



National Taiwan University of Science and Technology

2020 Summer Program

PHIL 101 Introduction to Philosophy

Course Outline

Term: July 06-August 07,2020

Class Hours: 10:00-11:50 (Monday through Friday)

Course Code: PHIL 101

Instructor: D. Bruce Carter, Ph.D.

Home Institution: Syracuse University

Office Hours: TBA and by appointment

Email: dbcarter@syr.edu

Credits: 4

Class Hours: According to the regulations of Minister of Education, R.O.C, 18 class hours could be counted as 1 academic credit in all universities in Taiwan. 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. Review sessions are designed to provide additional coverage (not lectures) of material covered in class. They will be scheduled outside of class. Dates, times, and locations will be announced in class.

Course Description:

This Introduction to Philosophy course is a survey of many major areas of some European (and some non-European) forms of philosophy. We will explore the philosophy of science, of mind, of religion, and of language and will examine metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, and philosophical approaches to questions about the nature of the world, knowledge, and ways of knowing. We will explore questions that matter to our lives, and how philosophers from a variety of perspectives have responded to these issues. We will analyze arguments for and against the existence of God, utilize logical systems of thought, and employ logical arguments and empirical evidence to



evaluate arguments.

Course Learning Outcomes

Students, at the end of this course, will be able to:

- 1) Identify major philosophical perspectives and approaches to questions that have arisen over time regarding the nature of reality, of truth, of good, and the qualities of human beings.
- 2) Recognize connections and influences among various philosophical perspectives.
- 3) Employ logical skills
- 4) Argue for and against ethical claims and positions

Required Textbooks:

Wolff, R. P. (2012). *About Philosophy* (11th Ed.). New York, NY USA: Pearson Publishing. (ISBN-10: 0205194125 (Available as a Kindle E-Book) (May be rented or purchased online)

Useful web sites: The following general websites for Philosophy are useful:

Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy <http://www.utm.edu/research/iep>

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy <http://plato.stanford.edu>

Writing in Philosophy <http://www.chass.utoronto.ca:8080/philosophy/phlwrite/index.html>
The American Philosophical Association Online <http://www.udel.edu/apa>

Required Assignments & Assessment

Assignment	Percent of Grade
Weekly Quizzes (15% each)	60%
Philosophical Exercises/Debates (4 at 7.5% each)	30%
Attendance	10%
TOTAL	100%

Grade Policy

Grade	Percent	GPA
A	90-100	4.0-5.0
B	80-89	3.0-3.9
C	70-79	2.0-2.9
D	60-69	1.0-1.9
F	<60	0



Assignments

1. **Quizzes**- I will administer a quiz every week in the course. These weekly quizzes will be a way to check your learning of the material in the text and lecture. Each quiz will cover the material for that week in the course. There is no opportunity for make-ups because of the tight schedule.
2. **Philosophical Exercises**- On the second day of class we will assign students to debate particular questions or issues. The material for debates are in your text under Contemporary Applications. Half the class (Group 1) will be assigned to debating the issue of the odd-numbered chapter in the first week (i.e., chapter 1); the other half of the class (Group 2) will debate the issue in the even-numbered chapter (i.e., Chapter 2) on Thursday. In the second week, the assignment will switch so that Group 2 will be assigned the odd-numbered chapter and debate on Tuesday; Group 1 will debate the even-numbered chapter on Thursday. Each group will be randomly divide in half for purposes of the debate. The questions/issues will be related to topics being discussed in class; associated readings are at the end of each chapter in the “Contemporary Application” section. and the debates will be based on perspectives presented in the textbook. Each student will participate in four debates (either Tuesday or Thursday of each week). You may coordinate your debate points with your debate partners.
3. **Attendance**- Attendance means showing up to class, paying attention and participating in classroom discussions. Sleeping in class, being distracted or inattentive, etc. may cause you to lose attendance points even if you are present.

