



The Death of Socrates (1787)  
Jacques Louis David

## I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Instructor: Penelope Haulotte  
Office: N/A  
Office Hours: MW 10-11 Zoom by appt.  
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Course/Section: Phil 1115-D01  
Term: Fall 2023  
Credit Hours: 3

## II. COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, students will grapple with some of the key questions of philosophy through the study of classical and contemporary thinkers. Students will become familiar with the perennial problems in subfields of philosophy such as metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, and aesthetics. They will learn to approach these problems both critically and sympathetically.

Pre- or corequisite: Reading & Writing Skills 2

If you disenroll from one of your co-requisite classes, you may be dropped from the other course.

\*Recommended: ENG 1110 or ENG 1110P

### **III. TEXTBOOKS/MATERIALS**

All readings will be made available on Brightspace.

### **IV. COURSE OUTCOMES**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Comprehend and differentiate between various philosophical approaches to questions within fields such as metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, and aesthetics.
2. Critically evaluate various philosophical arguments and positions.
3. Identify the differences that characterize the major subfields of philosophy.

Essential Skills: Critical Thinking, Personal & Social Responsibility, Information & Digital Literacy.

### **V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS/ATTENDANCE**

A. Course Requirements:

Your grade for this course is composed of three parts:

1. Weekly Reading Responses (40%)
2. Reflective Unit Papers (30%)
3. The Final Exam (30%)

#### **Weekly Reading Responses**

This class is asynchronous and online. This means that we do not have the opportunity to see one another and discuss philosophy in person, which means we must settle for second-best: writing. Each week (specifically, I aim for every Monday) I will (1) make an announcement, (2) post lectures for the week, and (3) open a discussion forum thread. You will be expected each week to post **one** 1-3 paragraph reply on each discussion forum thread by Sunday night of each week (so before the next batch drops). This is to ensure that you don't run behind and so that other classmates can benefit from your discussion posts.

I realize that often these discussion forum posts are a real pain and a waste of time. I would like us to try take this space seriously. A lot of the learning that happens in philosophy classes doesn't just come from the instructor talking, but students learning from each other, and other than discussion forum posts, there's simply no easy way to make this happen. I do not (and will not) require you to respond to one another, but I would encourage you to think of your classmates as potential sources of keen insight. I try to think of the discussion forum posts as like talking in class – you are allowed to be informal, unsure, and so on. Try to aim the discussion toward everyone, including your peers, and I would encourage you to read what your fellow students have to say. I promise I will match your effort!

These assignments are largely graded on completion. You are not “graded” on how well you answer the prompt I write each week. I’m more looking for what you think about what we just read. Sometimes you won’t have much to say other than to ask questions, and that is totally fine. Asking questions is actually very helpful, since your classmates probably have similar questions and will benefit from you voicing it! I would encourage you not to think of your grade while writing these and instead just grapple with the philosophical content.

## **Reflective Unit Papers**

Reflective unit papers will be a 1-2-page reflection on some aspect of the material for the class. A more detailed rubric will be posted online. There will be three required unit papers over the course of the semester.

## **The Final Exam**

The final exam will be a combination of factual questions about the readings and a short essay component. A more detailed rubric will be posted online.

### **B. Attendance**

CNM Attendance Policy: <https://www.cnm.edu/student-resources/academic-records/academic-records-list/attendance>

Students who are dropped by an instructor for non-attendance will be notified at their CNM e-mail address. If the student believes a mistake has been made, he or she must contact the instructor within two working days of receipt of the drop notification.

### **C. Special Accommodations**

Qualified students with special learning needs are encouraged to notify the instructor at the beginning of the class about any specific assistance that may be required to support the student’s learning. It is the instructor’s intent to assist qualified students with special learning needs by making course modifications that will ensure a successful learning experience for the student. Students are asked to contact the CNM Disability Resource Center (DRC) office in order for support staff to assist the instructor with course modifications. The Disability Resource Center contact information is: (505) 224-3259; TTD Line 224-3262; Fax 224-3261. When students are assigned to a support counselor, individual email contact information is also provided. For further information: <https://www.cnm.edu/depts/disability-resource-center>

Students enrolled for credit, credit/no credit, or audit are expected to submit all assignments and complete courses tasks on a regular basis according to deadlines.

Attendance in this online course will be tracked through the timely completion of assignments and participation. Simply logging into CNM Learn (a.k.a. Blackboard) does not constitute attendance. Students who do not submit an assignment, login or participate during the first week of class may be dropped from the course. A student with excessive missed assignments may be dropped from the course. Missing four or more assignments constitutes excessive missed assignments.

## VI. GRADING

CHSS grading scale:

90-100%=A

80-89%=B

70-79%=C

60-69%=D

below 60%=F

It is CHSS policy that all courses require final examination/project.

In the event CNM closes during the final week of classes, final grades for students will be calculated based on all work assessed up to that point in the course.

