

PSY1292 Philosophy, Intro.

Course Syllabus

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Philosophy, Intro. is an introductory course. All students are eligible to take this course.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will scrutinize the philosophical methodologies that Plato, Aristotle and the Greeks promote. The variations that come to light in epistemological debates and in the ethical and metaethical disagreements of the Stoics and Epicureans will be analyzed. A concentration will also be the issue of evil and queries about the meaning of life. Concentration will be on pre-Socratic philosophers, particularly Pythagoreans, Parmenides, Empedocles at the onset of the course. During the final part of the class attention will shift to Socrates and Plato.

You will gain awareness of traditional philosophical issues. You will come out of this class with enhanced thinking and writing skills. You will form skills needed to interpret arguments offered by philosophers, how to weigh those arguments, and devise forceful philosophical arguments of your own.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course will acquaint the student to the thinking and philosophies advanced by Plato, Socrates, Empedocles, Parmenides, and Pythagoras. A realization of what philosophy is and how it influences our lives will be attained. Values and theories will be investigated. By the end of the course all students should:

- Understand what philosophy is
- Perceive how philosophy is relevant to practical issues
- Become adept in undertaking challenging questions
- Appreciate how the early philosophers have forged the beliefs and thinking today
- Develop an ability to think deeply
- Recount some of the instructions of Plato and Socrates
- Explain the diverse ideals and theories developed by philosophers

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is mandatory for all students. Excellent attendance is imperative for mastery and application of the information dispensed. Whether you are sitting at a desk in a classroom or attending via Skype, your attendance is vital to your success. Late arrivals are distracting and disrespectful. Please refrain from being tardy. Grades will be affected by absences and tardiness. Participation in class is a prerequisite. You learn from lectures, discussions and presentations.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

Students are expected to treat all persons with respect. We should all conduct ourselves in a courteous and responsible manner. Be considerate, you can disagree, don't insult.

Please set all your electronic devices to silent during class so as not to be a disturbance to others in the class.

TUTORIAL ASSISTANCE

We maintain an open-door policy for our students. We are absolutely willing to discuss any matter that may arise during the course. If you have any questions, problems, or need help with the course material, we urge you to reach out as soon as the issue arises. If you want to contest a grade, you must do so within 48 hours and put it in writing. Please ask your student advocate for help. If you do not have a student advocate send an email to: tutordept@usilacs.org.

NON-DISCRIMINATORY STATEMENT

All students regardless of age, race, gender, religion, physical disability, class, etc., shall have equal opportunity without harassment in this course. Any problems with or questions about harassment can be discussed confidentially via email at: hr@usilacs.org.

DRESS CODE

For students enrolled who are attending in a classroom or via Skype, please be sure you are dressed modestly and respectfully. Please refer to www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/business%20casual. NO short shorts or skirts. Avoid low-cut tops. We want to present ourselves in a dignified manner at all times.

NETIQUETTE

- Always read through all the comments of the class before responding. This will avoid duplicating comments or questions asked.
- Avoid language that could be offensive. All profanity is strictly prohibited. Remember that using all caps when replying online signifies shouting. This would be rude and combative.
- Be sensitive to the fact that there will be fellow students from all parts of the world with many differing backgrounds and languages. Remember that slang and idioms will most likely be misconceived and/or misinterpreted. These should be avoided.
- Respect others views or opinions.
- Be thoughtful of the privacy of others. Ask permission before sharing email addresses or other personal information.
- Do not forward inappropriate material such as: virus warnings, chain letters, jokes, etc. The sharing of pornographic material is strictly prohibited.
- Use good spelling and grammar. Avoid using texting shortcuts.

- Strive to compose your comments in a positive, supportive and constructive manner at all times.

Any of these offenses will be dealt with by the school disciplinary committee.

ADA ACCOMMODATIONS

All reasonable accommodations will be provided for students with disabilities. Any student attending USILACS who needs an accommodation due to a chronic challenge (i.e. blindness, deaf or hard of hearing, mobility issues, psychological, or learning disability), register with:

USILACS Registrar's Office
1221 Brickell Ave.
Miami, FL 33131
1-305-330-2202
registrarsoffice@usilacs.org

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY/CHEATING

We encourage collaborating with others, either in person or online, to study and learn. When you complete your assignments or your exams, however, the wording has to be your own.

