

PHI 1000 – Introduction to Philosophy

Spring 2023, Wednesday and Friday 10:10 AM – 11:40 AM, AC01 LR205

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Office hours: Monday and Wednesday 12:00 to 3:00 in AC01 616 (book a slot on Canvas)

About This Course: Topic and Goals

In this course, you will be introduced to academic philosophy through an investigation of a few of the issues that philosophers have investigated over the years.

Below are the **goals** for this course. All of the course's assignments are focused on helping achieve you achieve these goals.

- Learn a bit about what philosophy, as a field of academia, has studied
- Form some initial thoughts about some of the key questions and topics in philosophy
- Get practice with reading, writing, talking about, and thinking about philosophy in an academic setting
- Develop your reading and writing skills with a focus on reading complicated texts and writing about them clearly, concisely, and accurately

Course Content

All course materials are available on the course website at <https://canvas.instructure.com/courses/2492326>. We will begin with some short articles on topics various topics. After that, topics will be chosen by course vote. If you have suggestions for topics you are interested in reading about, please let me know.

Assignments and Grading

There are 4 kinds of assignments in this class: **reading quizzes**, **Perusall annotations**, **four sentence papers**, and **500 word papers**. Late papers will lose 10% of their grade for each day they are turned in late, up to a maximum of 50% off. The late penalty is calculated per hour (0.42% lost per hour).

Reading Quizzes (10% of your grade) are to help you focus on the important parts of the reading and to get instant feedback on whether you have understood the reading. There is one quiz per reading. The lowest 6 reading quiz scores will be dropped.

Perusall Annotation Assignments (18% of your grade) allow you to collaboratively read the readings by using the Perusall website. Canvas has a document detailing examples of annotations you can make on Perusall and explaining the grading system. The lowest 8 Perusall annotation assignment scores will be dropped.

Four Sentence Papers (18% of your grade) are the first way you will practice writing philosophy. They will introduce you to summaries and arguments. There are 4 due. The lowest scoring paper will be ignored. A rubric for these papers can be found on Canvas.

500 Word Papers (54% of your grade) are your opportunity to get more practice writing concisely about philosophy. They should summarize a point from one of the readings, and then offer a **question**, an **extension of the idea or argument**, or a **critique of the idea or argument**. There are 4 due. The lowest scoring paper will be ignored. A rubric for these papers can be found on Canvas.

Grade Breakdown:

- 10% - Reading Quizzes (26, 6 lowest ignored)
- 18% - Perusall Annotations (26, 8 lowest ignored)
- 18% - Four Sentence Papers (4, lowest 1 ignored)
- 54% - 500 Word Papers (4, lowest 1 ignored)

Class Grade Rubric:

100-94% = A	<77-74% = C
<94-90% = A-	<74-70% = C-
<90-87% = B+	<70-67% = D+
<87-84% = B	<67-64% = D
<84-80% = B-	<64-60% = D-
<80-77% = C+	<60-0% = F

Disabilities

If you have disabilities which require some form of accommodation, contact me ahead of time.

Plagiarism and Academic Integrity

Any time you use **words, phrases, ideas, or anything else** in your writing that you did not think up on your own, you must **cite** your source the best of your ability. Words and phrases not written by you must be enclosed in quotation marks to show that you did not write them yourself. Failure to cite a source is **plagiarism** and it's not okay. You should not need to use (or cite) outside sources for this class, but if you do use them, you must cite them. It is perfectly okay to use points made by your classmates (or anyone else), *as long as you cite them to the best of your ability*. The one exception is that you do not need to cite me on your writing assignments in this class, unless you want to. Plagiarism or other violations of academic integrity, like cheating on quizzes, may entail sanctions like a zero on the assignment or in the course.

Resources

My website has resources on reading, writing, and researching at dannyweltman.com/resources.html. These resources include a glossary for unfamiliar words or phrases, some of which occur in some of the readings for this course. I encourage you to examine these resources. Canvas also lists other resources concerning reading and writing philosophy which you may find helpful.