Weekly Reading Assignments & Daily Lecture Schedule*

Course Schedule

Week 1: Philosophy, Epistemology, and Pragmatism (Chapters 1 & 2) July 6th – July 10th

- July 6th Introduction to the field of Philosophy (Chapter 1)
- July 7th Human Nature and the Universe; Exercise 1: Heidegger & Naziism
- July 8th Theories of knowledge: Rationalism & Empiricism (Chapter 2)
- July 9th Unity of Consciousness and the Emergence of Epistemology;
Exercise 2: The Status of Plagiarism; Quiz 1
- July 10th Discussion 1



Week 2: Understanding ourselves & the universe (Chapters 3 & 4) July 13th-July 17th)

June 13th Metaphysics defined and explored (and what is materialism anyway?)

July 14th Free will, determinism & mid-body dualism
Exercise 3: Virtual & non-virtual reality

July 15th Philosophy of science- Method & applications

July 16th Paradigms & paradigm shifts; Exercise 4: The Evolutionary Debate; Quiz 2

July 17th Discussion 2

Week 3: Ethics & Applied Ethics (Chapter 5 & 6) July 20th-July 24th

July 20th The varieties of ethical theory (Chapter 5)

July 21st Applied ethics: Medical Model;

July 22nd Exercise 5: Ethical dimensions of contemporary issues (Group 1)

July 23rd Liberalism, Socialism, Capitalism & the Social Contract (Chapter 6); Quiz 3

July 24th Discussion 3

Week 4: Human Endeavors (Chapter 7) July 27th –July 31st

July 27th Social contracts and obligations; Exercise 6: Is health care a right

July 28th Philosophy of Art & Poetry (Chapter 7)

July 29th Marcuse, Danto & the World of Art

June 30th Exercise 7: What is Art?; Quiz 4

June 31st Discussion 4

Week 5: Divine Endeavors (Chapter 8) August 3rd – August 7th

August 3rd Philosophy of Religion & Faith

August 4th Does God exist?

August 5th Arguments for God & the Problem of Evil;

August 6th Exercise 8: Science & Religion; Quiz 5

August 7th Discussion 5

***NOTE: This syllabus is subject to change. All changes will be announced in class.**



CLASS POLICIES

Academic Honesty: The University and the faculty are committed to academic integrity in all its practices. Activities that violate academic integrity undermine the quality and diminish the value of educational achievement and are treated seriously. Cheating on papers, tests or other academic works is a violation of College rules. No student shall engage in behavior that, in the judgment of the instructor of the class, may be construed as cheating. This may include, but is not limited to, plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty such as acquisition without permission of tests or other academic materials and/or distribution of these materials and other academic work. Students who aid and abet as well as those who attempt such behavior will be treated similarly.

Attendance Policy: You are expected to attend class unless you are ill or there is a crisis in your family. Prolonged illness or a pattern of frequent absences can jeopardize your grade. In the case of an absence, it is the student's responsibility to gather class notes from other students. You are encouraged to be on time to class since being tardy can be disruptive to others in the class.

Missed/Late Assignments: Assignments are due on the date listed. Without prior approval from the instructor, no late assignments will be accepted.

Mobile Phones, Computers, & Audio-Recording the Class: (1) You may NOT use your phone during class (for calling or texting). You may use your phones in our classroom *before* class starts. However, turn your phone off until class is complete. (2) Please do not use computers unless directed to do so. A recent study shows that you and your classmates will not do as well in the course if you use computers in class. Feel free to record any part of class if you feel that would be useful.

Civility Policy: Because the classroom is a community of scholars engaged in the pursuit of knowledge, I fully expect every student in this class student to engage in civil and respectful behavior toward one another, including issues where there may be disagreement. Anyone who disrupts the community by their words or actions will be asked to leave the class.



PHIL 101 Supplemental Readings

Summer 2020

Week 1

July 6th & 7th Introduction to the field of philosophy

Solomon, R. C., Higgins, K. M., & Martin, C. (2016). Introduction. *Introducing Philosophy: A text with associated readings* (pp. 1-23). New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

June 8th and 9th: Theories of knowledge.

