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Spring 2014

# PHI 100

## Introduction to Philosophy

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### Overview

"Philosophy begins in wonder..." - Aristotle

"Enlightenment is release from one's self-imposed tutelage...Dare to Know!" - Kant

In this introductory course in philosophy, we will read texts in the history of philosophy in order to critically examine the theoretical frameworks we use to understand the world and ourselves. We will use the readings to discuss the nature of the self, what sort of knowledge and truth there is, and what truly exists/what constitutes reality. While you are expected to learn prominent views in the history of philosophy, a key aspect of the class will be learning how to develop philosophical thinking within yourself and see the world through a philosophical lens.

### Goals

- 1) To understand key concepts/theories in the history of philosophical thinking.
- 2) To understand how to approach a topic in a philosophical manner/how to use philosophical methods and philosophical critique when dealing with ideas.
- 3) To learn how to clearly articulate philosophical ideas in writing, speaking, and in conversation with others. That is, how to conceptualize and express your ideas and the ideas found in the reading.
- 4) To learn how to engage in a close reading of a text and formulate a valid criticism of a text.

### Course Readings

Reading assignments will come from the assigned textbooks for the course. I will also be posting essays online, **which you are responsible for printing out and bringing to class for discussion**. You will be tested on all of the assigned readings.

Required Texts:

Plato, *The Republic* ISBN: 158510261X

Rene Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy* ISBN: 0872201929

Jean-Paul Sartre, *Existentialism and Human Emotions* ISBN: 080650902

Michel Foucault, *History of Sexuality* ISBN: 0679724699

### Requirements

Critical Engagement Papers	10%	Research paper	20%
Daily Assignments	10%	Midterm	25%
Participation	10 %	Final Exam (12pm 4/30; 1:15pm 5/1)	25%

## Daily Assignments

These assignments will differ throughout the semester. Sometimes they will consist of pop quizzes and in-class work, and sometimes they will be assigned homework. Other than homework assignments, they will not be announced in advance. Their aim is to gauge your preparation for class and to develop your ability to clearly express philosophical ideas. Your lowest two scores will be dropped, and **there are no makeups**.

## Research Paper

You will be required to **develop, research, and write a 5-page paper**. The paper will be something you work on throughout the semester, first doing some research and formulating a thesis; then writing a draft and having a peer read and critique the paper; and lastly completing a final draft that responds to your peer's critiques. Consult the 'Assignments' folder in Blackboard for a document containing all of the details of the research paper.

## Exams

There will be two exams, and **every exam will be cumulative**. Exams will consist of short answer and essay questions. Note from Academic Services:

"Students must have the permission of the Dean of Academic Affairs to reschedule a final exam. Permission is normally granted for medical reasons or for participating in educational programs. Leaving early for rides or flights, vacations, relatives' or friends' weddings or graduation, jobs, or having more than one exam on one day, are not considered valid reasons to request an earlier or later exam."

## Participation

An engaging and exciting philosophy classroom hinges on your ability to be inquisitive and find something in the readings that interests you. For this reason, your active participation, critical engagement, and attendance are crucial for this class to be a success. Thus, you will be graded on your participation and you are expected to have done all of the reading prior to class and come prepared to discuss the material. I will always have questions posted online to help guide you in your reading (since some of the readings are quite challenging). **Your participation grade will be based on how frequently you attend class, whether you cause distractions, your level of preparation, and the degree to which you are attentive and engaged in classroom discussion. You will receive one participation grade at midterm and one participation grade at the end of the semester. Your overall participation grade will be an average of these two grades.** **Distractions:** chatter, talking **too much** in discussion/bringing up non-relevant ideas that get the class off track, showing up late, using electronics, and any general behavior that hinders the class from having a discussion.

**Prepared for class:** you have a physical copy of the reading with you (book or printed article), paper and pen for notes, and have things you want to talk about regarding the reading.

**Attentive and Engaged:** You are awake (seriously, drink some coffee), you participate in a way that takes your peers' perspectives and ideas seriously, and your own contribution to the discussion is germane to the reading and the conversation at hand.

The following is the participation rubric used to assess your grade:

- 9-10: Always came to class, was attentive/prepared, and participated in class discussion regularly; also, never caused distractions.
- 5-8: Always came to class but rarely participated, was attentive, etc. OR Missed class somewhat frequently, but participated when present
- 1-4 Missed class somewhat frequently and never was attentive, engaged, prepared, etc.

