

OXFORD COLLEGE
PHILOSOPHY 100: INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

Dr. Ken Anderson
Fall 1998
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 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 an examination of the philosophy of Existentialism and the meaning of life. The third part will be a consideration of two contemporary issues in philosophy, feminism and racism.

TEXTS: Plato, Trial and Death of Socrates
Descartes, Meditations on First Philosophy
Sartre, Existentialism and Human Emotions
John Barth, The End of the Road
Westphal and Levenson, Life and Death
Luce Irigaray, Je, tu, nous
Lewis Gordon, Her Majesty's Other Children

REQUIREMENTS:

Two essays (3-5 pages each)
Three exams
Four reading quizzes
Attendance is mandatory. More than three absences will affect your grade.

GRADING: The exams and the two essays will have approximately equal weight toward the 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

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