

PHIL 1050- Introduction to Philosophy

Spring 2006

EESAT 115 MWF 9:00 am - 9:50 am

Instructor: Monica A. Lindemann

Email: m_a_lindemann@hotmail.com

Office Hours: MWF 10:00am - 11:00am

Office: EESAT 320D; ext. 565-4671

Course Description

Many people think that learning is equivalent to acquiring facts or information. The study of philosophy challenges this assumption. The word "philosophy" literally means love of wisdom. But what does that mean? Even though wisdom is often associated with knowledge, knowledge does not equal wisdom. In fact, two early philosophers, Socrates and the Buddha, agreed that wisdom first requires the realization that one does not know as much as one first believes. While one purpose of this class is to introduce the students to major topics and basic ideas in philosophy, a second purpose of the course consists of helping the students become a little wiser about who they are and where they stand in the grand scheme of existence. Philosophy is a systematic way of examining life, and is thus a valuable tool for questioning the meaning and purpose of one's own being.

Course Objectives

After completing this course students should be able:

- To explore and examine ideas and questions about everyday issues concerning human existence.
- To develop clear and careful thinking by questioning assumptions and making significant distinctions.
- To examine their own personal values and beliefs to reveal their respective strengths and weaknesses.

The class is designed to help you refine your critical reasoning and articulation skills. These two skills have great practical value in any career path you ultimately pursue.

Text

Soccio, Douglas J. (2004). *Archetypes of Wisdom: An Introduction to Philosophy*, 5th Edition, Belmont, CA : Wadsworth/Thomson Learning.

Requirements & Assignments

The final grade for the course will be calculated as follows:

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|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| ● Reading quizzes | 20 % |
| ● Three (3) one-hour exams | 60 % (3 x 20 %) |
| ● Attendance and Participation | 20 % |

Overall, twelve reading quizzes will be given to ensure that the students have read the assignments. The two lowest grades of the reading quizzes will be dropped at the end of the course (hence, only ten quizzes will ultimately count for the final grade). If you miss a reading quiz, this missed quiz will constitute one of the two grades to be dropped. **There will be no make-up reading quizzes!!!** The reading quizzes will be relatively elementary, and can generally be answered after having read the assignments once. The quizzes will be administered at the beginning of the class period, and will consist of 5 questions (multiple choice or true/false), which are worth 2 points each.

The one-hour examinations will only cover the material discussed in the respective sections, i.e. they will not be cumulative. The exams will generally consist of multiple choice questions and definitions/ short answer questions. Short essays (~1/2 page) might be required in the one-hour examinations at the discretion of the instructor.

Attendance Policy

Your regular attendance is one of the requirements for this course. You are allowed three unexcused absences during the semester, which will not negatively affect your grade. Any additional unexcused absence will adversely affect your grade at the discretion of the instructor. If you have more than 10 unexcused absences during the semester, you will automatically fail the course.

Cheating & Plagiarism

Cheating, in any form, will result in an automatic grade of "F" in this course, the removal of the student from the course, and immediate reporting of the student's actions to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. Cheating includes plagiarism, unauthorized preparation of notes for use on examinations, use of such notes during an examination, looking at another student's examination answers, allowing another student to look at your own examination answers, or the requesting or passing of information during an examination or after an examination has been taken. If you are uncertain whether a specific activity constitutes cheating, consult the instructor.

Academic Conduct

The use of electronic devices and all related activities (such as the use of cell phones, text messaging, and email) during class hours is strongly discouraged, and will result in a reduction of the final grade. Additionally, recurring failure to attend class on time, and disrespectful conduct (such as sleeping or talking) in class, will result in the reduction of the final grade.

