

PHIL& 101: Introduction to Philosophy [Hybrid]

Winter 2016

Instructor: Andrea Sullivan-Clarke

Class Time/Location: M-Th 9:00-9:50 Cedar Hall 207 & F ONLINE

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 whether we can have 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 or a minor. For example, it will address “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.

Prerequisite: Eligible for ENGL 100 or Instructor’s Permission

Please be aware that this course is **reading and writing intensive**. If you do not have the basic skills necessary to complete such a course, or if you feel uncomfortable reading and writing at the college level, either discuss your situation with the instructor or consider taking another class. GE designation: Satisfies humanities/fine arts/English requirement for AA degree.

Course Objectives:

- Become Familiar with Different Areas of Philosophy Through Key Works
- Learn How to Read and Interpret Philosophical Texts
- Identify Different Forms of Argumentation
- Develop Strategies for Critically Evaluating Philosophical Positions
- Construct Arguments in Support of a Particular Position

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

Other readings to supplement the text will be supplied on course site.

Overview of Requirements:

Online Assignments (10 @ 10 points each)	100 points
Participation	65 points
Critical Paper Draft	40 points
Critical Paper (Final Draft)	60 points
Exam 1	60 points
Exam 2	75 points
Final Exam	100 points

	Total 500 points

Online Assignments: Students will need to log on to Canvas and complete the week's writing assignment by 11:59 p.m. of the Friday of each week. For example, on the 8th of January there is one online assignment due. This particular assignment should be submitted online by 11:59 p.m. on the 8th. Each assignment should be available at the beginning of the week. Each assignment will address the material covered that week and so you may not be able to complete the assignment until Thursday evening. **Note- You will not be able to complete these assignments over the weekend.**

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. In addition, it is important to be respectful of others. Allow people to speak and do not talk while others (including the instructor) is talking. Some of the topics in philosophy can be controversial, it is critical that we engage arguments and not people. Group work cannot be made up and the use of electronics, such as phones/computers/music players during class, may result in a lower participation grade. **Missed participation exercises cannot be made up.**

Critical Draft: Students are expected to write a 2-3 page critical paper, which will be assigned during Week 6. The draft is due on February 29th during class. 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).

Critical Paper (Final Draft): The final paper is a revised version of the Draft edited in class. It is worth 60 points and should be no longer than 5 pages. This paper is due March 7th in class. It should be printed out, stapled, and 12 point font.

Exams: All exams will be taken in class. The format of the exams will vary and may include true and false, multiple choice, matching, short answer, and essay. I will discuss the format of each exam prior to its date. Note the dates of the exams on the calendar- these cannot be missed and will require documentation to make up. The final exam may be comprehensive.

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 two**, and use the following chart to determine your g.p.a. for the course.

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. In addition, be on time and stay for the entire class. If you must leave early, do

not disrupt the class. **Should any circumstances cause you to miss more than one week of class, you should consider retaking the course at a more convenient time- since you will miss too much of the material to grasp content or meet learning expectations.**

Computer and Course Management System Skills: PHIL& 101 is a hybrid course. It relies on the college's management system, Canvas. You are responsible for having or acquiring the needed computer skills **BEFORE** course begins. Basic skills include navigating the course site, open documents, post comments, upload assignments, and send/receive e-mail. Please check out the Canvas tutorial for help or ask other students about specific issues. **Lack of an internet connection for any reason including power outages, computer problems, or having trouble with Canvas will NOT excuse you from deadlines.** If you have problems, contact eLearning at x3354 or elearning@greenriver.edu or visit the library help desk.

Cheating and Plagiarism: You are responsible for upholding the College'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 College's standards of academic honesty, you will be reported to the appropriate channels regarding Academic Conduct.

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 needs to be considered. Be considerate and clean up any spills/messes.

E-mail Policy: I reserve the right to have 24 hours to respond to student e-mails, especially if the e-mail is over the weekend or late at night. Also, the student should regularly check her/his Green River e-mail account. This will be how I contact you in the event of class cancellation.

Learning Assistance: Students who require assistance with reading and/or writing are more than welcome to set up an appointment with the instructor at their earliest convenience. Further aid can be found at the College's Tutoring and Resource Center located in Holman Library on the 2nd floor and the Writing Center located in RLC 173.

Students Seeking Accommodation: ADA statement- if you believe that you qualify for course adaptations or special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act, it is your responsibility to contact Disability Support Services Coordinator in the LSC and provide the appropriate documentation. If you have already documented a disability or other condition through the GRC Disability Support Services office or if you have emergency medical information or special needs that I should know about, please notify me the first week of class.

Learning Outcomes:

Campus-Wide (CWLO): Green River College has identified ability areas, which the college believes encompass knowledge and are the most important skills, behaviors, attitudes, and values that students will need in order to be successful in and after leaving the college. This course will address the following student learning outcomes and campus-wide areas:

- Critical Thinking finds expression in all disciplines and everyday life. It is characterized by an ability to reflect upon thinking patterns, including the role of emotions on thoughts, and to rigorously assess the quality of thought through its work products. Critical thinkers routinely evaluate thinking processes and alter them, as necessary, to facilitate an improvement in their thinking and potentially foster certain dispositions or intellectual traits over time.
- Written Communication encompasses all the abilities necessary for the effective expression of thoughts, feelings, and ideas in written form.

