

TPHIL 100: Introduction to Philosophy

Summer 2014

Instructor: Andrea Sullivan-Clarke

Class Location/Times: M, W, F 9:00-12:20 JOY 211

Office Hours: M 12:20-1:30 (and by appointment)

Office Hours Location: KEY 202

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Overview:

In this course, we will examine some of the most interesting topics in the Western philosophical tradition. Intended as a general introduction to philosophy, this course introduces students to its methods, some of its canonical source material, and some of its key questions. During the term, we will consider such topics as our knowledge of the external world; the nature of justice; how the mind figures in the physical world; whether we are truly free; and how we ought to live our lives. Not only will the course be devoted to these topics, it will also be a “tutorial” of sorts for students who may be interested in pursuing philosophy as a major: what is philosophy, and how does one go about doing it? For the non-majors (or for those who don’t yet know what they want to do), we will connect what we learn in the class with other disciplines, and recognize how philosophical modes of thinking and arguing (with its focus on clarity, criticism, and rigor) can be used to great effect in other disciplines.

Goals and Objectives:

- Become with Different Areas of Philosophy Through Key Works
- Identify Different Forms of Argumentation
- Develop Strategies for Critically Evaluating Philosophical Positions
- Construct Arguments in Support of a Particular Position

Text: Andrew Bailey, “First Philosophy” 2nd edition (Broadview Press, 2011).

Course Website: *See Canvas site on MyUW*

TENTATIVE COURSE READINGS AND CALENDAR

I reserve the right to change the syllabus or schedule for any reason.

Week 1 CONCEPTUAL FOUNDATIONS & ETHICS

06/23 Introduction, Syllabus, What is Philosophy? pp. 1-4
A Brief Introduction to Arguments, pp. 5-11
How to Read and Write Philosophy, pp. 12-14

06/25 HOW OUGHT WE LIVE OUR LIVES?
Plato- Republic, pp. 610-617
Aristotle- Nichomachean Ethics, pp. 624-636

- 06/27** Nietzsche- Beyond Good and Evil, pp. 711-715
Midgley- Is a Dolphin a Person?, pp. 735-742

Week 2 **EPISTEMOLOGY**

- 06/30** **IS THE EXTERNAL WORLD THE WAY IT APPEARS TO BE?**
Descartes, The Meditations, pp. 142-172
- 07/02** Descartes, cont.
Paper Assignment
- 07/04** Holiday- No Class!

Week 3 **METAPHYSICS**

- 07/07** **DO WE HAVE A FREE WILL?**
Campbell- Has the Self Free Will?, pp. 545-556
- 07/09** Ayer- Freedom and Necessity, pp. 558- 563
- 07/11** Dennett- On Giving Libertarians What They Say They Want, pp. 567-576

Week 4 **SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY**

- 07/14** **WHAT IS JUSTICE?**
Hobbes- Leviathan, pp. 765-782
Peer Review Paper
- 07/16** Mill- Chapter IV, 816-826
- 07/18** Marx & Engels- Communist Manifesto, pp. 835-848

Week 5 **PHILOSOPHY OF MIND**

- 07/21** **WHAT IS THE PLACE OF THE MIND IN THE PHYSICAL WORLD?**
Ryle- The Concept of Mind, pp. 421-429
Smart- Sensations and Brain Processes, pp. 433-441
- 07/23** Nagel- What Is It Like to Be a Bat?, pp. 496- 505
Course Wrap-Up
Final Draft Paper Due

Overview of Requirements:

Reading Response Papers (15 @ 10 points each)	150 points
Participation	50 points
Critical Draft/Paper	20/30 points

Total 250 points

Reading Response/Discussion Papers: Students should turn in a reading response/discussion paper for each article. Assignments will be due the day before class by 9 p.m.. For example, on the 25th, there are two papers due (Plato and Aristotle). These papers should be submitted online by 9 p.m. on the 24th. I will pass out the requirements on the first day of class. In general, each paper should state what you take to be the author's thesis, a description of the main argument and 2-3 discussion questions that critically engage the material in the assigned readings for the day. The discussion questions will be due at the beginning of class, and students must be present in the class to get credit for the questions **(i.e., the questions can't be simply dropped off at the beginning of class - the "drop and run" - nor can they be e-mailed in advance or turned in late).**

Participation: Students are expected to actively participate in class. This can be accomplished by actively listening, asking good questions, participating in class discussion/exercises, and attending office hours. Group work cannot be made up and the use of electronics, such as phone/computer/music players during class, may result in a lower participation grade. **Missed participation exercises cannot be made up.**

Critical Draft/Paper: Students are expected to write a 2-3 page critical paper, which will be assigned during Week 2. The first draft is due on July 14th during class, and at that time, the papers will undergo peer review for a grade of 20 points (1/2 of the score is for a completed draft and the other half is for proofreading another student's paper). The final paper (worth 40 points and no longer than 5 pages) is due July 23rd by 5 p.m.

Scales and Criteria for Grading:

When converting total points to decimal grades the following scale will be used. To determine your overall class grade, add up all of the points you earned for each assignment, **multiply the total by four**, and then use the following chart.

Total Assignment/Decimal Points

1000-930	1000-965 = 4.0, 964-930 = 3.9
929-900	929-920 = 3.8, 919-910 = 3.7, 909-900 = 3.6
899-870	899-890 = 3.4, 889-880 = 3.3, 879-870 = 3.2
869-830	869-860 = 3.1, 859-840 = 3.0, 839-830 = 2.9
829-800	829-820 = 2.8, 819-810 = 2.7, 809-800 = 2.6
799-770	799-790 = 2.4, 789-780 = 2.3, 779-770 = 2.2
769-730	769-760 = 2.1, 759-740 = 2.0, 739-730 = 1.9
729-700	729-720 = 1.8, 719-710 = 1.7, 709-700 = 1.6
699-670	699-690 = 1.4, 689-680 = 1.3, 679-670 = 1.2
669-630	669-660 = 1.1, 659-640 = 1.0, 639-630 = 0.9
629-600	629-615 = 0.8, 614-600 = 0.7

There will be no curves and no extra credit in this class. You will not be graded relative to your fellow students. What this means is that it is possible for *everyone* to get an A (4.0) or an E (0.0) or anything in-between. **In order to pass the course you must complete all assignments with an additive percentage of 60% or higher.**

General Information

Attendance and Participation: After the first week, attendance will not be taken. However, attendance is very important for doing well in this course. We will be discussing numerous cases, examples, issues, and theories. In addition, philosophy cannot be done adequately in isolation. Thus, attendance, participation, discussion, and asking questions, are all very important for academic success.

Cheating and Plagiarism: You are responsible for upholding the University's standards of academic honesty. Therefore, you should avoid engaging in illegitimate forms of help, looking at copies of exams from current and previous years, and/or peeking at someone else's work during an exam. If you are caught violating the University's standards of academic honesty, you will be reported to the Dean's Representative for Academic Conduct and a grade of "0" will be given for the particular assignment.

See <http://www.tacoma.uw.edu/uwt/enrollment-services/academic-honesty>

Electronic Devices: *All* electronic devices may only be used in the classroom with the permission of the instructor or Disability Services to meet an accommodation. Activities that are not related to the course, such as checking e-mail, texting, on-line gaming, and social networking, are disruptive to the class.

Snacks: Beverages and/or snacks are allowed in class. Please notify the instructor if you have a food allergy or religious observation/restriction that need be considered. Be considerate and clean up any spills/messes.

Portfolio: Each student is required to complete a confidential portfolio of his/her work while at UWT. Please consider keep your papers for inclusion as examples of your work.