



上海财经大学

Shanghai University of Finance & Economics

中国上海市国定路777号 邮编200433 777 Guoding Road, Shanghai, 200433, China

Shanghai University of Finance & Economics

2020 Summer Program

PHIL 101 Introduction to Philosophy

Course Outline

Term: June 1 – June 26, 2020

Class Hours: 08:00-09:50 (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

Credit: 4

Class Hours: This course will have 52 class hours, including 32 lecture hours, 8 professor office hours, 8-hour TA discussion sessions, 4 hour-long review sessions. 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 Textbook

Wolff, R. P. (2012). *About Philosophy* (11th Ed.). New York, NY USA: Pearson Publishing. (ISBN-10: 0205194125 (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
Midterm	30%
Final Exam	30%
Quizzes (5% each)	10%
Philosophical Exercises/Debates (4 at 5% each)	20%
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. **Exams**- Structure of the midterm and final exam will be discussed in class. The midterm will cover material in the Introduction, Chapters 1-4, and the lectures to date. The final exam will cover material in Chapters 5-8 and lectures since the midterm. There is no opportunity for make-ups because of the tight schedule.



2. **Quizzes-** I will administer a quiz in weeks 1 and 3 (the weeks when the midterm and final exams are not being given). These quizzes will be short and will be a way to check your learning of the material in the text and lecture.
3. **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.
4. **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) June 3rd-June 7th

- June 1 Introduction to the field of Philosophy (Chapter 1)
- June 2 Human Nature and the Universe; Exercise 1: Heidegger & Nazism (Group 1)
- June 3 Theories of knowledge: Rationalism & Empiricism (Chapter 2)
- June 4 Unity of Consciousness and the Emergence of Epistemology;
Exercise 2: The Status of Plagiarism (Group 2); Quiz 1
- June 5 Discussion 1

Week 2: Understanding ourselves & the universe (Chapters 3 & 4) June 10th-June 14th

- June 8 Metaphysics defined and explored (and what is materialism anyway?)
- June 9 Free will, determinism & mid-body dualism Exercise 3: Virtual & non-virtual reality
(Group 2)
- June 10 Philosophy of science- Method & applications
- June 11 Paradigms & paradigm shifts; Exercise 4: The Evolutionary Debate (Group 1); Midterm
- June 12 Discussion 2

Week 3: Propositional Logic, Symbols, and Analysis (Chapter 5 & 6) June 17th-June 21st

- June 15 The varieties of ethical theory (Chapter 5)
- June 16 Applied ethics: Medical Model;
Exercise 5: Ethical dimensions of contemporary issues (Group 1)



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June 17 Liberalism, Socialism, Capitalism & the Social Contract (Chapter 6)

June 18 Social contracts and obligations; Exercise 6: Is health care a right (Group 2); Quiz 2;

June 19 Discussion 3

Week 4: Human Endeavors & Divine Endeavors (Chapters 7 & 8) June 24th-June 28th

June 22 Philosophy of Art & Poetry (Chapter 7)

June 23 Marcuse, Danto & the World of Art; Exercise 7: What is Art? (Group 2)

June 24 Philosophy of Religion & Faith: Does God exist?

June 25 Arguments for God & the Problem of Evil; Exercise 8: Science & Religion (Group 1);

Final Exam

June 26 Discussion 4

***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.



Reading Assignments

All material is from Wolff, R. P. (2012). *About Philosophy* (11th Ed.). New York, NY USA: Pearson Publishing.

Weekly Reading Assignments

Week 1: Philosophy, Epistemology, and Pragmatism (Chapters 1 & 2) June 3rd-June 7th

June 1 Chapter 1
June 2 Chapter 1 (continued)
June 3 Chapter 2
June 4 Chapter 2 (continued)
June 5 Discussion 1 (Chapters 1 & 2)

Week 2: Understanding ourselves & the universe (Chapters 3 & 4) June 10th-June 14th

June 8 Chapter 3
June 9 Chapter 3 (continued)
June 10 Chapter 4
June 11 Chapter 4 (continued)
June 12 Discussion 2 (Chapters 3 & 4)

Week 3: Propositional Logic, Symbols, and Analysis (Chapter 5 & 6) June 17th-June 21st

June 15 Chapter 5
June 16 Chapter 5 (continued)
June 17 Chapter 6
June 18 Chapter 6 (continued)
June 19 Discussion 3 (Chapters 5 & 6)

Week 4: Human Endeavors & Divine Endeavors (Chapters 7 & 8) June 24th-June 28th

June 22 Chapter 7
June 23 Chapter 7 (continued)
June 24 Chapter 8
June 25 Chapter 8 (continued)
June 26 Discussion 4 (Chapters 7 & 8)

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