Course Content (CCLO): Students will gain a basic understanding of the history of thought and of the enduring questions of philosophy, and learn how to utilize this knowledge to evaluate and develop their own philosophy in life.

TENTATIVE COURSE READINGS AND CALENDAR

Week 1 **CONCEPTUAL FOUNDATIONS**

- 01/04** Introduction, Syllabus, Welcome Exercise
- 01/05** What is Philosophy? Bailey pp. 1-4
- 01/06** A Brief Introduction to Arguments Bailey pp. 5-11
- 01/07** Introductory Tips on Reading and Writing Philosophy Bailey pp. 12-14
- 01/08** **ONLINE ASSIGNMENT 1**

Week 2 **PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION- Does God exist?**

- 01/11** Introduction & St. Anselm *Proslogion* Bailey pp. 15-26
- 01/12** St. Anselm's Reply to Gaunilo Bailey pp. 26-32
- 01/13** St. Aquinas *Summa Theologiae* Bailey pp. 32-42
- 01/14** J.L. Mackie "Evil and Omnipotence" Bailey pp. 95-105
- 01/15** **ONLINE ASSIGNMENT 2**

Week 3 **SOCIAL/POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY- Issues of Justice**

- 01/18** Holiday- No Class!
- 01/19** Thomas Hobbes *Leviathan* Bailey pp. 755-782
- 01/20** John Stuart Mill *On Liberty* Bailey pp. 783-794
- 01/21** Iris Marion Young "Five Faces of Oppression" pdf on Canvas

01/22 ONLINE ASSIGNMENT 3

Week 4 **ETHICS- How Ought We to Live Our Lives?**

01/25 Exam 1

01/26 Plato *Republic* Bailey pp. 601-617

01/27 Kant
Foundations of the Metaphysics of Morals Bailey pp. 636-670

01/28 John Stuart Mill *Utilitarianism* Bailey pp. 671-703

01/29 ONLINE ASSIGNMENT 4

Week 5 **Ethics, cont.**

02/01 Friedrich Nietzsche *Beyond Good and Evil* Bailey pp. 704-715

02/02 Virginia Held
"Fem. Transformations of Moral Theory" Bailey pp. 715-733

02/03 Mary Midgley "Is a Dolphin a Person?" Bailey pp. 734-742

02/04 Video "Earthlings" No Assigned Reading

02/05 ONLINE ASSIGNMENT 5

Week 6 **METAPHYSICS- Do we (humans) have a free will?**

02/08 Paul Rée *The Illusion of Free Will* Bailey pp. 525-542

02/09 C. A. Campbell *On Selfhood and Godhood* Bailey pp. 542-556

02/10 A. J. Ayer "Freedom and Necessity" Bailey pp. 556-563

02/11 EXAM 2

02/12 ONLINE ASSIGNMENT 6

Week 7 **WRITING AN ARGUMENTATIVE PAPER**

02/15 Holiday- No Class!

02/16 Critical Thinking & Writing 1 Vaughn pp. 31-34

02/17 Critical Thinking & Writing 3 Vaughn pp. 116-119

02/18 Critical Thinking & Writing 4 Vaughn pp. 170-174

02/19 ONLINE ASSIGNMENT 7

Week 8 **EPISTEMOLOGY- Is the external world the way it appears to be?**

02/22 René Descartes
Meditations on First Philosophy Bailey pp. 133-157

02/23 Descartes, cont. Bailey pp. 157-172

02/24 John Locke
A Essay Concerning Human Understanding Bailey pp. 172-189

02/25 Lorraine Code Bailey pp. 269-286
"Is the Sex of the Knower Epistemologically Significant?"

02/26 **ONLINE ASSIGNMENT 8**

Week 9 **PHILOSOPHY OF MIND- What is the place of the mind in the physical world?**

02/29 Paper Peer Review

03/01 Gilbert Ryle *The Concept of Mind* Bailey pp. 415-429

03/02 J. J. C. Smart
"Sensation and Brain Processes" Bailey pp. 429-441

03/03 Thomas Nagel "What is it like to be a bat?" Bailey pp. 493-505

03/04 **ONLINE ASSIGNMENT 9**

Week 10 **PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE- How do we arrive at scientific knowledge?**

03/07 **FINAL PAPER DUE**

03/08 C. S. Peirce "The Fixation of Belief" Bailey pp. 371-386

03/09 Thomas Kuhn Bailey pp. 386-403
"Objectivity, Value Judgment, and Theory Choice"

03/10 Helen Longino
"Can there be a feminist science?" Bailey pp. 403-413

03/11 **ONLINE ASSIGNMENT 10**

Week 11 **FINALS WEEK**

03/14 **REVIEW (?)**

03/15 **STUDY DAY- NO CLASS!**

03/17 **FINAL EXAM 9:00-11:00 A.M.**