

PHIL 1050- Introduction to Philosophy

Spring 2007

EESAT 190 MWF 3:00 pm-3:50 pm

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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.
- _ develop critical thinking skills by questioning assumptions and making significant distinctions.
- _ examine their own personal values and beliefs to reveal their respective strengths and weaknesses.

Text

Soccio, Douglas J. (2007). *Archetypes of Wisdom: An Introduction to Philosophy*, 6th Edition, Belmont, CA : Wadsworth/Thomson Learning.

Requirements & Assignments

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

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| _ Reading quizzes | 20 % |
| _ Two exams | 40 % (2 x 20 %) |
| _ One 3 to 5 page essay | 20 % |
| _ Attendance and Participation | 20 % |

Overall, twelve (12) 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. If you miss a reading quiz, the missed quiz will constitute one of the two grades to be

dropped. **There will be no make-up reading quizzes!!!** 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) may be required in the one-hour examinations at the discretion of the instructor.

The topics for the essay will be handed out approx. two weeks prior to its due date and the students will have 3 to 5 questions to choose from. The formal guidelines for the essay will be announced.

Attendance Policy

Your regular attendance is one of the requirements for this course. You are allowed five (5) 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 ten (10) unexcused absences, 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

| | | |
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| Mon | Jan. 15 | Martin Luther Kind Jr. Day—NO CLASS |
| Wed | Jan. 17 | Introduction to the course |
| Fri | Jan. 19 | Philosophy and the Search for Wisdom; read pp. 1-17 (Ch. 1) |

WEEK 2

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|-----|---------|---|
| Mon | Jan. 22 | The Asian Sage: Lao-tzu; read pp. 23-35 (Ch. 2) |
| Wed | Jan. 24 | The Asian Sage: Confucius; read pp. 35-42 (Ch. 2) |
| Fri | Jan. 26 | The Asian Sage: Buddha; read pp. 42-58 (Ch. 2) |

WEEK 3

- Mon Jan. 29 Overview of Classical Themes; read pp. 18-21
The Pre-Socratic Sophos: Monism; read pp. 62-72 (Ch. 3)
- Wed Jan. 31 The Pre-Socratic Sophos: Pluralism; read pp. 72-77 (Ch. 3)
- Fri Feb. 2 Sophism; read pp. 80-95 (Ch. 4)

WEEK 4

- Mon Feb. 5 Socrates: The Archetypal Individual; read pp. 100-110 (Ch. 5)
- Wed Feb. 7 Socrates: At Work and the Unexamined Life; read pp. 110-120 (Ch. 5)
- Fri Feb. 9 Socrates: The Physician of the Soul; read pp. 120-129 (Ch. 5)

WEEK 5

- Mon Feb. 12 Plato: Theory of Forms; read pp. 134-146 (Ch. 6)
- Wed Feb. 14 Plato: The Divided Line; read pp. 146-153 (Ch. 6)
- Fri Feb. 16 Plato: The Republic; read pp. 153-163 (Ch. 6)

WEEK 6

- Mon Feb. 19 Aristotle: The Naturalist; read pp. 168-176 (Ch. 7)
- Wed Feb. 21 Aristotle: The Four Causes and Eudaimonia; read pp. 176-187 (Ch. 7)
- Fri Feb. 23 Aristotle: Hitting the Mark; read pp. 187-193 (Ch. 7)

WEEK 7

- Mon Feb. 26 Stoicism: Hedonism and Cynicism; read pp. 196-207 (Ch. 8)
- Wed Feb. 28 Stoicism: The Fated Life; read pp. 207-221 (Ch. 8)
- Fri March 2 Exam Review

WEEK 8

- Mon March 5 **Exam # 1**
- Wed March 7 Thomas Aquinas: The 5 Ways; read pp. 238-253 (Ch. 9)
- Fri March 9 Overview over the Modern Themes; read pp. 296-260
Descartes: Rationalism & Methodic Doubt; read pp.262-271 (Ch. 10)

WEEK 9

- Mon March 12 Descartes: The Cartesian Genesis; read pp. 271-287 (Ch. 10)
- Wed March 14 Empiricism: Locke and Berkeley; read pp. 290-300 (Ch. 11)
- Fri March 16 Empiricism: David Hume; read pp. 300-319

March 19-March 25 Spring Break—NO CLASSES!!!!

WEEK 10

Mon March 26 Kant: The Copernican revolution; read pp. 324-336 (Ch. 12)
Wed March 28 Kant: The Metaphysics of Morals, Read pp. 336-345 (Ch. 12)
Fri March 30 Utilitarianism: Bentham and the Calculus; read pp. 354-361(Ch. 13)

WEEK 11

Mon April 2 Utilitarianism: John Stuart Mill; read pp. 361-375 (Ch. 13)
Wed April 4 Marx: Dialectical Materialism; read pp. 380-390 (Ch. 14)
Fri April 6 Marx: Critique of Capitalism; read pp. 390-400 (Ch. 14)

WEEK 12

Mon April 9 Existentialism: Sartre; read pp. 502-503 (Ch. 18)
Wed April 11 Existentialism: Kierkegaard; read 404-418 (Ch. 15)
Fri April 13 Existentialism: Becoming a Subject; read pp. 418-431 (Ch. 15)

WEEK 13

Mon April 16 Pragmatism: Pragmatic Theory of Meaning; read pp. 434-447 (Ch. 16)
Wed April 18 Pragmatism: Determinism, Freedom, Religion; read pp. 447-458 (Ch. 16)
Fri April 20 Nietzsche: Pessimism and Tragic Optimism; read pp. 462-473 (Ch. 17)

WEEK 14

Mon April 23 Nietzsche: The Diseases of Modernity; read pp. 473-487 (Ch. 17)
Essay Due
Wed April 25 20th Century: Wittgenstein; read pp. 490-501 (Ch. 18)
Fri April 27 20th century: Heidegger; read pp. 501-526 (Ch. 18)

WEEK 15 (Pre-Finals Week)

Mon April 30 Movie: "Waking Life"
Wed May 2 Movie: "Waking Life"
Fri May 4 Exam review and wrap-up of class

Week 16 (Finals week)

Wed May 9 **Final Exam: 1:30 pm-3:30 pm**