Plato *Republic* (*Politeia* c. 380 BCE). Bk V, 171b-483e. Trans. B. Jowett (1892), in *The Dialogues of Plato* (Oxford: Clarendon, vol. III, pp. 171-179. In J. Cottingham (Ed.), *Western Philosophy: An Anthology* (pp. 12-18). Malden, MA USA: Blackwell Publishing.

Descartes, R. *Meditations on First Philosophy* [*Meditationes de prima philosophia, 1641*], *Meditation I and part of II*. Trans J. Cottingham (1986), Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. In J. Cottingham (Ed.), *Western Philosophy: An Anthology* (pp. 21-25). Malden, MA USA: Blackwell Publishing.

Week 2

July 13th and 14th- Metaphysics

Plato *Republic* [*Politeia*, c. 380 BCE], 507b1-517c6. B. Jowett (Trans), *The Dialogues of Plato*, vol. III, pp. 207-217. Oxford, UK: Clarendon. . In J. Cottingham (ed.), *Western Philosophy: An Anthology* (pp. 69-75). 2nd Ed. Malden, MA USA: Blackwell Publishing.

Aristotle, *Categories* [*Kategoriai*, ca. 330 BCE], ch. 5 (2a11-4b19). J. L. Akrill (Trans), pp. 5-12. Oxford, UK: Clarendon. . In J. Cottingham (ed.), *Western Philosophy: An Anthology* (pp. 76-79). 2nd Ed. Malden, MA USA: Blackwell Publishing.

Descartes, R. "Supreme Being and Created Things". *Principles of Philosophy* [*Principia Philosophiae*, 1644]. J. Cottingham, R. Stoothoff, & D. Murdoch (1985, Trans.). In *The Philosophical Writings of Descartes* (pp. 210-211, 215, 223-225, 232, 240, 247). Vol I. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. In J. Cottingham (ed.), *Western Philosophy: An Anthology* (pp. 80-86). 2nd Ed. Malden, MA USA: Blackwell Publishing.

Carnap, R. (1932). The elimination of metaphysics through logical analysis of language



(*Überwindung der Metaphysik durch Logische Analyse der Sprache*). First published in *Erkenntnis*, vol II. Arthur Pap (Trans.). In A. J. Ayer (ed.), *Logical Positivism* (pp. 60-80). New York, NY USA: Free Press. . In J. Cottingham (ed.), *Western Philosophy: An Anthology* (pp. 121-126). 2nd Ed. Malden, MA USA: Blackwell Publishing.

July 15th and 16th: Philosophy of Science

Hempel, C. G. (1962). Explanation in science and in history. In R. G. Colodny (Ed.), *Frontiers of Science and Philosophy* (pp 7-33). Pittsburgh, PA USA: University of Pittsburgh Press. In J. Cottingham (ed.), *Western Philosophy: An Anthology* (pp. 460-468). 2nd Ed. Malden, MA USA: Blackwell Publishing.

Popper, K. (1957). Science: Conjectures and refutations. In C. A. Mace (Ed.), *British Philosophy in Mid-Century*. London UK: Routledge. In J. Cottingham (ed.), *Western Philosophy: An Anthology* (pp. 453-459). 2nd Ed. Malden, MA USA: Blackwell Publishing.

Kuhn, T. (1962). *The structure of scientific revolutions* (pp. 10-11, 64-65, 76-77, 81-83, 93-95, 112, 117-118). Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press. In J. Cottingham (ed.), *Western Philosophy: An Anthology* (pp. 475-481). 2nd Ed. Malden, MA USA: Blackwell Publishing.

Week 3

July 20th-24th: Ethics and Applied Ethics

Plato. *Republic* (*Politeia* c. 380 BCE). Bk II, 357b2-367c5-483e. Trans. B. Jowett (1892), in *The Dialogues of Plato* (Oxford: Clarendon, vol. III, pp. 36-47. In J. Cottingham (Ed.), *Western Philosophy: An Anthology* (pp. 487-492). Malden, MA USA: Blackwell Publishing.

