

OXFORD COLLEGE
PHILOSOPHY 100: INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

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Spring 2004
Office: 106A 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, the relation of the mind to the body. Camus' novel, *The Plague*, will also serve to provide a literary perspective on the philosophical issues.

TEXTS: Plato, *Trial and Death of Socrates*
Plato, *Symposium*
Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy*
Epictetus, *The Handbook*
Sartre, *Existentialism and Human Emotions*
Albert Camus, *The Plague*
Westphal and Levenson, *Life and Death*

REQUIREMENTS:

Approximately six quizzes
Three in-class exams – 2/11, 3/5, 4/5
Final exam – 5/4 9:00-noon
Attendance is mandatory. More than three absences will affect your grade. See reverse for details.

GRADING: **Each exam** will count **20%** of the final grade
The **total** of the **quizzes** will count **10%** of the final grade.
Class participation will also be taken into account and will count **10%** of the final grade. 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.