



Introduction to Philosophy

Course Number:	PHI 101	Term:	Summer, 2021
Instructor:	TBA	Email:	
Contact Hours:	48	Meeting Times:	TBA
Credits:	3.0		

Course Description:

Introduction to Philosophy is a course designed to acquaint university students with the major concepts, ideas, movements, and figures in Western Philosophy. This course examines the most influential and enduring areas of philosophy in some depth, attempting to develop basic approaches to human behavior and thought that apply to the contemporary world. The primary focus is on the areas of philosophy that have explored the meaning of life, the nature of humanity, the existence of truth, and other core questions. Students will learn to examine these issues for themselves as well as to understand the main points of the world's greatest philosophers.

This course provides an introduction to philosophy from a practical and realistic, very contemporary perspective. Our classroom sessions will be highly interactive and engaging, with every student actively participating in the analysis, criticism, assessment, and understanding of the primary works of the leading Western philosophers. The goal is to furnish students with the information and analytical tools necessary to grasp the philosophical considerations important to contemporary human life, relationships, and interactions as well as in historical context.

In addition to providing a general introduction to philosophy, this course will focus on methods by which each individual can develop and refine his or her own opinions and attitudes, reflecting and building upon the contributions of great thinkers throughout history. In this way, the course will be very relevant and applicable to the life of every student.

Learning Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be prepared to:

1. Identify core schools of thought used in philosophy
2. Compare major ideas of leading Western philosophers throughout history
3. Evaluate philosophical concepts in historical and contemporary contexts
4. Apply philosophical concepts to authentic contemporary scenarios
5. Use philosophical methods to generate ideas and critical arguments

Required Textbook and Course Materials:

Text: The Big Question: A Short Introduction to Philosophy 9 Edition

Authors: Robert Solomon; Kathleen Higgins

ISBN: 978-1-133-61064-9

Language of Instruction:

This course is taught entirely in English, including lectures, homework, assignments and examinations. Teaching assistants will be fluent in both English and Mandarin.

Course Prerequisites:

None

University Policies

Class Format

In Person. Course activities, discussions, assignments and resources will be made available at the start of and during the course.

Attendance, Participation and Deliverables

Courses are very intensive and in order to be successful, students need to attend every class. Attendance is required for all lectures and class activities. Class participation is expected from every student and form a significant portion of the final course grade.

All course deliverables (homework assignments and tests) are due on time as assigned. This course includes *no* make-ups, postponements or additional assignments, except for verified medical emergencies. If you miss an exam/assignment due to a non-sanctioned absence, your score on that exam/assignment will be zero.

Academic Dishonesty

All cases of academic dishonesty will be diligently pursued. Academic dishonesty includes representing the work of another as one's own work or cheating by any means. Academic dishonesty also includes aiding, abetting, concealing or attempting such activity. The penalty is automatic failure of the course and possible suspension from the university.

Grading Scale

Grading Scale (%)			
97 - 100	A+	77 - 79	C+
93 - 96	A	73 - 76	C
90 - 92	A-	70 - 72	C-
87 - 89	B+	67 - 69	D+
83 - 86	B	63 - 66	D
80 - 82	B-	60 - 62	D-
		0 - 59	F

Professor- and Course-Specific Policies (*Tentative*)

Discussion:

Your participation in discussions will have significant bearing on your final grade.

Philosophy depends on each student reading the assigned material, thinking in depth about it, discussing the key ideas and concepts with others, and absorbing the insights from the professor and from other students. This highly interactive and participatory process is impossible for any student who either is not physically present or who is not completely focused on the material.

Grade Components:

Class Participation	10%
Mid Term Exam	30%
Final Exam	50%
Total	100%

Course Schedule (*Tentative*)

Module	Topics
1	Introduction to Philosophy Chapter 1: Knowledge Chapter 2: The Mind <u>Foundational Readings:</u> Socrates Plato
2	Chapter 3: Free Will Chapter 4: The Self <u>Foundational Readings:</u> Aristotle Machiavelli
3	Chapter 5: Religion Chapter 6: Reasoning <u>Foundational Readings:</u> Hobbes Locke Rousseau
4	Chapter 7: The World Chapter 8: What to Do <u>Foundational Readings:</u> Hume Kant Descartes Pascal Bohr

5	<p>Developing our own philosophy</p> <p>Contemporary issues and questions:</p> <p>Feminine writings: Andrea Dworkin, Camille Paglia</p> <p>Race, gender, ethnicity issues in contemporary philosophy Conclusion</p> <p>Final Exam</p>
---	---