Tentative Schedule

WEEK 1

Mon	Jan. 16	Martin Luther King Jr. Day- NO CLASS
Wed	Jan. 18	Introduction to the course
Fri	Jan. 20	Philosophy & the Search for Wisdom; read Chapter 1 (pp. 2-20)

WEEK 2

Mon	Jan. 23	The Asian Sage, Confucius; read Ch. 2 (pp. 21-33)
Wed	Jan. 25	The Asian Sage: Buddha, Read Ch. 2 (pp. 33-52)
Fri	Jan. 27	The Presocratic Sophos: Monism; read Ch. 3 (pp.53-64)

WEEK 3

- Mon Jan. 30 The Presocratic Sophos: Pluralism; read Ch. 3 (pp.64-70)
Wed Feb. 1 Sophism; read Ch. 4 (pp. 71-79)
Fri Feb. 3 The Sophist: Protagoras; read Ch. 4 (pp. 79-89)

WEEK 4

- Mon Feb. 6 Socrates: The Wise Man; read Chapter 5 (pp. 91-102)
Wed Feb. 8 Socrates: At Work; read Ch. 5 (pp. 102-111)
Fri Feb. 10 Socrates: The Physician of the Soul; read Ch. 5 (pp. 111-122)

WEEK 5

- Mon Feb. 13 Plato: Theory of Forms; read Ch. 6 (pp.123-136)
Wed Feb. 15 Plato: The Divided Line; read Ch.6 (pp. 136-144)
Fri Feb. 17 Plato: The Republic; read Ch.6 (pp. 144-155)

WEEK 6

- Mon Feb. 20 Aristotle: The Naturalist; read Ch. 7(pp. 156-165)
Wed Feb. 22 Aristotle: The 4 Causes & Natural Happiness; read Ch. 7 (pp.165-176)
Fri Feb. 24 Aristotle: Hitting the Mark; read Ch. 7 (pp. 176-183); Exam Review

WEEK 7

- Mon Feb. 27 **Exam # 1**
Wed March 1 The Stoics: Hedonism & Epictetus; read Ch. 8 (pp. 185-197)
Fri March 3 The Stoics: Marcus Aurelius; read Ch. 8 (pp. 197-218)

WEEK 8

- Mon March 6 The Scholar Thomas Aquinas; read Ch. 9 (pp.219-233)
Wed March 8 Thomas Aquinas: Proving God's Existence; read Ch. 9 (pp.233-246)
Fri March 10 Overview of the Modern Themes, read pp. 247-253
Renee Descartes and Rationalism; read pp. 255-259

March 13 - 19

SPRING BREAK – NO CLASSES

WEEK 9

- Mon March 20 Renee Descartes: The Method of Doubt; read Ch. 10 (pp.260-270)
Wed March 22 Renee Descartes: The Innate Idea of God; read Ch. 10 (pp.270-282)

Fri March 24 Empiricism: John Locke and George Berkeley; read Ch. 11 (pp.283-294)

WEEK 10

Mon March 27 The Skeptic: David Hume; read Ch. 11 (pp. 294-316)

Wed March 29 Immanuel Kant: Phenomena and Noumena; read Ch. 12 (pp.317-330)

Fri March 31 Immanuel Kant: The Metaphysics of Morals; read Ch. 12 (pp.330-345)

WEEK 11

Mon April 3 John Stuart Mill and Jeremy Bentham; read Ch. 13 (pp.346-358)

Wed April 5 Refined Utilitarianism; read Ch. 13 (pp.358-370)

Fri April 7 Exam Review

WEEK 12

Mon April 10 **Exam # 2**

Wed April 12 Karl Marx: Hegel, Engels and Materialism; read Ch.14 (pp.371-383)

Fri April 14 Karl Marx: Critique of Capitalism; read Ch.14 (pp.383-396)

WEEK 13

Mon April 17 Pragmatism: William James; read Ch. 15 (pp.397-417)

Wed April 19 William James: Pragmatic Religion; read Ch. 15 (pp.417-426)

Fri April 21 Existentialism: Soren Kierkegaard; read Ch. 16 (pp. 427-442)

WEEK 14

Mon April 24 Existentialism: Jean Paul Sartre; read Ch. 16 (pp.442-457)

Wed April 26 The Anti-Philosopher: Friedrich Nietzsche; read Ch. 17 (pp.458-471)

Fri April 28 Nietzsche: The Diseases of Modernity; read Ch. 17 (pp. 471-488)

WEEK 15 (Pre-Finals Week)

Mon May 1 Philosophy as a Way of Life; read Ch.18 (pp. 489-499)

Wed May 3 Philosophy as a Way of Life; read Ch. 18 (pp. 499-511)

Fri May 5 Wrap-up of class; Exam Review

WEEK 16 (Final Exam Week)

Fri May 12 **Exam # 3** (8 am-10 am)

