

Clarion University
Course Syllabus

Course Title: Introduction to Philosophy
Session/Year: Fall 2010
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Course Number: PHIL 211-51

Instructor: Diane Bowser, PhD

Course Description:

Philosophy, literally "friend of wisdom", is a two-fold activity. Initially we think of the "reflective" discipline that attempts to address life's big questions about ourselves and our world, but there is also a "doing" component concerned with developing the ability to think critically and evaluate various responses to philosophical problems. This course is designed to familiarize students with the canon of philosophy and to encourage students to formulate their own critical opinions concerning the issues raised.

Philosophy can be broken up into its three major areas:

- 1) What is real? (Metaphysics) and,
- 2) What can I know? (Epistemology)
- 3) How ought I to live? (Ethics)

Philosophy depends on interaction and synthesis. This class provides a creative setting for the exchange of ideas with a view toward increasing the student's understanding of basic philosophical questions. Synthesis and understanding require careful reading of assigned selections, a willingness to examine a text on multiple levels and the desire to engage in class discussions. The selected readings were chosen to represent the diversity of philosophical themes, as well as to show how together, as a history, they have created the basis upon which we judge ourselves, the world, and others today.

Course Objectives:

1. To develop an understanding of basic philosophical questions in the areas of ethics, epistemology, and metaphysics.
2. To develop an understanding of how various philosophical theories were historically developed in the context of social forces.
3. To facilitate the utilization of basic critical thinking skills including logical assessment of philosophical positions.
4. To acquaint students with the need to apply philosophical theories to case studies taken from business practice, societal contexts, and global debates.
5. To develop the ability to identify, discuss, research and write about various areas of personal philosophical interest.

Course Length: 15 Weeks
Contact Hours: 45 Hours

Credits Value: 3
Course Prerequisite: 1 College Level
English/Writing Course

Required Textbooks:

1. Bowie, G. Lee, Meredith W. Michaels, and Robert C. Solomon. Twenty Questions: An Introduction to Philosophy, Seventh Edition. New York: Harcourt Brace Publishers, 2010/2011. { ISBN 1439043965}
2. Plato: Five Dialogues: Euthyphro, Apology, Crito, Meno, Phaedo. G.M.A. Grube, trans., Indianapolis, IN: Hackett Publishing Company, Inc., 2002. {ISBN: 0972206335}

Estimated Homework Hours: 6 hours per week

Technology Needed: Our class is supplemented by a web site (<http://www.thinkingshop.com/Clarion/intro/index.htm>) where you will find a copy of this syllabus, weekly class news, updates on assignments/quizzes, notes and additional resources to help you in your quest to master philosophy. It is a good idea to add the site to your Bookmarks or Favorites folder when you visit for the first time; after doing so you'll be able to visit the site with one click. In addition, you may also e-mail me to receive a response within 24-36 hours.

You must also submit your papers electronically. Each paper will be submitted in D2L to both my digital dropbox and to Turn It In. Please log in to D2L to submit all papers. Turn It In is accessed through the "Dropbox" page in D2L. For more information on using D2L, please see the information from technology resources @ <http://www.clarion.edu/136171/> & <http://www.clarion.edu/172444/> (dropbox information) .

How should I use the web site?

You are expected to access the web site before each class to download notes and guide questions. The guide questions act as a discussion outline for our class sessions. The notes are grouped by week; so the minimum number of times you should visit and download information from the site is once per week. You will also find secondary sources to help you compose papers and provide additional background lecture information.

Student Evaluation/Methods of Assessment:

Assessment of your performance will be based on two short research papers, a midterm and final tests. This class is reading intensive so your ability to manage time well and carefully critique various theories will be critical to receive a passing grade.

Grading Scale:

Participation (Guide Questions/Text)	25%
2 Short Research Papers	50%
Final Exam	<u>25%</u>
	100%

Class Policies:

1. Learning can only occur when there is no fear or negativity. Thus, students are expected to show respect, tolerance and compassion for everyone in the room. Disruptive behavior and foul language will not be tolerated; students who engage in these behaviors will be asked to leave class.
2. **Late research papers** will not be accepted for any reason. Students who do not turn in a research paper on the due date will receive a zero for that portion of their grade,

