

Philosophy 1000- Introduction to Philosophy
Summer 2020
Syllabus v 1.2

An introduction to philosophy through a consideration of such topics as the person, human values, freedom, morality, knowledge, death, the meaning of life, and the nature and destiny of human existence. Students come to understand that philosophy attempts to ask the most fundamental questions about ourselves, the world, and the relationship between the two. The method of philosophical thinking and critical reflection will be stressed.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes:

D1.1: Define the basic elements of the logical analysis of arguments. (Knowledge)

D1.2: Recognize the role of philosophy as a foundation for other modes of inquiry.
(Comprehension)

D1.3: Identify and discuss central issues of philosophy, that is, questions concerning truth and knowledge, reality, moral values, and social justice. (Comprehension)

D1.4: Recognize the rich diversity of philosophical viewpoints. (Comprehension)

D1.5: Provide rational support for their beliefs, and fairly and reasonably evaluate the positions of others. (Application)

Class Meets:

Monday 8a-11:30a (CST), Wednesday 6:50-10:05p (CST), Friday 8a-11:30a (CST)

Course materials available on Blackboard

Instructor: David Baxter, J.D., M.A.

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Texts:

Bertrand Russell *A History of Western Philosophy* (Chinese edition 2015)

Grading:

Assignments (2)- 30% each

Final Exam- 40%

Final Exam

Due: Wednesday June 25

This will be distributed in the second week of class and you are encouraged to start working on it once you receive it.

Assignments:

For this course, you must submit two 2-3 page assignments that respond to specific questions you will be assigned. Your paper should:

1. Clearly answer the question.
2. Discuss the issue in detail, including considering objections.
3. Relevantly cite to the book or other materials where appropriate.

Please submit all work as follows:

1. See the "Paper Template" for more details.
2. Do not rely on any internet source that you do not cite. Do not rely on non academic materials or web sources.
3. Assignments must be submitted on Blackboard

Assignment 1 (30% of final grade)- June 15

Assignment 2 (30% of final grade)- June 22

Academic Integrity: The policy regarding cheating/plagiarism for this course is that you will *receive no credit* for the essay/exam; if there is clear and convincing evidence that you cheated/plagiarized. Passive cooperation with another's cheating will be considered cheating. Incidents of academic dishonesty may have other consequences for you beyond the penalty stated here, depending on your college. Consult the Dean's office of your college for more information.

Schedule

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| Day 1 (June 8): | Introduction/ What is Philosophy? The Presocratics: the Milesians & Parmenides <i>Reading-</i> Chapters II & V |
| Day 2 (June 10): | Socrates Plato <i>Reading-</i> Chapters XI and XIV |
| Day 3 (June 12): | Plato, cont. Aristotle <i>Reading-</i> Chapters XX and XXIII |
| Day 4 (June 15): | Descartes <i>Reading-</i> Chapter IX |
| Day 5 (June 17): | British Empiricism <i>Reading-</i> Chapters XIII, XVI, and XVII |
| Day 6 (June 19): | British Empiricism, cont. |
| Day 7 (June 22): | Kant, Hegel, and Marx <i>Reading-</i> Chapters XX, XXII, and XXVII |
| Day 8 (June 24): | 20 th Century Analytic Philosophy <i>Reading-</i> Chapter XXXI |
| Day 9 (June 26): | Philosophy Today |