

OXFORD COLLEGE  
PHILOSOPHY 100: INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

Dr. Ken Anderson  
Fall 2000  
Office: 118 Language Hall  
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**SYLLABUS:** The objective of the course is to introduce the student to a range of philosophical methods and problems. We will try to accomplish this through the close reading and discussion of some fundamental texts in the philosophical tradition. The course will be framed by a close reading of Descartes' Meditations on First Philosophy. The other texts will be brought in with reference to the issues raised by Descartes, for instance, freedom, God, our knowledge of the outside world. Stories by Kafka will also serve to provide a literary perspective on the philosophical issues.

**TEXTS:** Plato, Trial and Death of Socrates  
Plato, Meno  
Descartes, Meditations on First Philosophy  
Epictetus, The Handbook  
Sartre, Existentialism and Human Emotions  
Kafka, The Metamorphosis, In the Penal Colony, and Other Stories  
Westphal and Levenson, Life and Death

**REQUIREMENTS:**

Up to six quizzes  
Three in-class exams – 9/29, 10/27, 11/20  
Final exam – 12/20 9:00am-12:00noon  
Attendance is mandatory. More than three absences will affect your grade.

**GRADING:** Each exam will count 20% of the final grade and the total of the quizzes will count 20% of the final grade. Class participation **will** also be taken into account. I will use +/- grading.

“Every thinker puts some portion of an apparently stable world in peril and no one can wholly predict what will emerge in its place.”-John Dewey

The **honor code** is in effect at all times and must be adhered to for each assignment. The code and its application to particular assignments will be discussed in class.

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