

# Introduction to Philosophy

## Phil 100: Summer 2010

Instructor: Elizabeth Scarbrough  
Class Times: M T W Th F 9:40 a.m – 10:40 a.m.  
Class Location: Denny 217  
Instructor Office Hours: 10:45 a.m. -11:45 a.m. T, Th,  
& by appointment (in Savery 378)  
E-mail: [lizscar@u.washington.edu](mailto:lizscar@u.washington.edu)

### **Course Description**

This course is a historical introduction to classical Western philosophical thought. Interspersed throughout the course will be contemporary readings commenting on the historical readings presented. Topics discussed include: Why ought we follow the law? What is real? What can we know? What is the basis of a good life? As it is a 100 level course, no previous instruction in philosophy is necessary. The format of the course will be a mixture of lecture and discussion. Course requirements include: active class participation, in-class quizzes, short skills assignments, two essays, and a final exam. PLEASE BRING YOUR BOOKS TO CLASS.

### **Required Textbooks (1):**

*Classics of Western Philosophy*, edited by Steven M. Cahn  
ISBN: 0-87220-859-1 (New: \$44, Used: \$15)

Any other readings will be available electronically or distributed in class. The readings are listed by the class dates when we will begin discussing them; you should read the assigned reading **prior** to coming to class that day.

### **Schedule of Topics and Reading:**

This schedule of topics and reading is only a guide. I reserve the right to get behind or go more quickly as I see fit. I will inform you at the end of every class what is expected of you by the following day. If I make no such announcement, follow the assignments below.

#### **Week 1: Introduction to Philosophical Arguments / Plato (June 21 – 25)**

6/21 - Introduction to the Topic: What is Philosophy?  
6/22 – Introduction to Arguments / Plato, *Apology* (pp. 29 – 41)  
6/23 - Plato, *Apology* (pp. 29 – 41)  
6/24 - Plato, *Apology* (pp. 29 – 41)  
6/25 - Plato, *Crito* (pp. 42 - 48)

#### **Week 2: Plato / Nietzsche (June 28 – July 2)**

6/28 – Plato, *Crito* (pp. 42 - 48)  
6/29 – Plato, *Phaedo* (pp. 49-81)  
6/30 – Plato, *Phaedo* (pp. 49-81)  
7/1 – Nietzsche, *Twilight of the Idols* (pp. 1098 – 1107, pp. 1111 – 1114)  
7/2 – Nietzsche, *Twilight of the Idols* (pp. 1098 – 1107, pp. 1111 – 1114)

**Week 3: Aristotle / X-Phi (July 5 – 9)**

7/5 - *No Class July 5<sup>th</sup> Happy Independence Day*

7/6 – Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book I (pp. 260-269)

7/7 – Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Books II – III (pp. 269-282)

7/8 - Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book X (pp. 303-312)

7/9 –Experimental Philosophy & Problems with the notion of character

-Kwame Anthony Appiah, “The New New Philosophy”

[http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/09/magazine/09wwln-idealab-t.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/09/magazine/09wwln-idealab-t.html?_r=1)

-John M. Dorris “Joining the Hunt” from *Lack of Character* (handout)

***First Paper Topics Handed Out***

**Week 4: Descartes’ *Meditations* (July 12 – 16)**

7/12 – Descartes, *Meditation* Preface & I (pp. 484 - 492)

7/13 – Descartes, *Meditation* II (pp. 492 - 496)

7/14 – Descartes, *Meditation* III (pp. 496 - 503)

7/15 – Descartes, *Meditation* IV (pp. 503 - 506)

7/16 – Descartes, *Meditation* V-VI (pp. 506 - 516)

**Week 5: Locke, Berkeley, Hume<sup>1</sup> (July 19 – 23)**

7/19 – Locke, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, (pp. 627 – 662)

7/20 – Berkeley, *Three Dialogues*, Dialogue I & II (pp. 715 – 742)

7/21 – Berkeley, *Three Dialogues*, Dialogue III (pp. 742 – 760)

7/22 – Hume, *An Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, Sections I-V (pp. 761-783)

7/23 – Hume, *An Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, Sections VI-VIII ( pp. 783-802), Section XII (pp. 822-828)

***First Paper Due***

**Week 6: Hobbes, Kant (July 26 – 30)**

7/26 - Hobbes, *Leviathan*, (pp.517-518, pp. 534-548)

7/27 – Hobbes, *Leviathan*, (pp.517-518, pp. 534-548)

7/28 – Kant, *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals*, Preface (pp. 903-904, 981-984)

7/29 – Kant, *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals*, Section I (pp. 984-991)

7/30 – Kant, *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals*, Section II (pp. 991- 1011)

***Second Paper Topics Handed Out***

**Week 7: Bentham and Mill (August 2 – 6)**

8/2 - Onora O’Neill “Between Consenting Adults” (JSTOR)

8/3 – Bentham, *Principles of Morals and Legislation* (handout)

8/4 –Mill, *Utilitarianism*, Chapters I-II (pp. 1058-1071)

8/5 – Mill, *Utilitarianism*, Chapters III-IV (pp. 1071 – 1078)

8/6 – Mill, *Utilitarianism*, Chapter V (pp. 1100-1114)

**Week 8: Criticism of Morality (August 9 – 13)**

8/9 – Singer, “Famine, Affluence and Morality”

---

<sup>1</sup> This is a very heavy reading week, and I expect that we will get behind. Expect spill-over into the following week in class.

