**PHIL 115: PHILOSOPHY OF THE HUMAN PERSON IN HAWAII**

# COURSE SYLLABUS

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**Course Description**

This course examines fundamental conceptions of the human person from both Western and non-Western perspectives. Topics include: the existence and immortality of the human soul, intelligence, free will and determinism, the immateriality of the intellect, the relationship between mind and body, the self, and the relevance of different conceptions of the human person for ethics and religion. The development of logical and critical thinking receives special attention. This course, with PHIL 214, fulfills the Moral and Philosophical Reasoning requirement in the core curriculum.

**Objectives**

This course has several goals. Goal 1 is to instantiate the course description in a way where students engage in a dialogue of Western and non-Western intellectual traditions on questions related to the human person. This study, situated at the University of Hawaii, will include guest lecturers and experts, and various site visits related to course themes. Goal 2 is to offer students a valuable intercultural experience by exposing them to new ideas, practices and customs of different groups represented in the diverse culture of Oahu. Goal 3 is to prepare students for further study in philosophy, especially for PHIL 214: Introductory Ethics.

**Requirements**

1. Writing: There are three parts to the writing component of this course. First, once the course begins students will write weekly journal of reflections on what they are learning and how it is affecting their understanding of human personhood with special attention to their intercultural experiences, (this will help us evaluate whether Goal 2 is being met. Second, for selected classes, students will write one page analysis pieces on specific readings, which will help us evaluate whether goals 1 and 3 are being met. Finally, each student will submit a longer paper on a question based on the course content and their intercultural experiences in Hawaii. These papers will be roughly five typed pages in length. Further instructions will be posted on Blackboard. These longer papers are designed to help evaluate how well Goals 1, 2, and 3 are met.
2. Quizzes: There will be occasional unannounced quizzes on homework readings. (Goal 1)
3. Class preparation, participation : Everyone is expected to come to class and to field trips prepared to take an active role in examining and reflecting on the subject matter. (Goals 1 and 2)

The actual breakdown of the final grade is:

30% Journal/Short Papers

40% Long Paper: Due January 31st

10% Quizzes

20% Class preparation and participation

100% Total

**Required Texts** (Available at the UST Bookstore-St. Paul Campus)

Coulter, G. J., editor. Readings in the Philosophy of the Human Person.

Weston, Anthony, A Rulebook for Arguments. 4th edition. Hackett Publishing, 2008.

There are additional readings on Blackboard.

(Under consideration) Philosophical Questions East and West. Ed. Bina Gupta and J.N. Mohanty

**Policies:** A successful course is possible only when it is a genuinely academic enterprise. This requires students to treat the subject and others with openness, seriousness and respect. It means committing to diligent academic work. There is an expectation that students dedicate a minimum of 2-3 hours of preparation time for each homework assignment.

Each student is expected to be familiar with all academic policies as indicated in The Student Policy Book. Be familiar with the specific information regarding student rights, duties, and academic integrity (plagiarism).

**Attendance:** A*ttendance is a basic requirement*. This course condenses an entire semester’s work into four weeks. As such, each class period and field trip is important. Academic penalties, including removal from the course, will result from unexcused absences. With regard to excused absences, please consult The Student Policy Book which reads in part: “Students have the responsibility to attend their classes. If a student wishes to be excused from the equivalent of one full week of class or less per semester due to illness, a family or parenting-related emergency, or a UST-sponsored event, it is the responsibility of that student to inform his or her instructor(s) of the absence as soon as possible. *The student must also comply with verification requests/requirements that the instructor(s) may have. If the student complies with verification requirements, that student is expected to make up coursework missed (or an appropriate equivalent)* without grade penalty for late submission.

**Assignments**: Any who fails to submit an assignment on time may lose all academic credit for that work. Students must clear assignment problems with one of the professors *prior* to the deadline.

**Assistance**: Students have several options for obtaining assistance. Meeting with either of the professors during office hours is one option. With regard to logic assistance, there are online logic tutorials.

**SCHEDULE OF READINGS, SITE VISITS AND ACTIVITIES**

Note: Some classes/lectures will take place at specific cultural, natural or religious sites.

**December 2013**

**Pre-departure assignment**

“Questions, Syntax and Semantics” (Blackboard document)

A. Weston, *Rulebook for Arguments*, Ch. 1, 3, 6.

Online logic tutorial

**December 2013**

Saturday 28: Flight to Honolulu: Group meeting after arrival and check in.