Plagiarism is the theft of someone else's work and ideas. You are permitted to cite or even quote someone else, however, you must properly cite them. There are two accepted ways of doing this. They are known as Modern Language Association (MLA) or American Psychological Association (APA). You can visit www.citationmachine.net for help in correctly citing information.

As a school that strives to maintain high moral standards, we strongly caution our students to be ethical and honest. Endeavor to be honest in conducting yourself in regard to any coursework you accomplish or exams you may take. Cheating is a dishonest practice.

REFERENCE MATERIALS

The vast majority of textbooks are outdated by the time they are published. USILACS education programs are not based upon outdated printed textbooks. USILACS programs are based on the most accurate and reliable knowledge available; specifically, up-to-date vetted internet-based information.

For those who would like some reference or Internet search recommendations, we would recommend the following.

- (2001) An Introduction to Philosophy. Dr. Phillip A. Pecorino.
- (2017) Historical introduction to philosophy: Wikiversity.
- (2016) What is Philosophy? Published by: Crash Course
- (2016) How to argue philosophical reasoning. Published by: Crash Course

(2016) How to argue Philosophical Reasoning. "Induction & Abduction":
Crash Course
(2016) The meaning of Knowledge Published by: Crash Course

MINIMUM REQUIRED SUPPLIES

All students will need all of the following:

- Computer with camera, microphone, and speakers.
- Skype installed on the computer with an active Skype account.
- Internet
- Printer
- Notebook paper
- Pens/pencils

If the student does not have a computer or internet, there will be some available for use at the school in the computer lab.

GRADING SYSTEM

There will be three tests throughout the course. Each test will count for 33.3% of the final grade.

Grade	Percentage	Grade Point
A+	99	4.0
A	97	3.8
A-	94	3.7
B+	89	3.3
B	85	3.0
B-	81	2.7
C+	77	2.3
C	73	2.0
C-	69	1.7
D	66	1.0
F	59	0.0

All students must earn at least a "D" in order to pass the class.

ASSIGNMENTS

Introduction Essay-

This essay requires no research. Answer the questions as best as you can based on prior knowledge.

- A) List the five or so most important questions or problems you think about.
- B) If you had virtually unlimited financial resources at your disposal, what would you begin doing with your life?
- C) Why did you take this philosophy course?
- D) What do you expect to put into this course?
- E) What is philosophy?
- F) How do you use the term "philosophy"?
- G) How do others use the term 'Philosophy'? Give examples.

- H) What is good philosophy?
 I) What importance might philosophy have in your future?

Metaphysics Research Paper-

This paper should be based on research, class readings, class notes and your own reflection. Describe at least four of the issues that are fundamental to metaphysics, e.g. reality, being, truth, space, time, god, soul, causation, values....

Describe what the metaphysical issues are that are related to the ideas you selected. These issues relate to the questions of the reality of existence of those entities you select. E.G. Is time real? How is it real? What are the problems related to establishing the existence of time? You do NOT need to solve the problems or even discuss in detail, just describe them. What is to be done when there is a conflict between two different "realities"?

Ethics Research Paper-

List at least three things that are wrong with or problems with each of these theories:

- Egoism
- Utilitarianism
- Categorical Imperative
- Natural Law
- Theory of Justice as Fairness-The Maxi-Min principles
- Will to Power
- Caring
- Normative Ethical Relativism

Which of the theories listed above do you think is the theory with the most acceptable disadvantages? Which is the most acceptable theory to serve as the basis for a moral order in a society in which you would want to live? Why do you think so? Give reasons which take into consideration both the criticisms and the advantages of the theory you prefer.

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1	Overview of course and coursework Introduction (1)
Week 2	The Greeks: The Origins of Philosophy in the West (2)
Week 3	Philosophy of Religion and the Problem of God (3)
Week 4	Epistemology (5) <i>Introduction Essay due</i>
Week 5	<i>Video review and Exam</i>
Week 6	Metaphysics (4)
Week 7	The Mind-Body Problem (6) Freedom and Determinism (7)
Week 8	Ethics (8) <i>Metaphysics Research Paper due</i>
Week 9	<i>Video review and Exam</i>
Week 10	Social Philosophy (9) Political Philosophy (10)

Week 11 Philosophy of Art and Aesthetics (11)

Week 12 Conclusion (12)

Ethics Research Paper due

Week 13 Video review and Final exam