On-line: <http://www.utilitarian.net/singer/by/1972----.htm>

8/10 – Williams, “Against Utilitarianism” (handout)

8/11 – Williams, “Against Utilitarianism” (handout)

8/12 – Susan Wolf “Moral Saints” (handout)

8/13 – Susan Wolf “Moral Saints” (handout)/ Voting on Choose your Own Adventure

## **Second Paper Due**

### **Week 9: Choose your own Adventure (August 16 – 20)**

In this final week, we will either be playing catch-up (as I expect we will) OR I will survey the students to see which of the following units they would like to read. After voting commences, I will choose two articles from the following areas:

a) Political Philosophy

b) Applied Ethics

c) Aesthetics

8/16 – 8/19 ?????

8/20 – **IN CLASS FINAL EXAM**

### **GRADING PROCEDURES:<sup>2</sup>**

Class Participation: 15 discretionary points

In Class Quizzes: (5 quizzes at 5 points each) 25 points

Skills Assignments: 50 points

Essays: 80 points

Final Exam: 80 points

#### Participation (15 points )

15 points are allocated toward active engagement in the class.

A portion of your grade is dedicated to your active participation. The use of cell phones in class is strictly forbidden. Laptop computers may only be used for academic purposes. Violating this “No surfing. No texting.” policy may result in a lowered participation grade.

#### In Class Quizzes (25 points )

There will be a total of 5 in-class quizzes. The quizzes will not be announced in advance. There will be no make-up quizzes except under the following circumstances: (1) illness supported by a doctor’s note; (2) death in the family.

#### Skills Assignments (50 points)

Most weeks you will be given either a basic philosophical technique OR a short reading question to answer. Answers to these skills assignments/reading responses will be 1 page in length (typed, 12 point font) and will be handed in one week from when they are handed out. No less than 6 skills assignments will be handed out, and you are required to complete 5. If you choose to do more than the required 5 papers, your highest five grades will count toward your final grade. They are each worth 10 points.

---

<sup>2</sup> I do not intend to curve the grades for this course, but I will, at my discretion, give a bonus of .1 to the final decimal grade of those students who show significant improvement over the course of the term.

### Essays (40 points each)

There will be two assigned essays for this class, 3 pages in length. For each paper you will be given two topics from which to choose. The first paper is due 7/23, and the second paper is due 8/13. All written assignments must be handed in in-class. **NO** written work will be accepted via e-mail.<sup>3</sup>

### Final (80 points total)

The final exam will consist both of multiple-choice type questions and some short essay questions. The exam will be worth 80 points and is cumulative.

Late exams will not be given unless you have made prior arrangements with me. In cases of documented illness or emergency, contact me as soon as possible to make arrangements.

### **Important Notes:**

1. **Passing and Failing:** In order to pass this class you must hand in both papers, and take the final exam. (This means: even if the points you earn are greater than what is required of a .7, you will receive a 0.0 if you do not turn in both papers and take the final exam).

2. **Academic Misconduct.** Cheating of any form (including plagiarism) will result in automatic referral to the Dean's office. If you are found to have cheated on any assignment, you will be given 0 points for that assignment and fail the course. The University of Washington Student Conduct Code can be found at:

<http://www.washington.edu/students/handbook/conduct.html#020>

You can find additional information about what constitutes plagiarism at:

<http://depts.washington.edu/grading/pdf/AcademicResponsibility.pdf>

Ignorance of policies regarding academic misconduct does not constitute a legitimate excuse for inappropriate behavior (*Ignorantia legis non excusat!*).

## **DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY: INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS\***

### **COURSES, GRADING, ACADEMIC CONDUCT**

#### **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is defined as the use of creations, ideas or words of publicly available work without formally acknowledging the author or source through appropriate use of quotation marks, references, and the like. Plagiarizing is presenting someone else's work as one's own original work or thought. This constitutes plagiarism whether it is intentional or unintentional. The University of Washington takes plagiarism very seriously. Plagiarism may lead to disciplinary action by the University against the student who submitted the work. Any student who is uncertain whether his or her use of the work of others constitutes plagiarism should consult the

---

<sup>3</sup> **If you would like to take this class for writing credit, additional work is required. Each assigned paper will have a length of 5 pages. One of your two-assigned papers must be revised in light of my comments and turned in again within one week. Please let me know within the first two weeks of class if you intend to apply for writing credit.**