Students should become familiar with the CNM Academic Integrity Policy:

<https://www.cnm.edu/depts/dean-of-students/academic-integrity-policy>

Plagiarism: All work in this class must be your own and any outside sources used must be cited appropriately. Any student caught plagiarizing in this course faces an immediate penalty of a zero for the assignment, and incidents of cheating will be reported to the office of the Dean of Students. In short, submit your own work, and if you are tempted to cheat, please see me instead. It is the responsibility of the student to understand what plagiarism is and to learn how to use the thoughts and words of others in his or her work with proper methods of citation

## VII. OTHER RULES

### Online

This class is entirely online. Moreover, every required aspect of the course is asynchronous *except* my weekly office hours. As a result, this course will require a lot of individual initiative. Since there are not scheduled class times, I will be posting a lecture on the readings assigned for every week. It is required that you watch all these lectures in their entirety, as they will allow you to check your understanding. **If you do not listen to the lectures, you will probably not get a good grade.** Moreover, weekly reading responses posted on learn will be your primary opportunity to ask questions related to the course. I highly encourage you to post whatever questions come to mind, as it will not only allow you to receive an answer, but it will also help your classmates and create a cooperative atmosphere as well! Philosophy is best done in a collective and cooperative atmosphere, which requires that we each take initiative. I promise to meet you halfway.

I understand that because of the (still ongoing) coronavirus pandemic, online courses can be a little bit of a hassle. I am in general an understanding instructor, but it is important that you stay in contact with me about any problems you have with the course. If you are unable to complete a response or assignment on time because of external circumstances, it is **imperative** that you let me know via email **beforehand**, if possible. The most important part of succeeding in this course is not going AWOL (absent without official leave). Circumstances notwithstanding, please try to stay in communication with me about your ability to fulfill the requirements of the course. Barring exceptional circumstances, if you do not complete an assignment, and do not let me know about your circumstances ahead of time, **you may receive a 0 for the assignment and will not be allowed to make it up later.**

## Other Rules for the Course

1. All grades are final and non-negotiable. If you have a question about a grade for a particular assignment, eMail with me to discuss it.
2. No incompletes will be given for the semester unless you can demonstrate valid and compelling reasons.
3. There will be no additional extra-credit assignments besides what is offered in the syllabus.
4. If you fail to turn in a final, you will fail the course.
5. No form of academic dishonesty will be tolerated. All instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to the university administration. (If you plagiarize, I will catch you. I have caught people **almost every single semester** I have been an instructor!)
6. You must demonstrate the appropriate respect for all fellow inquirers.
7. I promise to do my best in responding to your eMails and questions right away, typically within 1-2 business days.

## Content Warning and Conduct Expectations

This class aims to address the most important questions for each of us about how to live our lives. Accordingly, the material for this class will sometimes address serious and severe topics such as violence and suicide. Please be sensitive to the fact that these are pressing practical questions for some even if they strike you as highly theoretical. In short, because we address and concern ourselves with problematic, urgent, pressing, and sometimes graphic descriptions because of their importance to a complete and robust introduction to philosophy. Always try to be sensitive to the fact that the people being discussed in the literature we are about to read together typically are in the room.

## VIII: CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1 (8/28): Enlightenment

Immanuel Kant, "What is Enlightenment?"

Week 2 (9/4): Piety

Plato, *Euthyphro*

Week 3 (9/11): The Good Life

Plato, *Apology*

Week 4 (9/18): The Point

Dogen Zenji, "Actualizing the Fundamental Point"

Dogen Zenji, "Birth and Death"

**Unit 1 Paper Due 9/24.**

Week 5 (9/25): Civil Disobedience

Plato, *Crito*

Martin Luther King Jr., "Letter from a Birmingham Jail"

Week 6 (10/2): Death

Plato, *Phaedo*  
Epicurus, "Letter to Menoeceus"

Week 7 (10/9): Connectedness  
Vine Deloria Jr., "Philosophy and the Tribal Peoples"

Week 8 (10/16): Love and Poetry  
Sappho, Selections.  
Ogura Poems, Selections.  
Patricia Hill Collins, Selections.  
**Unit 2 Paper Due 10/22.**

Week 9 (10/23): Uncertainty  
Rene Descartes, Selections.  
Akutagawa Ryunosuke, "In a Grove."

Week 10 (10/30): Certainty  
Rene Descartes, Selections.  
Ludwig Wittgenstein, Selections.

Week 11 (11/6): The Right  
Immanuel Kant, Selections.

Week 12 (11/13): The Right, again.  
Immanuel Kant, Selections.  
**Unit 3 Paper Due 11/19.**

Week 13 (11/20): Alienation  
Karl Marx, Selections.  
Jean-Paul Sartre, "Existentialism is a Humanism."

Week 14 (11/27): Gender, Sex, & Sexuality  
Simone de Beauvoir, Selections.  
Leslie Feinberg, Selections.

Week 15 (12/4): Enlightenment, again.  
Michel Foucault, "What is Enlightenment?"  
**Final Paper due 12/7.**