## Critical Engagement Papers

Throughout the semester you will turn in 6 papers, roughly one-page each (2x spaced, 12 pt font, times new roman, 1 inch margins). These papers need to answer ONE of the CE questions posted on Blackboard concerning the reading, and must be turned in at the beginning of class on the day that the reading you discuss in your paper is being covered. **You MUST turn in 3 of these prior to the midterm exam and three of these after midterm (no later than April 25th). You cannot turn in more than one for any single day.** Each paper is worth 10 points, and your lowest score will be dropped. The goal of the assignment is for you to learn how to express philosophical ideas clearly in writing. You will be graded on the clarity/succinctness of your writing and your ability to give a thoughtful response to the question being asked. A rubric is posted on Blackboard in the 'Assignments' folder. Like all assignments, plagiarism isn't tolerated (see below).

## Grading Scale

94 – 100 = A	77-79 = C+
90 – 93 = A-	73-76 = C
87 – 89 = B+	70-72 = C-
83 – 86 = B	60 – 69 = D
80 – 82 = B-	< 60 = F

Note: I don't round final grades or curve grades on assignments.

## Additional Information & Classroom Policies

### Classroom Equity

I never give one student special accommodations (disabilities aside). Hence, whenever you want to ask me for something, first ask 'Is this something that he would/could reasonably do for everyone in the class.' If the answer is 'no,' then my answer will be no.

### Turning in Assignments

All assignments must be turned in at the beginning of class the day they are due. If you are not in class, you cannot turn in the assignment and receive credit, unless you have a doctor's note or you are on an official Emory trip (e.g., athletics). Along these lines, **I will not accept assignments that are e-mailed to me (unless you are asked to e-mail them).** Any assignment that is not turned in by you (in person) at the beginning of class is late and will be penalized. For daily assignments, late work is not accepted.

### Electronics

**You are not allowed to have laptops or cell phones out during class.** Although laptops are useful in many classrooms, they will not be needed for our purposes. The class will be heavily discussion-based and note taking can easily be done with paper and pen. On days when the reading comes from a pdf, **you are responsible for printing the document and having it with you in class.**

### Academic Dishonesty

Cheating/plagiarism is not tolerated. Any form of cheating or plagiarism (no matter 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, or visit someone in the writing center!

# Reading Schedule

## All Dates Subject to Change

### January

**15th** Introduction/Syllabus

**17th** Philosophical Arguments

**20th** **MLK day, no class**

**22nd** Gramsci

**24th** Plato, Republic  
(BK. I, 327A-337A)

**27th** Plato, Republic  
(BK. I, 337A-348A)

**29th** Plato, Republic  
(BK. II, 368A-end)

**31st** Plato, Republic  
(BK. III, 412C-end;  
BK. IV, 439C-end)

### February

**3rd** Plato, Republic  
(BK. V, 472A-end)

**5th** Plato, Republic  
(BK. VI, 506D-end)

**7th** NO CLASS

**10th** Plato, Republic  
(BK. VII, 514A-521D)

**12th** Anselm

**14th** Aquinas

**17th** Descartes (Med 1)

**19th** Descartes (Med 2)

**21st** Descartes  
(Med 3, pgs. 24-29)

**24th** Descartes  
(Med 3, pgs. 30-35)

**26th** Descartes (Med 4)

**28th** Descartes (Med 5)

### March

**3rd** Descartes (Med 6)

**5th** Review Day

**7th** **Midterm**

**10th-14th** **Spring Break**

**17th** Locke (Pt. 1, 26-28)

**19th** Locke  
(Pt. 1, 29-31; Pt. 2, 87)

### March, cont.

**21st** Locke (Pt. 2, 88-90)

**24th** Hume (Pt. 1, 36-38)

**26th** Hume  
(Pt. 1, 39; Pt. 2, 103-104)

**28th** Hume (Pt. 2, 105-107)

**31st** Du Bois  
(Souls of Black Folk)

### April

**2nd** Du Bois  
(Souls of White Folk)

**4th** Sartre (9-21)

**7th** Sartre (22-33)

**9th** Sartre (34-51)

**11th** Midgley (49-57)

**14th** Midgley (64-79)

**16th** Foucault

**18th** Foucault

**21st** Foucault

**23rd** Foucault

**25th** Foucault

**28th** Review Day