Office Hours, Email Communication, and Due Date Extensions

If you have questions or comments about the course it is best to talk during office hours. Canvas has a link for reserving office hours meeting times. If you cannot attend any office hours, email me to set up an alternative time to meet. If you contact me via email, please include "PHI 1000" in the subject line so that I know you are emailing about this course. I will typically not offer extensions on assignment due dates. All of the assignment due dates are available in advance, so if you anticipate not having enough time to do the assignment right before it is due, you should do the assignment earlier. You are expected to work ahead when you have time, rather than to fall behind when you become busy.

Colloquia

Periodically the Philosophy department hosts colloquium talks by visiting philosophers (sometimes in conjunction with the Politics, Philosophy, and Economics program). In a colloquium talk, a philosopher presents some of their research and then the audience asks questions. Attending colloquium talks is a great way to introduce yourself to all sorts of topics in philosophy. You will receive announcements about upcoming colloquia in your email, and I encourage you to come to some of the talks this semester, and for the rest of your time here at Ashoka.

Initial Schedule

Each day's reading has an accompanying reading quiz and Perusall annotation assignment, both of which are due 10 AM that day. You should aim to complete them earlier than 10 AM, ideally. You have 24 hours after the due date to add replies to comments that others have written on Perusall. Each reading also has a pre-recorded lecture designed to be watched prior to the reading, although sometimes the lecture will note that it can be watched after the reading instead.

Jan 25: Lewis Carroll, "What the Tortoise Said to Achilles"

Jan 27: Patricia Churchland, "Are Mental States Irreducible to Neurobiological States?"

Four sentence paper #1 on Carroll or Churchland due Feb 6 at midnight

Feb 1: Kristen Intemann, "Science and Values: Are Value Judgments Always Irrelevant to the Justification of Scientific Claims?"

Feb 3: Mary Midgley, "Trying Out One's New Sword"

Four sentence paper #2 on Intemann or Midgley due Feb 13 at midnight

Feb 8: Julia Driver, "Caesar's Wife: On the Moral Significance of Appearing Good"

Feb 10: Roy Sorensen, "Permission to Cheat"

Four sentence paper #3 on Driver or Sorensen due Feb 20 at midnight

Feb 15: Amartya Sen, "The Global Reach of Human Rights"

Feb 17: Mary Deveraux, "Moral Judgments and Works of Art"

Four sentence paper #4 on Sen or Deveraux due Feb 27 at midnight

The rest of the schedule will be determined via voting on topics.

Possible Topics

The readings listed below for each topic may vary to some degree once we pick our final topics, so as to accommodate enthusiasm for topics and a sensible reading and assignment schedule.

Abortion: Warren, "On the Moral and Legal Status of Abortion" and "The Moral Difference Between Infanticide and Abortion: A Response to Robert Card"; Card, "Infanticide and the Liberal View of Abortion"; Thomson, "A Defense of Abortion"

AI Consciousness: Searle, "Minds, Brains, and Programs"; Boden, "Escaping from the Chinese Room"; Churchland and Churchland, "Could a Machine Think?"; Ben-Yami, "A Note on the Chinese Room"

Ancient Greek Philosophy: Plato, *Euthyphro*, *Apology*, *Crito*, *Symposium*

Can Art Lie?: Cooke, "When Art Can't Lie"; Dixon, "Lies in Art"

Classical Chinese Philosophy: Selections from Kǒngzǐ, Mòzǐ, and Xúnzǐ

Classical Islamic Philosophy: Ibn Rušd, *The Incoherence of the Incoherence*

Communism: Marx, “Theses on Feuerbach,” *Critique of the Gotha Program* Part I and Parts II-IV and Appendix, “The British Rule in India,” “Future Results of the British Rule in India”; Engels, “The Principles of Communism”

Death: Nagel, “Death”; Rosenbaum, “How to Be Dead and Not Care”; Suits, “Why Death Is Not Bad for the One Who Died”; Kamm, “Why is Death Bad and Worse than Pre-Natal Non-Existence?”; Timmerman, “A dilemma for Epicureanism”;

Early Modern European Philosophy: Hume, “The Standard of Taste” and “Suicide”; Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy*; Selections from Princess Elisabeth of Bohemia’s correspondence with Descartes

Eating Animals: Norcross, “Puppies, Pigs, and People”; Callicott, “The Environmental Omnivore’s Dilemma”; Driver, “Individual Consumption and Moral Complicity”; Levy, “Vegetarianism: Toward Ideological Impurity”; Narain, “Why I Would Not Advocate Vegetarianism”

Existentialism: Sartre, “Existentialism is a Humanism”; Beauvoir, “Introduction to an Ethics of Ambiguity” and “What is Existentialism?”