Aristotle. *Nichomean Ethics* [*Ethika Nikomacheia*, ca. 325 BCE]. Extracts from Bk I, ch. 7 and Bk II, chs 1, 5, and 6 (1097b21-1098a18, 1103a16-b25, 1105b19-1107 a8). In J. Cottingham (Ed.), *Western Philosophy: An Anthology* (pp. 492-495). Malden, MA USA: Blackwell Publishing.

Leopold, A. (1949). The Land Ethic. From A. Leopold, *A Sand Country Almanac and Sketches Here and There*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, pp. 201-226 abridged). In J. Cottingham (Ed.), *Western Philosophy: An Anthology* (pp. 585-590). Malden, MA USA: Blackwell Publishing.



Kass, L. R. (1997). The wisdom of repugnance. *The New Republic*, 2 June 1997, 17-26 abridged. In J. Cottingham (Ed.), *Western Philosophy: An Anthology* (pp. 608-616). Malden, MA USA: Blackwell Publishing.

Rachels, J. (1975). Active and passive euthanasia. *New England Journal of Medicine*, 78-80. In J. Cottingham (Ed.), *Western Philosophy: An Anthology* (pp. 602-607). Malden, MA USA: Blackwell Publishing.

Week 4

July 27th – 31st Philosophy of Art and Poetry

Satre, J-P. (1950). The Psychology of Imagination. [From L'iminaire: Psychologie phenomenologique de l'imagination [1940], pp. 21-27. London UK: Rider. In J. Cottingham (Ed.), *Western Philosophy: An Anthology* (pp. 739-744). Malden, MA USA: Blackwell Publishing.

Wittgenstein, L. (1938). Exerpts from Lectures on Aesthetics. In L. Wittgenstein, *Lectures and conversations on aesthetics, psychology and religious belief* (Ed. C. Barrett). Oxford, UK: Blackwell. In J. Cottingham (Ed.), *Western Philosophy: An Anthology* (pp. 744-749). Malden, MA USA: Blackwell Publishing.

Sibley, F. (1959). Aesthetic concepts. *Philosophical Review*, 68, 421-450. In J. Cottingham (Ed.), *Western Philosophy: An Anthology* (pp. 750-755). Malden, MA USA: Blackwell Publishing.

August 3rd- 7th Philosophy of Religion and Faith

Pascal, B. (ca. 1660). *Pensees*. (J. Cottingham, Trans.). In J. Cottingham (Ed.), *Western Philosophy: An Anthology* (pp. 778-782). Malden, MA USA: Blackwell Publishing.

Shopenhauer. "On the vanity of existence." From A. Shopenhauer, *Parega und Paralipomena*(1851), vol. II, ch. 2. (T. B. Saunders, Trans). In J. Cottingham (Ed.), *Western Philosophy: An Anthology* (pp. 782-785). Malden, MA USA: Blackwell Publishing.

Russell, B. (1903). A Free Man's Worship. Reprinted in Russell, *Collected Papers*, vol. 12. In J. Cottingham (Ed.), *Western Philosophy: An Anthology* (pp. 790-796). Malden, MA USA: Blackwell Publishing.



Craig, W. L. (1984). The absurdity of life without God. From W. L. Craig (1984), *Reasonable Faith, Christian Truth and Apologetics* (pp. 57-75). In J. Cottingham (Ed.), *Western Philosophy: An Anthology* (pp. 809-814). Malden, MA USA: Blackwell Publishing.

Nozick, R. (1989). Philosophy's Life. From R. Nozick, *The Examined Life*, chp 26 (pp. 297-302). In J. Cottingham (Ed.), *Western Philosophy: An Anthology* (pp. 815-819). Malden, MA USA: Blackwell Publishing.

