

# PHIL 100

## Introduction to Philosophy

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### Overview

In this introductory course, we will read philosophical texts from various traditions (old and new), in order to critically examine the theoretical frameworks we use to understand the world and ourselves. We will focus on three important themes in Philosophy: knowledge, existence/reality, and the self. While you are expected to learn prominent views in the history of philosophy, other key aspects of the course include the development of your own philosophical thinking and the ability to view any topic through a philosophical lens.

### Goals

- 1) To understand key concepts/theories in the history of philosophical thinking.
- 2) To develop your ability to clearly articulate your own philosophical ideas in writing, speaking, and in conversation with others.
- 3) To develop your ability to have a productive and focused dialogue with your peers.
- 4) To develop your ability to read a text closely and formulate your own written philosophical argument about that text.
- 5) To understand how the study of philosophy is relevant to everyone's life, interests, and ability to live an ethical and reflective life with others.

### Requirements

Participation	5%	First Exam	25%
Daily activities/quizzes	5%	Second Exam	25%
Argument Papers (3 @ 5% each)	15%	Final Exam	25%

### Grading Scale

94 – 100 = A	77-79 = C+
90 – 93 = A-	74-76 = C
87 – 89 = B+	70-73 = C-
84 – 86 = B	60 – 69 = D
80 – 83 = B-	< 60 = F

### Required Texts

The following texts are required for the course. Additionally, there are multiple pdfs that you will need to print.

*Western Philosophy: An Anthology (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)*, edited by John Cottingham  
9781405124782

*The Philosopher's Toolkit (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)*,  
Baggini and Fosl, 9781405190183

### Important Dates

Argument papers:

Paper 1, September 26<sup>th</sup>

Paper 2, October 31<sup>st</sup>

Paper 3, December 5<sup>th</sup>

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First Exam, September 28<sup>th</sup>

Second Exam, November 2<sup>nd</sup>

Final Exam, 10A: December 13<sup>th</sup> (9:00am)

01A: December 14<sup>th</sup> (2:00pm)

### Office Hours

[All by appointment; signup in Canvas]

Thursdays (mostly online):

9:30am-12:00pm

Facetime: [jmousie@emory.edu](mailto:jmousie@emory.edu)

Skype: joshuamousie

Fridays (in office):

2:30pm-5:00pm

## Daily Assignments

These assignments differ throughout the semester. They often consist of reading quizzes and in-class work, and sometimes they will be assigned homework. Other than homework assignments, they are not announced in advance. Their aim is to gauge your preparation for class and to develop your ability to clearly express philosophical ideas. Your lowest score will be dropped. The only time you will receive a zero on one of these assignments is if you have an unexcused absence or if you are not in the classroom when we start a quiz. If you have an excused absence, you have one week to take a makeup quiz, which you are responsible for scheduling with me.

## Argument Papers

I always encourage students to critically engage the texts we read and develop their own philosophical views. To facilitate your critical engagement with texts, you will write three two-page argument papers during the semester, one for each unit in the course. In each paper, you will develop one clear argument of your own that supports, critiques, or makes a nuanced claim about a philosopher's argument presented in one of the assigned readings. Each paper must be about an assigned reading in the unit we just finished. You will submit your papers anonymously and electronically (Canvas). We will discuss the details of this assignment during class on September 9<sup>th</sup>. Due dates: Paper 1, September 26<sup>th</sup> Paper 2, October 31<sup>st</sup> Paper 3, December 5<sup>th</sup>

## Exams

There will be three exams. Exams will consist of fill-in-the-blank, short answer and essay questions. The second and third exam will be partially cumulative – that is, you will always be tested on all key concepts and theories discussed this semester from the Baggini and Fosl book and generic philosophical terminology we discuss.

Note from Academic Services:

"Students must have the permission of the Dean of Academic Affairs to reschedule a final exam. Permission is normally granted for medical reasons or for participating in educational programs. Leaving early for rides or flights, vacations, relatives' or friends' weddings or graduation, jobs, or having more than one exam on one day, are not considered valid reasons to request an earlier or later exam."

## Participation & Attendance

Great discussions happen when everyone has a chance to participate in our conversations. Accordingly, we will try to actively involve everyone in our conversations and create a classroom culture that welcomes everyone. I expect you to be prepared and engaged with the text, but I also ask you to participate in a respectful, relevant, and charitable manner. This means that you should not talk too much or be overly argumentative/aggressive; you should not bring up topics that are irrelevant; also, you should give the ideas of the author we are discussing, and the ideas of your peers, the most fair and generous interpretation. You will receive three participation grades, one after each exam. Your overall participation grade will be an average of these three grades. If you have more than one unexcused absence (see policies below) during a unit of the course, that unit's participation grade lowers two letter grades (20 points) for each additional unexcused absence. If you miss ten or more classes (unexcused), you will receive an "F" in the course. For a detailed rubric, see the "Files" section in Canvas.

## Additional Information & Classroom Policies

### Unexcused Absence

An absence is excused only if you are 1) involved in an official Oxford event (sports, for example), 2) have a note from health services, or 3) have a note/e-mail from a dean excusing you from class.

