. Pojman. *Classics of Philosophy*. Oxford U.P., 1998.



Grading & Evaluation:

Attendance 10%
Mid-Term 30%
Paper 20%
Final Exam 40%

Grading Scale

A+ (100-97), A (96-93), A- (92-90), B+ (89-87), B (86-83), B- (82-80), C+ (79-77),
C (76-73), C- (72-70), D+ (69-67), D (66-63), D- (62-60), F (below 60).

Course Schedule

Week 1: **Philosophy of *Self* and Wisdom from Antiquity**

Day 1 **The Nature of Being**

Assigned Reading:

- 1) Plato. "The Apology." In Pojman. p. 28.

Day 2 **Politics and Education**

Assigned Reading:

- 1) Plato. "Republic." In Pojman. p. 74.

Day 3 **The Nature of the Good Life**

Assigned Reading:

- 1) Aristotle. "Nicomachean Ethics." In Pojman. p. 289.

Day 4 **The Body and Afterlife**

Assigned Reading:

- 1) Aristotle. "On the Soul." In Pojman. p. 266.

Week 2: **Permanence and Impermanence**

Day 1 **Metaphysics**

Assigned Reading:

- 1) Aristotle. "Metaphysics." In Pojman. p. 267.

Day 2 **Free Will or Determinism**

Assigned Reading:

- 1) Augustine. "On Free Will." p. 394.

Day 3 **God and Providence**

Assigned Reading:



- 1) Avicenna. "Essay on the Secret of Destiny." p. 429.

Day 4 **Reason and Faith**

Assigned Reading:

- 1) Thomas Aquinas. "Summa Theologica." p. 443.

*****Mid-Term Exam*****

Week 3: **Modern Rationalism and Its Critics**

Day 1 **Cognition and Perception**

Assigned Reading:

- 1) Rene Descartes. "Meditations on First Philosophy." p. 465.

Day 2 **Skepticism**

Assigned Reading:

- 1) David Hume. "An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding." In Pojman. p. 672.

Day 3 **Modern Faith**

Assigned Reading:

- 1) Soren Kierkegaard. "Readings." In Pojman. p. 902.

Day 4 **Freedom and Its Responsibilities**

Assigned Reading:

- 1) John Stuart Mill. "Utilitarianism." In Pojman. p. 914.

Final Paper DUE

Week 4 **Philosophy as Culture and Power**

Day 1 **A Religionless World**

Assigned Reading:

- 1) Friedrich Nietzsche. "Beyond Good and Evil." In Pojman. p. 1017.
- 2) Friedrich Nietzsche. "The Anti-Christ." In Pojman. p. 1034.

Day 2 **Class and Communism**

Assigned Reading:

- 1) Karl Marx. "Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts." In Pojman. p. 997.

Day 3 **Pragmatism**

Assigned Reading:



- 1) William James. "The Will to Believe." In Pojman. p. 1063.

Day 4 **Philosophical Action and Activism**

Assigned Reading:

- 1) Jean-Paul Sartre. "Being and Nothingness." In Pojman. p. 1202.
- 2) Jean-Paul Sartre. "Existentialism and Humanism." In Pojman. p. 1213.

Week 5

Postmodern Philosophy and Multiculturalism

Day 1 **Democracy and Philosophy of History**

Assigned Reading:

- 1) John Rawls. "Justice as Fairness." In Pojman. p. 1247.

Day 2 **Narrative and Discourse**

Assigned Reading:

- 1) Michel Foucault. Excerpts from *Discipline and Punish*.

Day 3 **Pluralism**

Assigned Reading:

- 1) Samuel Huntington. "The Clash of Civilizations?" *Foreign Affairs*, 72(3), Summer 1993, pp. 22-49.

Day 4 **Identity**

Assigned Reading:

- 1) Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth* (1961), Chapter 1, "On Violence," pp. 1-52.
- 2) Carolyn Walker Bynum. "The complexity of symbols." *Experience of the Sacred: Readings in the Phenomenology of Religion*, pp. 265-272.

*****Final Exam*****