
PHIL 100

Introduction to Philosophy

Instructor: Dr. Joshua Mousie
E-Mail: jmousie@emory.edu
Office: Pierce Hall 232

Overview

In this introductory course, we will read philosophical texts from various traditions (old and new), and we will critically examine the theoretical frameworks we use to understand the world and ourselves. We will focus on three important themes in Philosophy: the nature of knowledge, existence, 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	20%
Quizzes	10%	Second Exam	20%
Online critical thinking component	10%	Final Exam	20%
Argument Paper and Revision	15%		

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 (2nd Edition), edited by John Cottingham
9781405124782

The Philosopher's Toolkit (2nd Edition),
Baggini and Fosl, 9781405190183

Important Dates

Argument papers:

First paper: Oct. 19th (5:00pm)

Paper revision: Nov. 20th (11:59pm)

First Exam: Oct. 3rd

Second Exam: Nov. 12th

Final Exam (in our classroom):

1:00pm class: Dec 17th, 9am-12pm

2:30pm class: Dec. 14th, 9am-12pm

Office Hours

Tuesdays

9:00am-5:00pm (other than 12pm-1pm)

No appointment needed. Stop by anytime during these hours.

Quizzes

Many of our classes will begin with reading quizzes. These quizzes will test how closely you read the assigned reading. The quizzes will be true/false or fill-in-the-blank questions. Sometimes in-class group assignments and homework assignments will count as quiz grades.

- Policies:
1. There are no makeup quizzes unless you have an excused absence. For excused absences, you have one week to take a makeup quiz. You will need to come by my office hours to take your makeup quiz. After a week, you will receive a zero. Makeup quizzes will be about the next reading to be covered in class. That is, makeup quizzes will always be on a reading we haven't covered in class.
 2. All quizzes will happen at the very beginning of class, and I will give everyone exactly five minutes to complete their quiz.
 3. If you are late to class, you will not be able to have extended time to finish your quiz. Also, if you leave class early without an excuse, you will receive a zero on your quiz (if there is a quiz that day).
 4. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

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 a two-page argument paper during the semester. In this 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. Your paper must be about an assigned reading prior to the deadline; you will revise this paper for a second paper grade. Your grade for this portion of the course (15%) is the average of both papers. The reading you base your argument on is your choice, but it cannot be a *TPT* reading. You will submit your papers anonymously and electronically (Canvas). We will discuss the details of this assignment during class. Due dates: Paper 1, Oct. 19th @ 5:00pm Revision, Nov. 20th @ 11:59pm

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.

Online critical thinking component

Although we meet for the same amount of time as a three credit-hour course, this course is four credit-hours. Your fourth hour is completed through an online critical thinking module in Canvas. This module is a requirement for all 100-level Philosophy courses at Emory University. You must complete at least one unit per week, and once a unit is closed (each Sunday), you will no longer be able to access exams from that unit or receive credit for exams in that unit. Due dates for each unit can be found on our Canvas homepage under "Course Summary," and it is *your* responsibility to know unit test deadlines. Your lowest online critical thinking exam will be dropped.

Instructions from the Emory College Philosophy Department:

The critical thinking component of this course is designed to develop your skills at understanding, evaluation, and constructing arguments, and to help you think critically about complex problems and ideas. This component should be completed on your own, outside of class time, and counts as one of the four weekly contact hours for the course. In order to complete it you will need to read a series of texts and answer exam questions based on them. The texts can be found through the course reserves table (usually titled "Library Course Reserves") on the left-hand column of the Canvas page. The texts are divided into 13 units, each with 2-3 sub-units. You will need to pass an exam covering the material from each sub-unit (e.g., for Unit 4, you will need to complete and pass exams 4.1, 4.2, and 4.3). The exams, as well as practice tests and practice test answers, are located in separate folders corresponding to each unit below. The practice tests are provided to help you prepare for the exams. The answers for the practice tests are located in Canvas under 'Modules'. After you have read the texts for Unit 1.1 and looked at the practice tests and answers, you should click on 'Unit 1.1 Exam,' and follow the instructions to complete it. As you begin, you will notice that you are only able to see the exam for Unit 1.1. This is intentional – you must pass the exam for Unit 1.1, and then and only then will the exam for Unit 1.2 be made available. Pass the exam for Unit 1.2 and you will be able to move on to exam for Unit 1.3; pass the exam for Unit 1.3 and you will be able to move on to the exam for Unit 2.1, etc. You will have two chances to pass each exam. If you fail an exam twice, you will be locked out of the system and prevented from retaking the twice-failed exam or from accessing further exams. It is thus in your best interest to be sure that you know the material well before attempting any exam. If you do fail an exam section twice, you will need to contact your professor or her/his T.A. to work out a way forward before you will be able to continue completing exams. In order to complete the critical thinking component, you will need to pass all of the exams (the last exam is for Unit 13.3).

