

PHIL 101: Introduction to Philosophy
Section 3004
Wednesdays 6:00pm – 8:40pm, U303
8/25/2010 – 12/15/2010

Instructor: Michael Sturm
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Course Description

Introduction to philosophy by means of consideration of familiar problems and questions which have been treated by philosophers. Students will read selections from original texts from several branches of philosophy, including ethics, philosophy of religion, aesthetics, epistemology, and metaphysics. Three hours lecture/discussion a week. **IAI: H4 900**

Course Objectives:

- To introduce you to the basic questions, key figures, and influential ideas of philosophy.
- To connect philosophical issues with questions in your own life and in society at large.
- To develop philosophical tools of analysis, criticism, and articulation for use in your studies, occupations and personal lives.
- To enable you to participate effectively in civil, open debate.

Text

Soccio, D. J. (2010). *Archetypes of Wisdom: An Introduction to Philosophy* (7th ed.). Belmont: Wadsworth.

Required Student Materials

Students are expected to have their textbook with them during every class period, unless otherwise instructed. Additional materials needed for taking notes (notebook, paper, laptop, etc.) are also encouraged.

Breakdown of Course Requirements

Participation.....	50pts
Quizzes (5).....	50pts.
Midterm Exam.....	100pts.
Final Exam.....	100pts.
Paper1.....	75pts.
Paper2.....	75pts.
Total Possible.....	450pts.

Final Grade Determination

405 – 450 = A
360 – 404 = B
315 – 359 = C
270 – 314 = D
0 – 269 = F

Other Course Requirements

In 3 of 4 cases, the more that you participate actively in a debate, the more you learn about the topic of said debate. Philosophy, if it is nothing else, is all about debates. There are at least two conflicting answers to each answer that philosophers have asked and do ask, and there is very little consensus as to which answers are correct. Furthermore, Philosophy takes reality itself as its subject matter. If you have opinions about reality, then you have Philosophical stances.

That being said, a small portion of your grade will be based on participation. This requirement is not just so that I have more ways to grade you, but it will also help your classmates. The more you participate, the larger the debate grows, and the more things are out there for you classmates to address. In other words, get involved!

Therefore, you will be expected to attend each class, unless there are extenuating circumstances. If you do not, your participation grade will suffer accordingly.

Make-Up Policy

There will be no make-up quizzes, as quizzes will be random and used as an indicator of class attendance. Test dates are included in the syllabus; if a student will not be able to make it to class on one of those days, he or she must meet with me in advance to set up an alternative date to take the exam. Make-up tests for *unexpected* absences will only be given in the event of an emergency, proof of which must be provided by the student.

Learning Skills Center (A-330)

Tutoring and testing is available to all Kishwaukee students free of charge. Students must present their Kishwaukee College student ID when using any Learning Skills Center services. No appointment is necessary for assistance in English. For more information on the Learning Skills Center go to www.kishwaukeecollege.edu/learning_skills_center.

The Writing Center (A-306) answers your writing-related questions regardless of the class or assignment. No appointment is necessary, and students can get help individually or in small groups. Also available are workshop opportunities for any size group.

Withdrawal Policy

A “W” will not be given as a final grade. The student is responsible for officially withdrawing from the class according to procedures described in the college catalog. Any student that does not officially withdraw from the class will receive a letter grade. The last date for withdrawal for

this course can be found at “MY CLASS SCHEDULE” on KishSOS.

Class Cancellations

Class Cancellations due to inclement weather will be announced on local radio stations and/or posted on the College website: www.kishwaukeecollege.edu, students may also call the College at (815) 825-2086. Class cancellations due to instructor absence will be posted on the classroom door and posted at www.kishwaukeecollege.edu/class_cancellations. Room changes will be announced in advance whenever possible and posted on the classroom door.

Emergency Procedures/Safety

Yellow and red *Emergency Information Flip Charts* are located in each classroom. These are quick references sheets with telephone numbers to reach emergency assistance and a brief description of the correct actions to take in the event of a tornado, fire, or other emergency on campus.

Graduation Requirements for Transfer Degree Students

As part of the assessment program, students intending to graduate with an A.A., A.E.S., A.F.A., or A.S. are required to submit a Degree Portfolio. Information on the degree portfolio can be found at www.kishwaukeecollege.edu/portfolio.

Academic Honesty

Academic honesty is essential in a college community. In order to evaluate student work, faculty must be able to trust that the work is the original work of a student and not the work of someone else. Plagiarism, cheating, or other dishonest actions will not be tolerated, and the penalties for such actions are at the discretion of the instructor. A complete explanation of the policy and procedures surrounding academic honesty are outlined in the Kishwaukee College Catalog.

Copyright

As a Kishwaukee College Student, you may have software made available to you by the college for course use. Please understand that copyright law may prohibit copying these materials. Violation of copyright laws can lead to prosecution for a criminal offense.

Assistive Resources Center/Disability Services

Any student having a documented disability or special learning need and wanting to request accommodations should contact the Coordinator in A 317 or at (815) 825-2086 Ext 396 (v), (815) 825-9106 (TTY), or send an e-mail to awilson@kishwaukeecollege.edu. The student's disability must impact their ability to participate in the educational environment and be documented by an appropriate professional prior to accommodations being approved.

Student E-mail

Your Kishwaukee College e-mail account will be the only way to receive official notices from the college. If you choose to forward your e-mail to another account, please be advised that all

communication from and within the college will use your Kishwaukee student e-mail. When communicating with instructors or employees of the college, you are required to use your Kishwaukee e-mail address.

Tentative Course Outline

9/8/2010	Introduction. Distribute syllabus. Introducing: Philosophy and Basic Informal Logic. Outline of non-Western Philosophy; Quick coverage of Pre-Socratics Soccio Chap. 2
9/15/2010	Socrates, the Socrates-Plato relationship Soccio Chap. 4
9/22/2010	Plato's influence up to today, tangent on The Forms Soccio Chap 5
9/29/2010	Arisotelian influence (with a segue into) The Stoics and Medeivals : Philosophy's "dark ages" or the bloom of new thought? Soccio Chap.6 (We'll cover parts of 7 and 8 as well)
10/6/2010	The sudden enlightenment, Rationalism as a movement, Why Descartes still Matters Today, and the Curse of Cartesian Mental Terminology Soccio Chap. 9
10/13/2010	Empiricism vs. Rationalism; What Locke and Berkeley fought about; why Hume was the logical conclusion to the fight. Soccio Chap. 10
10/20/2010	Kant's answer to the Realism/Idealism debate; Kant's moral innovation Soccio Chap. 11
10/27/2010	Mid Term Review!!!
11/3/2010	Mid Term Exam
11/10/2010	Marx's love/hate relataionship with Capitalism, What communist movements might have gotten wrong, Is Marx right about Capitalism? Soccio Chap. 13
11/17/2010	Kierkegaard and faith, how existensialism developed, Existenialism and political debates; do we make ourselves? Soccio Chap. 14
11/24/2010	Nietzsche and why you know the name, why is he so misunderstood (even by

	me)? Going beyond "good" and "evil", and what that might mean for us normal folk. Soccio Chap. 16
12/1/2010	Wittgenstein and Heidegger; Why No one will probably ever really understand Heidegger, and Wittgenstein's many, many games. Soccio Chap. 17 Supplimentary Material from <i>Philosophical Investigations</i>
12/8/2010	Final Exam Review, or “Do You <i>Really</i> Remember What We Covered?”
12/15/2010	Final Exam