Sunday 29: **11:00 a.m.** **Bus for Manoa Falls ½ day hike.**

Monday 30: **Morning session, 9-12: Introduction to Philosophy and review of logic**

**And guest Lecture: Introduction to non-Western Philosophy Guest Lecturer: Roger Aimes**

**First Theme: Human Nature—What does it mean to be human?**

Tuesday 31: **Guided site visit (Day long trip): Theme Soul, Spirit and Body: Spiritual sites of O'ahu, including Kaneaki Heiau and Puu O Mahuka Heiau State Monument. Guest docent: David Scheidler**

**January** **2014**

Wednesday 1: New Year’s Day, Open

Thursday 2: **Morning session, 9-12: Soul-body dualism of Descartes *Mediations I, II and VI***

**Afternoon session: Volunteer Opportunity at Institute for Human Services?** <http://www.ihshawaii.org/volunteer/group/>

Friday 3: **Morning session, 9-12: Site visit and guest Lecturer: Dualisms in non-Western thought. No guest lecturer: Request suggestion from chair of Philosophy Department.**

Saturday 4: **Morning session, 9-12: Sri Aurobindo, “Rebirth, Reincarnation and the Soul” and George Berkeley’s Idealism: From *Treatise On the Principles of Human Knowledge***

Sunday 5: Open

Monday 6: **Morning session, 9-12: Aquinas on Human Nature from, *Summa Theologica*, Ia, Q. 75.**

**Afternoon session: Volunteer Opportunity …?**

**Second Theme: The Self—What am I, Do I have a soul?—Disability, gender…**

Tuesday 7: **Morning session, 9-12: Guest Lecture: Spirit/soul in non-Western thought Roger Aimes**; **and** **Guest lecture on the self in Indian Philosophy Chakabarti**

Wednesday 8: **Morning session 9-12: Guided site visit of Temples and Shrines on Oahu. David Scheidler**

**Evening session, 6-7:30: “The Intouchables”**

Thursday 9: **Morning session, 9-12: Chinese Buddhism: Buddhist theories of the self. Request suggestion from chair of Philosophy Department and Hawaiian perception of gender and body. Barbara Andaya**

Friday 10: **Morning session, 9-12: Plato on Gender, body and family, Republic Bk. V: J. Vanier, on Disability, “Belonging” from *Becoming Human*,**

**Afternoon session: Volunteer Opportunity at Institute for Human Services?** <http://www.ihshawaii.org/volunteer/group/>

Saturday 11: **Morning session: Volunteer Opportunity at fish pond off campus site**

Sunday 12: Open

**Third Theme: Human, animal, and machine—Are we different from animals?**

Monday 13: **Morning session, 9-12: Guided site visit to Native Hawaiian Taro Field on UH campus. We do not have a lecturer for this yet. In addition, possible lecture by Lilykala on Hawaiian view of nature, person and animals.**

Tuesday 14: **Morning session, 9-12: Guest Lecture: Animals in non-Western thought or Buddhism. Barbara Andaya and response. Speaker for hour**

Wednesday 15: **Morning session, 9-12: Daniel Dennett, “The Age of Intelligent Machines” John Searle, “Minds, Brains and Programs”**

**Evening session film**

Thursday 16: **Morning session, 9-12: Peter Singer, “Animals Are Equal”, Roger Scruton, “Eating Our Friends”**

**Afternoon session: Volunteer Opportunity …?**

Friday 17: **9:00 a.m. Site visit to Ka'ena Point State Park and visit to guest lecturer Eric Arakawa.**

Saturday 18: Open:

Sunday 19: Open

Monday 20: Martin Luther King Holiday

**Fourth Theme: Freedom—Am I free? Freedom for what?**

Tuesday 21: **Morning session, 9-12: Guided site visit to Chinatown and guest lecture: Freedom and Suppression in China. Guest Lecturer: G. Tanable**

**Afternoon session: Volunteer Opportunity?**

Wednesday 22: **Morning session, 9-12: Guided site visit to Japanese cultural center led by docent. Freedom and Japanese social order.** **Guest Lecturer: G. Tanable**

Thursday 23: **Morning session, 9-12: Guided site visit. Theme is Hawaiian expression of freedom. David Scheidler.**

**Afternoon session, 1-2:30: Selections from Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*, On Free Choice, Ia, Q. 82, and Q. 83 John Searle, “Free Will as a problem in neurobiology”**

**Fifth Theme: God, the Environment and the Afterlife—Am I a creature?**

Friday 24: **Morning session, 9-12: Guest lecture: Different Eastern Perspectives on the Divine; Suzuki, Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*, Ia, Q. 2 (The five ways to know that God exists)**

Saturday 25: Return to Minnesota

**Note**: We plan to schedule voluntary recreational activities such as hiking, surfing and kayaking.