

OXFORD COLLEGE  
PHILOSOPHY 100: INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

Dr. Ken Anderson  
Spring 2002  
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, the relation of the mind to the body. Barth's novel, The End of the Road, 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  
John Barth, The Floating Opera and The End of the Road  
Westphal and Levenson, Life and Death

**REQUIREMENTS:**

Approximately six quizzes  
Three in-class exams – 2/11, 3/8, 4/8  
Final exam – 5/2 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 and 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.

You may miss **three** classes for **any reason** without penalty. If you miss **more than three** classes, you will be penalized on the following basis:

4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> absences lose 1% from the final grade for each absence  
7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> absences lose 2% from the final grade for each absence  
10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> absences lose 3% from the final grade for each absence  
13<sup>th</sup> -- ? you are in real trouble

**Three times late** for class will be considered an **absence**. If you are exceptionally late, I may consider it half an absence. If you are late, it is your responsibility to remind me after class to mark you as late rather than as absent. You cannot argue later in the semester that you were not really absent as many times as my records indicate.

These penalties will be in **addition to** and **separate from** the class participation grade.