Free Will: Frankfurt, “Alternate Possibilities and Moral Responsibility”; Ginet, “In Defense of the Principle of Alternative Possibilities”; Frankfurt, “Freedom of the Will and the Concept of a Person”; Ekstrom, “Toward a plausible event-causal indeterminist account of free will”; Strawson, “The Impossibility of Moral Responsibility”

Gender: Barnes, “The Metaphysics of Gender”; Haslanger, “The Sex/Gender Distinction and the Social Construction of Reality”; Mikkola, “Gender Essentialism and Anti-Essentialism”; Mikkola, “Elizabeth Spelman, Gender Realism, and Women”; Stoljar, “Different Women, Gender, and the Realism-Nominalism Debate”

Hellenistic Greek Philosophy: Epicurus, “Letter to Menoeceus” and “The Principal Doctrines”; Selections of Stoic writings; Selections of Skeptic writings

Indian and Buddhist Philosophy: Selections from *Questions of King Milinda*; Selections from Śāṅkara’s *Vaiśeṣika-sūtra-upaskāra*; Selections from Vasubandhu’s *Abhidharmakośabhāṣya*

Love: Zangwill, “Love: Gloriously Amoral and Arational”; Smuts, “Normative Reasons for Love, Part I” and “Part II”; Naar, “Subject-Relative Reasons for Love”; Protasi, “Loving People for Who They Are (Even When They Don’t Love You Back)”; Han, “Do We Love For Reasons?”

Multiculturalism and Sexism: Okin, “Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?”; Selected replies

Personal Identity: Blackmore, “The Self”; Parfit, “Personal Identity”; Williams, “The Self and the Future”; Schechtman, “The Narrative Self”; Swinburne, “Personal Identity: the Dualist Theory”

Patriotism and Nationalism: Nathanson, “In Defense of Moderate Patriotism”; Gomberg, “Patriotism is Like Racism”; Hurka, “The Justification of National Partiality”; Lichtenberg, “Nationalism, For and (Mainly) Against”

Scientific Realism: Putnam, “What is ‘Realism’?”; van Fraassen, “Arguments concerning scientific realism” and “To save the phenomena”; Psillos, “In defence of scientific realism” and “Constructive empiricism scrutinised”

Skepticism: Selections from Hume, *A Treatise of Human Nature*; Selections from Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy*; Selections from Zhuangzi; Putnam, “Brains in a Vat”; David, “Neither Mentioning ‘Brains in a Vat’ nor Mentioning Brains in a Vat Will Prove that We Are Not Brains in a Vat”

Terrorism: Wellman, “On Terrorism Itself”; Held, “Legitimate Authority in Non-state Groups Using Violence”; Jaggard, “What Is Terrorism, Why Is It Wrong, and Could It Ever Be Morally Permissible?”; Medina, “Unconditional vs. Conditional Critics of Terrorist Violence”; McPherson, “Is Terrorism Distinctively Wrong?”; Glasgow, “A Straightforward Analysis of Terrorism”

The Annihilation of Caste: Dhanda, “Philosophical Foundations of Anti-Casteism”; Ambedkar, “The Annihilation of Caste”; Gandhi, “A Vindication of Caste”; Ambedkar, “A Reply to the Mahatma”

The Existence of God: Craig, “The *Kalām* Cosmological Argument”; Gale and Pruss, “A New Cosmological Argument”; Oppy, “On ‘A New Cosmological Argument’”; Hayes, “Vasubandhu’s Discussion of Divine Creation”; Chakrabarti, “From the Fabric to the Weaver?”; Sharma, “Grounds for Belief in God”

The Meaning of Life: Gowans, “The Buddha’s Message”; Siderits, “The Buddha”; Chakrabarti, “Vyasa”; Camus, “The Myth of Sisyphus”; Taylor, “The Meaning of Life”; Wolf, “Meaning in Life and Why it Matters”; Nagel, “The Absurd”

The Riddles of Induction: Selections from Hume’s *Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*; Goodman, “The New Riddle of Induction”