3. **Attendance:** any student who misses 3 classes (20%) during the semester will receive a failing grade for the course. Special consideration for medical emergencies/conditions will be available for those students who can provide substantial proof of illness.
4. **All e-mail communications must include your name and class [Clarion Intro] in the SUBJECT LINE OF THE E-MAIL MESSAGE.** All communications that do not include this information are automatically deleted by my e-mail sorting program and I will not be able to retrieve them. *Guide Questions:*
5. **Each week's reading is featured on a separate web page on our class web site. To navigate to the list click on the "Guide Questions" link at the top or bottom of any web page on our site.** On the "guide questions" tab (top of web site) you will find a comprehensive list of the readings and related web pages. Click on the readings for the week and you will be taken to the web page containing the guide questions for that particular reading.
6. **You are expected to complete the guide questions prior to the beginning of each week; e.g., the guide questions for Week 3 should be completed prior to the Week 3 lectures.** You will be asked to show your written work on the guide questions during class to receive participation credit for that week. These notebook checks may be unannounced and will impact your final attendance and participation grade.
7. **To earn credit for guide questions each question must be answered in two or three complete sentences.** Quotes from the reading should be included and annotated.
8. **You are not to turn in the guide questions via e-mail and may not complete them after a notebook check to receive participation credit.** However, you should do them even if they are late because they will help you to study for the exams and follow the lectures.

Paper Assignments:

9. **FORMAT: All papers must be typed and saved in an electronic format (MS Word or RTF).**
10. **Each paper will be submitted in D2L Dropbox to both my digital dropbox and to Turn It In.** Turn It In can be accessed through the "Assignments" page in D2L (linked in the left hand column). For more information on using D2L, please see the information from technology resources @ <http://www.clarion.edu/136171/>
11. **Your files should be named as follows: LastName_FA10_Paper1.docx & LastName_FA10_Paper2.docx** respectively (.doc or .rtf files are OK too).
12. **Minimum length** for all paper assignments is 1000 words. Generally, to receive a passing grade (D or better) the minimum length is **1000 words (not counting title page, bibliography, footnotes, endnotes, etc.) with 1-inch margins. Font sizes should be 12 point or less. Please use easily readable text fonts. Please note:** Just turning in a minimum length paper does not guarantee a passing grade. If you want to earn an A or B your paper should exceed minimum content & length requirements.
13. **Your name, class, and date should appear on one line at the top line of the page followed by the title of your paper.**
14. **Grammar, punctuation and usage count.** You are responsible for proofreading your entries before you turn in them in. Papers that contain multiple mechanical writing errors (3 or more) will not receive a passing grade.
15. **The quality of your papers matters.** When grading your papers, I must be able to see that you have read the assignment discussed in your critique and that your commentary is related to the reading. You should cite the philosopher/theorist you are discussing and use textual examples from the reading or lecture to support your claims. Please see the paper grading rubric (in this document) for guidelines on grading criteria.
16. **Plagiarism notice:** If you quote/paraphrase the author's ideas, or my lecture, you should include the source's name in parenthesis after the sentence where the material appears.
17. **All papers in question will be checked for plagiarism using Turn It In. If your entry consists of material largely copied from web sites, (i.e., more than 25% is copied/quoted from elsewhere) it will receive a failing grade.** Please always keep a copy of your paper in electronic format (Word – any version) in case I ask you for the digital file.

18. **In order to avoid plagiarism, make sure you are using small (i.e., 1 or 2 sentence quotes). Do not copy entire paragraphs as quotes; summarize them in your own words and cite the source parenthetically immediately after the sentences that summarize the material and be sure to list the source in your bibliography.**
19. Instructions for doing citations appear on the paper tips page (on the class web site). *Papers without proper citations will receive a failing grade.*
20. **Students who copy or turn in work from:**
 - a. another's student's paper (present or past quarters), **or**
 - b. information bought/copied from the Internet**will receive a failing grade for the course and face disciplinary policies outlined under plagiarism in the Clarion University student handbook.**
21. In addition to having proper citations within the text of your entry, **all papers must contain a bibliography (i.e., works cited page) that lists all sources (including the class text) that were used within the entry.** Formats for bibliography entries for our class notes, internet resources and text appear on the paper assignments page of our class web site. You must tailor the examples to fit your particular needs. **Papers that do not include complete bibliographies, or include incorrectly formatted bibliographies, will not receive a passing grade.** If you are having trouble generating the proper format for your bibliography visit our class web site (<http://www.thinkingshop.com/Clarion/intro/paper.htm>) or www.easybib.com for help with MLA formatted bibliographies.
22. If you receive a failing grade on a paper for any reason, there will be no opportunity to make it up or do extra credit.

