

PHIL 101C: Introduction to Philosophy

Fall 2016

Instructor: Dr. Andrea Sullivan Clarke
Class Time: M, W, F 1:40-2:40 **Location:** PELR 209
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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 an assortment 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 example, the course will address “what is philosophy?” and “how does one go about doing it?” In addition, 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.

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: Concise Edition” (1st or 2nd Edition)
ISBN: 1-55111-823-8, Copyright 2006
Publisher: Broadview Press

Electronic readings to supplement the text will be supplied. (see on syllabus)*

Overview of Requirements:

Reading responses (25 @ 6 points each)	150 points
Participation (?)	105 points
Electronic Assignment (2 @ 10 points each)	20 points
Class Project	60 points
Paper 1	65 points
Paper 2	65 points
Final Paper	70 points
Exam 1	85 points
Exam 2	85 points
Final Exam	95 points

Total 800 points

Reading Responses: Reading response questions will be provided on the course website. There are 26 assignments total and I will drop the lowest grade (in short, you may miss one.) Students

should use the assigned reading to formulate answers to the questions. The answers should be submitted on Moodle or brought to class the day of the assigned reading. The responses will be assessed for both completion and content. The point of the reading responses is to engage with the text and participate in class discussion/activities. If there is a problem with attendance, I will require responses to be printed out and submitted in class. (You will be required to be present to submit.)

Participation: Students are expected to actively participate in class. This can be accomplished by actively listening, asking good questions, participating in class discussion/exercises/quizzes, 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.

Electronic Assignment (EA): There are two electronic assignments. These will be completed in lieu of class time. These assignments will be made available on Moodle and should be submitted electronically in Moodle as well. The first is to help you review for the first exam. As part of the assignment, you are to create 2 true/false questions, one multiple choice question, and one short essay question. To receive full credit, the first EA will require the answers to your questions. The second EA is a philosophical analysis of a panel, session, or keynote from our day of dialogue (28 Sept.) Instructions will be on Moodle.

Class Project: On November 11, we will work on a class project based on the assigned readings. One half of the class will be assigned the English reading and the other half will read the Mills article. Each group will have the opportunity to present and defend the views of their particular reading. In addition, each group will have the opportunity to critique the other view. To receive credit, students will submit a short written analysis; the details of which will be given prior to the assignment due date.

Paper 1 & Paper 2: Students are expected to write a critical paper (5-6 pages), which will be assigned during class (see syllabus for dates). In addition, you will receive instruction on how to write philosophy papers. In general, the requirements for these papers differ from papers assigned in other disciplines. We will go over how to write a philosophy paper in class. If for some reason you miss class during this time, please make an appointment with me. I prefer that submitted papers are printed out and brought to class. If this poses a problem, please see me.

Final Paper: The final paper is a revised version of either Paper 1 or Paper 2, your choice. Depending on the type of revisions needed, it may be that revising the lower scoring paper would be better than the other. It should be no longer than 8 pages. This paper is due in class. It should be printed out, stapled, and be typed in 12-point font.

Exams: All exams will be taken in class. The format of the exams will vary and may include multiple choice, true/false, definitions, 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 should not be missed and will require documentation to make up. The final exam will 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 1.25**, and use the following chart to determine your final grade for the course.

Letter Grade	Total Points Ranges
A	975-1000
A-	960-974
B+	939-959
B	900-938
B-	885-899
C+	868-884
C	850-867
C-	837-849
D+	806-836
D	785-805
D-	765-784
F	0-764

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 F (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.**

I am not only your instructor for this course, but I am a resource and an ally for your academic development. If there are issues, you are welcome to contact me. If I am unable to help, I am sure that I can point you to the correct person/department.

TENTATIVE COURSE READINGS AND CALENDAR

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

Week 1 **CONCEPTUAL FOUNDATIONS**

08/24 Introduction, Syllabus, Ice Breaker
What is Philosophy?

Bailey pp. 1-4
1ST Bailey pp. 1-5

08/26 A Brief Introduction to Arguments
Introductory Tips on Reading
And Writing Philosophy

