

OXFORD COLLEGE  
INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

Philosophy 100  
Office: 203 Language Hall  
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Dr. Ken Anderson  
Fall 1993

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 divided into three parts. The first part will consist of texts by the seminal figures of the Ancient and Modern traditions, Plato and Descartes. The second part will consist of two reactions against the Cartesian conception of philosophy, Rousseau's cultural and historical philosophy and Sartre's Existentialism. The third part will consist of the reading of an existential novel, The End of the Road by John Barth, and a work on Zen Buddhism by D.T. Suzuki.

TEXTS: Ten Great Works of Philosophy, ed. Robert Paul Wolff.  
-Plato, Apology, Crito.  
-Descartes, Meditations on First Philosophy.  
Rousseau, First and Second Discourses.  
Film, Lord of the Flies.  
Sartre, Existentialism and Human Emotions.  
John Barth, The End of the Road.  
D.T. Suzuki, An Introduction to Zen Buddhism.  
An Introductory essay, excerpts from Plato's Euthyphro,  
excerpts from Camus' The Myth of Sisyphus.

REQUIREMENTS: Two essays: on Plato and Rousseau  
Two exams: on part one (Plato and Descartes)  
and part two (Rousseau and Sartre)  
Final exam on part three  
Attendance is mandatory. More than three  
unexcused absences will affect your grade.

GRADING: The first two exams and the two essays will have approximately equal weight toward the grade. The final exam will count somewhat less. 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

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