Exams

23. NO MAKEUP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN UNLESS ARRANGEMENTS ARE MADE IN ADVANCE WITH THE INSTRUCTOR. IF YOU ARE ABSENT FOR THE FINAL EXAM, YOU WILL BE GIVEN A ZERO FOR THAT PART OF YOUR GRADE.

Students with Disabilities: It is Clarion University's policy to not discriminate against qualified students with documented disabilities in its educational programs. If you have a disability-related need for modifications in this class, contact your Instructor and a School Counselor (located in the Learning Center-Student Services Office). Instructors should be notified during the first week of classes.

Instructor Availability Outside of Class:

Phone: **HOME OFFICE: [10:00 AM – 10:00 PM ONLY MON-SAT]** 724-613-2727
 Web Site: <http://www.thinkingshop.com/Clarion/intro/index.htm>
 E-Mail: dbowser@clarion.edu (E-mail is the best way to contact me.)

Course Outline¹

WEEK	DATE	MATERIAL
1	9/2/10	Handout syllabus and introduce 3 areas of philosophy; assign intro. reading from web; set up reading: Philosophy for Laymen by Bernard Russell ²
2	9/9/10	1. Discuss Philosophy for Laymen (Russell). 2. Introduce Plato's <i>Euthyphro</i> (Five Dialogues , 1-20)

¹ **NOTE:** The pace of class lectures will vary depending on the activity at hand. The above schedule is a flexible outline and will be updated on the class web site weekly.

² Article can be found @ <http://users.drew.edu/~jlentz/br-lay-philosophy.html>

3	9/16/10	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Finish Plato's <i>Euthyphro</i>. 2. Introduce Plato's <i>Apology</i> (<u>Five Dialogues</u>, 21-44)
4	9/23/10	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Finish the <i>Apology</i>. 2. Introduce Plato's <i>Crito</i> (<u>Five Dialogues</u>, 45-57) 3. Writing workshop Part I from web site.
5	9/30/10	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Finish Plato's <i>Crito</i>. 2. <u>20 Questions</u> text: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Ch 7 Plato "The Myth of the Cave" p. 264
6	10/7/10	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. RESEARCH PAPER 1 DUE (Please remember to submit your paper electronically through the D2L Dropbox & Turn It In – see the paper guidelines above for more information.) 2. <u>20 Questions</u> text: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Ch. 16 Aristotle "Happiness and the Good Life", p. 584. ◆ Ch. 16 Confucius "The Analects", p.582. ◆ Ch. 3 Chuang-Tzu "A Taoist on Death", p. 102
7	10/14/10	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Finish seminar discussion for Ancient Philosophy. 2. Eastern Philosophy – <i>Kundun</i> video partial 3. Writing workshop Part II from web site.
8	10/21/10	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ONLINE: Ramakrishna: "Many Paths to the Same Summit", (http://www.thedragonscave.org/archives/tdc/sri_ramana_maharishi/RAMKRSN1.TXT). 2. ONLINE: Mike Butler: "Introduction to Buddhism", (http://www.buddhanet.net/filelib/genbud/butler.zip)
9	10/28/10	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. CH1: Tenzin Gyatso, The Fourteenth Dalai Lama "Compassion & the Individual" p. 35
10	11/4/10	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seminar: What is modernity? 2. CH6: Descartes': "Mind as Distinct From Body", p. 217 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Rationality vs. irrationality ◆ Mind-body ◆ Knowledge vs. Faith 3. Ch. 2: Kierkegaard: "The Leap of Faith...", p. 71
11	11/11/10	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ch. 16: Kant: "The Metaphysics of Morals", p. 594 2. Ch. 16: Mill: "Utilitarianism", p. 598
12	11/18/10	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ch. 16: Beauvoir: "Freedom and Morality", p.604 2. Ch. 18: Sartre: "Freedom and Responsibility", p. 660
13	12/2/10	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. RESEARCH PAPER 2 DUE (Please remember to submit your paper electronically through D2L Dropbox – see the paper guidelines above for more information.) 2. Ch. 19: Rawls: "Justice as Fairness", p. 692 3. Ch. 19: Young: "The Myth of Merit", p. 707
14	12/9/10	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ch. 20 - Adam Smith: Benefits of the Profit Motive p.725 2. Ch. 20 - Marx & Engels: The Immorality of Capitalism p. 729 3. Catch up and review for final 4. Review essay study questions for final from web guide questions.
15	12/16/10	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FINAL EXAM NO MAKE-UPS (Note: In the event that the final exam cannot be taken due to cancellation or severe weather, grades will be calculated based on a 10% grading scale that omits the final exam.)