Bailey pp. 5-14
1st Bailey pp. 6-16

Week 2 **Foundations- cont.**

08/29 Deductive Arguments

No Reading Assigned

	08/31	Non-Deductive Arguments	No Reading Assigned
	09/02	Practice	Euthyphro.pdf *
Week 3		PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION- Does God exist?	
	09/05	Introduction & Pascal's wager	Pascal's Wager.pdf*
	09/07	St. Anselm <i>Proslogion</i>	Bailey pp. 17-23 1 st Bailey pp. 17-26
	09/09	Gaunilo's Objection <i>Pro Isipiente</i>	Bailey pp. 23-26 1 st Bailey pp. 26
		St. Anselm's Reply 3	Bailey pp. 26-32 1 ST Anselm's Reply.pdf*
Week 4		PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION, cont.	
	09/12	St. Aquinas <i>Summa Theologiae</i>	Bailey pp. 32-42 1 st Bailey pp. 27-38
	09/14	David Hume <i>Dialogues</i> , Part II-III	Bailey pp. 43-58 1 st Bailey pp. 38-55
	09/16	Hume, cont. Part IV-V	Bailey pp. 58-64 1 st HumeIV&V.pdf
Week 5		PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION, cont.	
	09/19	J.L. Mackie "Evil and Omnipotence"	Bailey pp. 82-91 1 st Bailey pp. 66-76
	09/21	Paper 1 Assigned/Review	No Reading Assigned
	09/23	No Class- Travel	No Reading Assigned Electronic Assignment
Week 6		SOCIAL/POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY- Issues of Justice	
	09/26	EXAM 1	
	09/28	DePauw Dialogue- No Class	Electronic Assignment
	09/30	Introduction & Thomas Hobbes	Bailey pp. 547-561 1 st Bailey pp. 471-496
Week 7		SOCIAL/POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY, cont.	
	10/03	Hobbes, cont.	Bailey pp. 568-574

		1 st Bailey pp. 496-500
10/05	John Locke <i>Second Treatise</i> (Chapters 2 & 3 only)	Locke.pdf*
10/07	David Hume "Of the Original Contract"	Hume.pdf*
Week 8	SOCIAL/POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY, cont.	
10/10	John Stuart Mill On <i>Liberty</i> (Ch. IV)	Bailey pp. 608-618 1 st Bailey pp. 535-546
10/12	Iris Marion Young "Five Faces of Oppression"	Young.pdf*
10/14	PAPER 1 DUE IN CLASS	No Reading Assigned
Week 9	FALL BREAK!	
	10/17 -10/21	
Week 10	ETHICS- How Ought We to Live Our Lives?	
10/24	Plato <i>Republic</i> (Book II, 357a-367e)	Bailey pp. 395-409 1 st Plato.pdf*
10/26	Aristotle <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i>	Bailey pp. 409-428 1 st Bailey pp. 336-347
10/28	Immanuel Kant <i>Foundations of the Metaphysics of Morals</i>	Bailey pp. 428-439, 446-462 1 st Bailey pp. 348-364
Week 11	ETHICS, cont.	
10/31	John Stuart Mill <i>Utilitarianism</i>	Bailey pp. 463-487 1 st Bailey pp. 381-407
11/02	Virginia Held "Fem. Transformations of Moral Theory"	Bailey pp. 507-525 1 st Bailey pp. 428-447
11/04	Paper 2 Assigned	No Reading Assigned
Week 12	ETHICAL TOPICS	
11/07	Mary Midgley "Is a Dolphin a Person?"	Bailey pp. 526-534 1 st Bailey pp. 448-456

	11/09	"Speciesism is Unjustified"	Animal Ethics.pdf*
	11/11	Project -The Duties of Adult Children	English.pdf* Mills.pdf*
Week 13	EPISTEMOLOGY- Is the external world the way it appears to be?		
	11/14	EXAM 2	No Reading Assigned
	11/16	René Descartes <i>Meditations on First Philosophy</i>	Bailey pp. 113-124 1 st Bailey pp. 77-91
	11/18	Descartes, cont.	Bailey pp. 142-150 1 st Bailey pp. 91-103
Week 14			
	11/21	Bertrand Russell, <i>The Problems of Philosophy</i> Paper 2 Due in Class	Bailey pp. 231-246 1 st Bailey pp. 150-165
	11/23-11/25	Thanksgiving Break	
Week 15	EPISTEMOLOGY, cont.		
	11/28	Lorraine Code "Is the Sex of the Knower Epistemologically Significant"	Bailey pp. 246-263 1 st Bailey pp. 165-184
	11/30	Linda Martín Alcoff "Sotomayor's Reasoning"	Alcoff.pdf*
	12/02	Brian Yazzie Burkhart "What Coyote and Thales Can Teach Us"	Burkhart.pdf*
Week 16	METAPHYSICS- Do We Have a Free Will?		
	12/05	Paul Rée <i>The Illusion of Free Will</i>	Bailey pp. 334-348 1 st Bailey pp. 263-281
	12/07	C. A. Campbell "On Selfhood and Godhood"	Bailey pp. 349-362 1 st Bailey pp. 282-296
	12/09	A. J. Ayer "Freedom and Necessity"	Bailey pp. 363-370 1 st Ayer.pdf*
Final Exam: December 15th (Thursday) 8:30-11:30 a.m.			