### Turning in Assignments

I will not accept assignments that are e-mailed to me. Any assignment that is not turned in by you at the beginning of class is late and will be penalized. If you leave class after turning in an assignment, you will receive a zero on the assignment. For daily assignments, late work is not accepted. For *all* assignments: each day late = one letter grade off (-10pts).

### Electronics

You are not allowed to have laptops or cell phones out during class.

On days when the reading is a pdf, you either need to print the article or have an e-reader (no laptops or phones).

### Academic Dishonesty

Cheating/plagiarism is not tolerated. Any form of cheating or plagiarism (regardless the assignment) will forfeit any possible credit for that assignment, and following school policy you will be reported to the Honor Council. (Please consult the Academic Honor Code in the Student Handbook.) If you have *any* questions concerning what constitutes plagiarism, don't hesitate to contact me.

### Disability Accommodations

Any student who thinks s/he may need an accommodation should contact the Office of Disability Services (ADSR): [adsroxford@emory.edu](mailto:adsroxford@emory.edu) ; 770.784.4690. Unless you have official documentation from the ADSR office, I cannot grant accommodations.

## Course Schedule:

All dates are subject to change

*WP* = Cottingham's *Western Philosophy: An Anthology*

*TPT* = Baggini and Fosl's *The Philosopher's Toolkit*

Week	Topic	Required Reading
1	Basics of Philosophy	<b>August</b> 24 <sup>th</sup> Syllabus/Branches of Philosophical Inquiry 26 <sup>th</sup> Key Principles Day 1: Gramsci (pdf) and <i>TPT</i> 1.1 and 3.18
<b>Unit 1: What is Knowledge?</b>		
2		29 <sup>th</sup> Zhuangzi (pdf) and <i>TPT</i> , 4.2 31 <sup>st</sup> Plato ( <i>WP</i> , pgs. 3-12) and <i>TPT</i> , 4.1 <b>September</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Plato ( <i>WP</i> , pgs. 12-18) and <i>TPT</i> , 4.14
3		5 <sup>th</sup> – No class 7 <sup>th</sup> Aristotle ( <i>WP</i> , pgs. 18-21) and <i>TPT</i> , 4.11 9 <sup>th</sup> Key Principles Day 2: Portmore (pdf)
4		12 <sup>th</sup> Descartes ( <i>WP</i> pgs. 21-25) and <i>TPT</i> , 1.11 14 <sup>th</sup> Locke ( <i>WP</i> pgs. 25-31)
5		16 <sup>th</sup> Arendt (pdf) 19 <sup>th</sup> Midgley (pdf) 21 <sup>st</sup> Collins (pdf) 23 <sup>rd</sup> Key Principles Day 3: <i>TPT</i> , 1.2-1.5
6		26 <sup>th</sup> Review Day (Argument Paper 1 due) <b>28<sup>th</sup> First Exam</b> 30 <sup>th</sup> Laozi (pdf)
<b>Unit 2: What is existence?</b>		
7		<b>October</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Plato ( <i>WP</i> , pgs. 69-75) 5 <sup>th</sup> Aristotle ( <i>WP</i> , pgs. 76-79) and <i>TPT</i> , 4.9 7 <sup>th</sup> Key Principles Day 4: <i>TPT</i> , 4.13 and Aristotle (pdf)

8	10 <sup>th</sup> Fall Break – no class 12 <sup>th</sup> Descartes ( <i>WP</i> , pgs. 351-356) 14 <sup>th</sup> Hume ( <i>WP</i> , pgs. 102-107)
9	17 <sup>th</sup> Radhakrishnan (pdf) 19 <sup>th</sup> Key Principles Day 5: Informal Fallacies, Part I 21 <sup>st</sup> No class
10	24 <sup>th</sup> Dussel (pdf) 26 <sup>th</sup> Mills (pdf) 28 <sup>th</sup> Ferry (pdf)
11	31 <sup>st</sup> Review Day (Argument Paper 2 due)  <b>November</b>  2 <sup>nd</sup> <b>Second Exam</b>  4 <sup>th</sup> Buddha (pdf)
12	7 <sup>th</sup> Plato ( <i>WP</i> , pgs. 203-209) 9 <sup>th</sup> Aristotle ( <i>WP</i> , pgs. 210-214) 11 <sup>th</sup> Descartes ( <i>WP</i> , pgs. 221-227)
13	14 <sup>th</sup> Mill ( <i>WP</i> , pgs. 240-244) 16 <sup>th</sup> Sartre ( <i>WP</i> , pgs. 320-325) 18 <sup>th</sup> Key Principles Day 6: Informal Fallacies, Part II
14	21 <sup>st</sup> Alcoff (pdf) 23 <sup>rd</sup> and 25 <sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving – no class
15	28 <sup>th</sup> Anzaldua (pdf) 30 <sup>th</sup> McCloskey (pdf)  <b>December</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Churchland (pdf) 5 <sup>th</sup> Review Day (Argument Paper 3 due)