NOTES: The final is scheduled for 12/16/10.

Paper Grading Rubric

The table below summarizes my method for evaluating your philosophy papers. When you read the chart below, it should be easy for you to see the criteria necessary for receiving various letter grades.

A	B	C	D	F
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceeds minimum requirement for length • Content includes references and quotes to the material covered in the readings • Material summarized or quoted from a primary or secondary source is cited in MLA format. • Student actively interprets material and devises original philosophical positions/solutions by synthesizing the new material with personal views & backing those views with factual evidence (properly cited & documented). • Student creatively introduces nuances/various possibilities for answering the journal question at hand. • Student makes additional references to contemporary situations taken from current events and applies reading material to these situations. • No grammar, punctuation, usage or spelling errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exceeds minimum requirement for length • Content includes references and quotes to the material covered in the readings • Material summarized or quoted from a primary or secondary source is cited in MLA format. • Student actively interprets material and devises original philosophical positions/solutions by synthesizing the new material with personal views & backing those views with factual evidence (properly cited & documented). • Less than three (3) grammar, punctuation, usage or spelling errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets minimum requirement for length • Content includes references to the material covered in the readings. Views are supported with factual evidence that is properly cited/documented • Material summarized or quoted from a primary or secondary source is cited in MLA format. • Less than three (3) grammar, punctuation, usage or spelling errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barely meets minimum requirements • Content does not reference readings or use quotes or factual, documented evidence to support student's position • No citations or quotes • At least three (3) grammar, punctuation, usage or spelling errors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not meet minimum requirements • More than five (5) grammar, punctuation, usage or spelling errors

Learning Contract – Clarion Intro to Philosophy

Semester/Year: _____

Student Name: _____

E-mail (must be checked regularly) _____

Cell Phone: _____ (optional – only if you would prefer a call versus an e-mail)

The contract terms below ensure that students are aware of the expectations that guide grading for the above course. By signing this contract you are acknowledging awareness of your responsibilities for completing this course. If you decline to sign, the conditions and requirements noted below will still apply. No exceptions will be made to the terms and conditions set forth below and in the syllabus.

TERMS:*Attendance:*

1. The following attendance policy is in effect for this course. If I miss 3 classes during the semester, a failing grade will result regardless of coursework or the various reasons for my absences.
2. Attendance in class is required and I realize that I am responsible for all material covered in class even if I do not attend.

Syllabus & Class Policies:

1. I have read and understand the course syllabus and class policies regarding conduct, coursework and exams.
2. I understand that it is my responsibility to regularly check the course web site (<http://www.thinkingshop.com/Clarion/intro/index.htm>) and calendar on the syllabus for announcements (web site) and assignment due dates (syllabus).

Reading Assignments:

1. This is an introductory level philosophy class. Reading assignments are geared toward undergraduates performing at the college level. Hence, it is customary to have to re-read assignments one or two times to get the gist of the information contained therein. Depending on my skill level and degree of focus, it may take three readings of a particular assignment to achieve adequate comprehension of the material.
2. All reading assignments should be completed BEFORE the lecture covering the material.
3. It is my responsibility to ask questions in class if I do not understand the material.
4. It is my responsibility to contact the instructor and/or get a tutor if I am having difficulty comprehending the material or meeting course requirements.

Exams:

1. I understand the no make-up policy.
2. Material for the short essay exams will come from assigned readings, guide questions, journal discussions and lectures.

Guide Questions:

1. I understand the difference between guide questions and paper assignments (indicated on syllabus).
2. I know that guide questions must be completed before the lecture.
3. If I miss a notebook check via absence or arriving late for class, the instructor will not award credit for guide questions.
4. Guide questions should be completed to help study for the final exam that is comprehensive.

Paper Assignments:

1. I understand the guidelines for writing papers. This means I have read the paper writing tips page on the web site.
2. It is my responsibility to save & submit my paper in electronic format through D2L to both the digital dropbox & Turn It In on/before the due date.
3. Papers may be turned in early with no penalty.
4. Late papers will not be accepted for any reason.

I have read and agree to the terms above.

Signed: _____

Date: _____