

History of Western Philosophy | SPRING 2019

Instructor: PETER LEE
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Office Hours: Wednesday 9:00 am ~ 12:00 pm
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Course Description

This course is for students interested in learning about western philosophy. It strolls through the history of philosophical ideas from the ancient Greeks to early twentieth century philosophers. Through class lectures, students become acquainted with many of the greatest figures in western philosophy, including the Pre-Socratics, Socrates, Plato and Aristotle, Descartes, Locke, Hume, Kant, and Wittgenstein. With many of these thinkers, we will also discuss their place in history and the significance of their ideas.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you should become 1) acquainted with many of the major figures in western philosophy; 2) familiar with many of the traditional philosophical concepts and terms; 3) confident in recognizing and referencing texts that utilize philosophical matters; 4) capable of thinking more thoughtfully about various aspects of life and the world; 6) motivated to study more in-depth specific philosophical issues and topics.

Course Textbook: N/A.

Partial References: *An Illustrated Brief History of Western Philosophy*, Anthony Kenny (2006)
 The Great Conversation, Norman Melchert (2011)
 The Story of Philosophy, Bryan Magee (2016)

Course Grading

Attendance	10%
Midterm	40%
Final Exam	50%

Course Requirements

Attendance and Participation

- If you miss a class, there will be a loss of 3 grade points.
- If you come to class after your name has been called two or more times, you will be marked as late and lose 1 grade point. Three late arrivals will be considered an absence.
- If you are absent four times, then you will receive an automatic FAIL. This is school policy.
- PDF files for upcoming lectures will be posted on our e-campus. You should preview and bring them to class to help you take notes. The exams will test the materials covered in class, so always pay close attention to the lectures and ask questions if you need clarification.

The Exams

- The exams will have multiple choice and short answer questions. You will not be required to write essay questions and, as a general rule, you will not lose points for minor grammar or expression mistakes. But very badly written answers may be penalized. Since the exam questions will be based solely on the lectures, make sure to attend every class, take notes and ask questions.

Classroom Rules & Etiquette

- Please speak English with the instructor at all times in class.
- Please give your full attention to the instructor when he is lecturing.
- Please turn off your cellphone at the start of the class (no texting or surfing the Internet).

Weekly Schedule

W 01 Mar 05	Course Outline General overview of course content and introduction
W 02 Mar 12	Pre-Socratics and Cosmologies (1) I. Thales; birth of western philosophy II. Other Pre-Socratics; Xenophanes
W 03 Mar 19	Pre-Socratics and Cosmologies (2) I. Heraclitus, Parmenides II. Democritus, Atomism
W 04 Mar 26	Sophists and Socrates I. The Sophists and Socrates II. The Socratic Dialogues
W 05 Apr 02	Plato I. Plato's life, Theory of Forms II. <i>The Republic</i>
W 06 Apr 09	Aristotle I. Aristotle's life, Ethics II. Politics, Knowledge, Soul
W 07 Apr 16	Greek Philosophy after Aristotle Christian Philosophy I. Epicureanism, Stoicism, Skepticism, Neo-Platonism II. Augustine, Aquinas
W 08 Apr 23	MIDTERM EXAM
W 09 Apr 30	Continental Rationalism I. The Age of Reason Descartes II. Spinoza, Leibniz
W 10 May 07	British Empiricism I. Locke, Berkeley, (Hobbes) II. Hume, (Reid)
W 11 May 14	Immanuel Kant I. Kant's Copernican Revolution: <i>Critique of Pure Reason</i> II. Kant's Ethics: <i>Critique of Practical Reason</i>
W 12 May 21	German Idealism Existentialism Utilitarianism I. Fichte, Hegel, Schopenhauer, Kierkegaard II. Bentham, J.S. Mill
W 13 May 28	Masters of Suspicion Rise of Secularism I. Darwin, Marx, Nietzsche, Freud II. Masters of Suspicion: Marx, Nietzsche, Freud
W 14 June 04	Twentieth Century Philosophy I. Wittgenstein and Analytic Philosophy II. Modern Science and Philosophy
W 15 June 11	FINAL EXAM

* Course content / class schedule can be revised at the teacher's discretion with prior notice.