Syllabus:

Course: Philosophy 1010: Introduction to Philosophical Problems

Term: Summer 2019: Second Summer June 26 – August 5th (meets online)

Instructor: David Antonini

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I am teaching this course remotely and I will not be in the state of South Carolina, so an in-person meeting is not possible; I could, however, be available to do a Skype session if that is absolutely necessary.

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Student Learning Objectives:

1. Students should be able to understand the nature of philosophy and the questions it addresses as they emerge within different historical contexts.
2. Develop a competency in understanding the meaning of basic questions in metaphysics, epistemology, and ethics.
3. Communicate in writing the inter-relatedness of different concepts and arguments among the different thinkers we read.
4. Develop the capacity to discuss philosophical issues in an articulate and informed way.

**Course Description:** Our course will focus on a broad survey of the history of Western philosophy. We will move from the early Platonic dialogues through the modern period of Descartes and end with a critique of Enlightenment thought through reading existential and pragmatist thinkers.

The course, though approached through a historical perspective, is nonetheless aimed at trying to wrestle with and understand some very basic philosophical questions which have occupied Western thought such as:

What is the relationship between religion and morality? (*The Euthyphro*)

Why be a good person without rewards or good consequences? (*The Republic)*

What is the obligation of a citizen towards the state? (*The Apology and Crito*)

What is the relationship between mind and body? (*Meditations*)

What is the relationship between mind and world? (*Meditations*)

Is religious faith compatible with reason? (“The Will to Believe”*)*

How should I live given human mortality? (*Existentialism is a Humanism)*

How should I live given absolute freedom? (*Existentialism is a Humanism)*

**There will be texts available for purchase through the University Bookstore. You must purchase the same edition/publisher I have listed here. If you are in doubt about what edition you need, copy and paste the ISBN number into Google:**

1. *Meditations on First Philosophy*, Descartes; Hackett, 3rd Ed: ISBN: 9780872201927

### *Existentialism is a Humanism*, Sartre; Yale University Press: **ISBN:** 9780300115468

### *Euthyphro, Apology, Crito*, Plato; Library of Liberal Arts; ISBN: 0-02-322410-X

PDF’s Available on Canvass of *Republic* “The Will to Believe” and “The Ethics of Belief.”

*General Note for an online course:*

This is an online, and therefore, **expedited** course. The workload will not be less because it is a summer course. There is a still a fair amount of work required for the course. Given the expedited nature of the course, you must pay close attention to the due dates for assignments and readings, which means that first and foremost, this syllabus is your guide to answering any questions. I am always available through e-mail, but your first lifeline is this syllabus.

Course Format: Please be familiar with Clemson’s online Learning Management System, Canvass and its various features. The entire course will be housed on Canvass meaning the following will be available there: course announcements, grades, assignment uploads, lecture notes.

If you’ve never taken an online course before, you’ll need to be sure you login every day. Logging into Canvass every day is like waking up and going to the classroom each day.

You can get as much out of this course as you’re willing to put into it. I am available through e-mail throughout the duration of the course and I will post lecture notes for each reading. Additionally, I will post links to YouTube videos or online links that I think can be helpful with the readings.

Nonetheless, this reading material will be difficult without formal, in-class discussion to help which means you *must do the reading*. I am available to help you through e-mail, but you must try and be as independent as possible in attempting to understand the reading.

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How you’ll be Graded:

1. Homework Questions:

During each week, you will have a set of homework questions to go along with that week’s readings. They will be due every Friday by noon. I will post the homework questions to Canvass on the previous Friday and they will be due the following Friday.

You’ll have 5 homework assignments x 10 pts each = 50 pts

1. Quizzes: Every Monday, you’ll have a quiz on the *previous week’s readings*. Each quiz will be worth 15 points. You’ll have a total of 5 Quizzes x 15pts = 75 Points.
   1. You will not take the quiz directly on Canvass. You will download it, type directly in the word document and then upload the quiz within a given time frame.
2. Discussion Posts: Every Wednesday, (except week 1 which is due Friday) you’ll be responsible for responding to a discussion question that I post. After initially responding to my question, you’ll responsible for responding to 2 classmates as well. You’ll have six of these posts worth 7 points each and one worth 5 points = 47 points. *Each post will be available for approximately 24 hours and if you do not post in that time period, you’ll lose the opportunity to do so.*
3. Final Essay: you’ll have a final essay due on Monday August 5th 11:59 PM worth 40 points. I will provide you with paper prompts and you will choose one to write on.