Participation

Great discussions happen when everyone has a chance to participate in our conversations. Accordingly, we will actively involve everyone in our conversations and create a classroom culture that welcomes everyone. Excellent and A-level participation includes the following:

1. You demonstrate active engagement and attention in all class discussions and group work
2. You have assigned readings with you every day, and you can locate important passages that you want to discuss and ask questions about. That is, there should be evidence that you prepared for class discussion and can contribute to our conversation by actually engaging directly with the text we are reading.
3. You speak and ask questions regularly, which includes three things: building on the ideas that your peers share, staying on topic, and not being rude or disrespectful to anyone in the classroom (instructor or students).
4. You help to create an environment that enhances everyone's education: not arriving late/leaving early, not regularly leaving and coming back to class, not talking while other people have the floor (instructor or student), etc. In general, not distracting others.

You will receive three participation grades, one after each exam. Your overall participation grade will be an average of these three grades. If you experience social anxiety or a related condition and find it difficult to talk in our class, you can make up participation points with me during my office hours: come by and talk about the readings, sharing your thoughts and asking questions. I will always encourage you, nonetheless, to find ways to speak in-class with your peers.

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, 3) observing a religious holiday, or 4) have a note/e-mail from a dean excusing you from class. Any note must be for the day/time of our 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/the deadline is late and will be penalized. If you leave class after turning in an assignment, your assignment will receive a letter grade off. For all assignments: each day late = one letter grade off (-10pts).

Electronics

No laptops or cell phones should be used during class, unless you have an accommodation letter from OAS.

To protect everyone in the class, you do not have my permission to record our class, neither audio nor video.

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 Accessibility Services (OAS): oas_oxford@emory.edu ; 770.784.4690. Unless you have official documentation from the OAS office, I cannot grant accommodations. If you do not schedule testing in advance, you will have to take our tests during the regular class time without extended time or accommodations. Scheduling for an exam accommodation is your responsibility, and often you cannot schedule times on short notice; thus, schedule all of your exam times during the first week of the semester. All exam dates can be found on the first page of this syllabus.

Course Schedule:

All dates are subject to change

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

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

PDF = All pdfs are posted in Canvas in "Files"

Week	Topic	Required Reading
1	Introduction: The Basics of Philosophy	August 29 th Syllabus/Branches of Philosophical Inquiry
2		September 5 th Basics of argumentation: how to read and assess philosophical writing Antonio Gramsci (pdf) and <i>TPT</i> 1.1 and 3.18
3	Unit 1: What is real? What is true?	10 th Introduction: Bertrand Russell #1 (pdf) 12 th Zhuangzi (pdf) and <i>TPT</i> , 4.1 and 4.2
4		17 th Plato (<i>WP</i> , pgs. 12-18) and <i>TPT</i> , 4.15 19 th Plato (<i>WP</i> , pgs. 69-75) and <i>TPT</i> , 2.3 and 4.9

5	24 th Augustine (pdf) and <i>TPT</i> 4.10 26 th Rene Descartes (<i>WP</i> , pgs. 352-356) and <i>TPT</i> 1.9
6	October 1 st Rene Descartes (<i>WP</i> , pgs. 21-25) and <i>TPT</i> 1.11 and 7.8 3 rd First Exam
7	8 th – Fall break 10 th Philosophical Writing: Portmore (pdf) and <i>TPT</i> 1.8, 1.10, and 3.2
8	15 th Writing workshop 17 th David Hume (<i>WP</i> , pgs. 102-107) and <i>TPT</i> 6.3
9	22 nd Hannah Arendt (pdf) and <i>TPT</i> 7.1 24 th Mary Midgely #1 (pdf) and <i>TPT</i> 4.14
10	29 th Patricia Hill Collins (pdf) and <i>TPT</i> 4.11 Unit 2: What are you? Philosophy of the Self
11	31 st Introduction: Buddha (pdf); Mumford (pdf); <i>TPT</i> 4.13 November 5 th Rene Descartes (<i>WP</i> , pgs. 221-227) and Gertler (pdf) 7 th Radhakrishnan (pdf) and <i>TPT</i> 4.18
12	12 th Second Exam 14 th Jean-Paul Sartre (pdf) and <i>TPT</i> 6.11
13	19 th Charles Taylor (<i>WP</i> , 302-307) and <i>TPT</i> 5.8 21 st Thanksgiving break
14	26 th Charles Mills (pdf) and <i>TPT</i> 5.2 28 th Gloria Anzaldua (pdf) and <i>TPT</i> 6.5
15	December 3 rd Patricia Churchland (pdf) and <i>TPT</i> 6.8 5 th Mary Midgley #2 (pdf) and <i>TPT</i> 6.10 Conclusion: The Value of Philosophy? 10 th Bertrand Russell #2 (pdf)