\* *Adapted from material prepared by the UW Department of History and used with permission.*

course instructor for guidance before formally submitting the course work involved. (Sources: *UW Graduate School Style Manual; UW Bothell Catalog; UW Student Conduct Code*)

### **Incompletes**

An incomplete is given only when the student has been in attendance and has done satisfactory work until within two weeks of the end of the quarter and has furnished proof satisfactory to the instructor that the work cannot be completed because of illness or other circumstances beyond the student's control. (Source: *UW General Catalog Online, "Student Guide/Grading"*)

### **Grade Appeal Procedure**

A student who believes he or she has been improperly graded must first discuss the matter with the instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the instructor's explanation, the student may submit a written appeal to the chair of the Department of Philosophy with a copy of the appeal also sent to the instructor. The chair consults with the instructor to ensure that the evaluation of the student's performance has not been arbitrary or capricious. Should the chair believe the instructor's conduct to be arbitrary or capricious and the instructor declines to revise the grade, the chair, with the approval of the voting members of his or her faculty, shall appoint an appropriate member, or members, of the faculty of the Department of Philosophy to evaluate the performance of the student and assign a grade. The Dean and Provost should be informed of this action. Once a student submits a written appeal, this document and all subsequent actions on this appeal are recorded in written form for deposit in a School file. (Source: *UW General Catalog Online, "Student Guide/Grading"*)

### **Concerns About a Course, an Instructor, or a Teaching Assistant**

If you have any concerns about a Philosophy course or your instructor, please see the instructor about these concerns as soon as possible. If you are not comfortable talking with the instructor or not satisfied with the response that you receive, you may contact the chair of the program offering the course (names available from the Department of Philosophy, 361 Savery Hall). For your reference, these procedures are posted on a Philosophy bulletin board outside the Department of Philosophy main office on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of Savery Hall.

## **POLICIES, RULES, RESOURCES**

### **Equal Opportunity**

The University of Washington reaffirms its policy of equal opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, disability, or status as a disabled veteran or Vietnam-era veteran in accordance with University of Washington policy and applicable federal and state statutes and regulations.

### **Disability Accommodation**

The University of Washington is committed to providing access, equal opportunity and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, activities, education and employment for individuals with disabilities. For information or to request disability accommodation contact: Disabled Students Services (Seattle campus) at (206) 543-8924/V, (206) 543-8925/TTY, (206) 616-8379/Fax, or e-mail at [uwdss@u.washington.edu](mailto:uwdss@u.washington.edu); Bothell Student Affairs at (425) 352-5000/V; (425) 352-5303/TTY, (425) 352-5335/Fax, or e-mail at [uwbothel@u.washington.edu](mailto:uwbothel@u.washington.edu); Tacoma Student Services at (253) 552-4000/V, (253) 552-4413/TTY, (253) 552-4414/Fax.

### **Sexual Harassment**

Sexual harassment is defined as the use of one's authority or power, either explicitly or implicitly, to coerce another into unwanted sexual relations or to punish another for his or her refusal, or as

the creation by a member of the University community of an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working or educational environment through verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. If you believe that you are being harassed, seek help—the earlier the better. You may speak with your instructor, your teaching assistant, the undergraduate advisor (363 Savery Hall), graduate program assistant (366 Savery Hall), or the chair of the Philosophy Department (364 Savery Hall). In addition, you should be aware that the University has designated special people to help you. They are: University Ombudsman and Ombudsman for Sexual Harassment (for complaints involving faculty members and teaching assistants) Susan Neff, 301 Student Union (HUB), 543-6028; and the University Complaint Investigation and Resolution Office, 616-2028. (*Sources: UW Graduate School, CIDR, Office of the President*)

### **Office of Scholarly Integrity**

The Office of Scholarly Integrity is housed in the Office of the Vice-Provost. The Office of Scholarly Integrity assumes responsibility for investigating and resolving allegations of scientific and scholarly misconduct by faculty, students, and staff of the University of Washington. The Office of Scholarly Integrity coordinates, in consultation and cooperation with the Schools and Colleges, inquiries and investigations into allegations of scientific and scholarly misconduct. The Office of Scholarly Integrity is responsible for compliance with reporting requirements established by various Federal and other funding agencies in matters of scientific or scholarly misconduct. The Office of Scholarly Integrity maintains all records resulting from inquiries and investigations of such allegations. University rules (Handbook, Vol. II, Section 25-51, Executive Order #61) define scientific and scholarly misconduct to include the following forms of inappropriate activities: intentional misrepresentation of credentials; falsification of data; plagiarism; abuse of confidentiality; deliberate violation of regulations applicable to research. Students can report cases of scientific or scholarly misconduct either to the Office of Scholarly Integrity, to their faculty adviser, or the department chair. The student should report such problems to whomever he or she feels most comfortable. (*Sources: UW web page (<http://www.grad.washington.edu/OSI/osi.htm>); minutes of Grad School Executive Staff and Division Heads meeting, 7/23/98*)