Grades: There are total of 212 points in the class:

A = 90 – 100% of possible points

B= 80-89%

C=70-79%

D=60-69%

F=59 and below

\*\*\*\* Please do not e-mail me at the end of the semester regarding the *rounding* of grades. At my discretion, I will decide whether to round grades to the next highest whole number and will only do so in reasonable circumstances(i.e., you are reasonably close to the next letter grade and you have demonstrated commitment and effort throughout the course that would justify bumping your grade)

E-mailing me asking me to round up your grade *will only hurt your chances of having me do so*.

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NOTE: I will be providing you with my own lecture notes on the readings, but I will ***not*** be providing you with my own videos.

However, below, there are MANY links I have provided associated with each week’s readings—links to videos and other readings that can help you understand what you’re reading.

PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO CLICK ON THESE LINKS AS THEY WILL BE IMMENSELY HELPFUL IN UNDERSTANDING THE READINGS.

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Course Schedule:

Week 1: Wednesday June 26 – Friday June 28

Reading for this week: “What is Philosophy?” PDF; *Euthyphro*: pgs. 1-20 from *Euthyphro, Apology, Crito*

Reading Supplement: [*Euthyphro*](http://www2.oberlin.edu/faculty/mwallace/Euthyprho.html) ; [Video Supplement](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B_G4czxpAys)

Wednesday June 26: Introductory Discussion Post Due

Friday June 28: Discussion Post Due on *Euthyphro*

Sunday June 30: Homework 1 Due on *Euthyphro*

Week 2: Monday July 1 – Friday July 5:

Reading for this week: *Apology and Crito*: 21-65 from *Euthyphro, Apology, Crito*

Also read: Historical Background of Plato’s Apology in Lecture Notes on Apology

Reading Supplements: [Crito](https://1000wordphilosophy.com/2018/12/30/platos-crito-when-should-we-break-the-law/) , [Apology](http://caae.phil.cmu.edu/cavalier/80250/part2/ApologyAnalysis.html) , [Second Supplement](https://www.csus.edu/indiv/g/gaskilld/intro/apologywebnotes.htm) on *Apology*

Monday July 1: Quiz on *Euthyphro* and “What is Philosophy?”

Wednesday July 3: Discussion Post Due

Friday July 5: Homework 2 Due on *Apology and Crito*

Week 3: Monday July 8 – Friday July 12:

Reading for this week: *Republic Books I and 2* (*Republic* PDF) pgs. 3-40 (stop at 362d on pg 40):

Reading Supplement [*Republic*](https://www.iep.utm.edu/republic/#SH1b) ; [Video Supplement Book I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OqZGTtkVmdE) ; [Video Supplement Book II](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=59p6tBABGBg)

Monday July 8th: Quiz on *Apology and Crito*

Wednesday July 10: Discussion Post Due

Friday July 12: Homework 3 Due on *Republic*

Week 4: Monday July 15 – Friday July 19:

Reading for this week: Descartes *Meditations I-III* 17-35;

[Reading Supplement](https://1000wordphilosophy.com/2018/08/04/descartes-meditations-1-3/) on Descartes; Video Supplements [Meditation I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WcfV0ZnLk50) ; Meditation II, [Meditation III](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=581w1UrHRZY)

Monday July 15: Quiz on *Republic*

Wednesday July 17: Discussion Post Due

Friday July 19th: Homework 4 Due on Descartes

Week 6: Monday July 22 – Friday July 26:

Reading for this week: Sartre *Existentialism is a Humanism* 17-54;

Reading [Supplement](https://philosophynow.org/issues/15/A_students_guide_to_Jean-Paul_Sartres_Existentialism_and_Humanism) Sartre ; [Video Supplement](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BKu_dvK5gDk)

Monday July 22: Quiz on Descartes

Wednesday July 24: Discussion Post Due

Friday July 26: Homework 5 Due on Sartre

Week 7: Monday July 29 – Friday August 2: William James *The Will to Believe* (PDF) and William Clifford *The Ethics of Belief*  
Reading Supplement [James](https://www4.uwsp.edu/philosophy/dwarren/IntroBook/CliffordJames/James/james%202.htm) , [Video Supplement](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uzmLXIuAspQ) James and Clifford, [Supplement 2, James and Clifford](http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/SocialSciences/ppecorino/PHIL_of_RELIGION_TEXT/CHAPTER_4_ARGUMENTS_REASON/ch3-WK%20Clifford%20and%20William%20James.pdf)

Monday July 29: Quiz on Sartre

Wednesday July 31: Discussion Post Due on James and Clifford

Friday August 2: No Homework Due this Week

Final Essay Due:

Monday August 5th