



About This Class

This class will provide you with a basic introduction to the western philosophical tradition from ancient times to the present. We will be approaching this task topically, touching on several of the most important and interesting issues in the field. However, in my opinion, a good philosophy class doesn't simply introduce you to important and interesting ideas, it also introduces you to the thinkers who developed and challenged those ideas throughout history.

Because of this, I have chosen selections from primary texts written throughout the whole history of the western philosophical tradition (which spans about twenty-five hundred years). These readings can be pretty difficult. Of course, it would be unreasonable to expect you to fully grasp difficult primary texts without the assistance of lectures and classroom discussion, so attendance and participation will be very important, but I find that lectures and discussions are best when the material being covered is deep and challenging.

What You Really Care About (Grades)

- Two Exams: 40% each (80% total)

This class is divided into two roughly equal sections. There will be one exam for each section, each consisting of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. You will be allowed to use a single-sided, handwritten page of notes for each exam. Also, about a week before each exam, I will distribute a list of essay questions from which I will select the ones that appear on the exam.

- Four Quizzes: 5% each (20% total)

I will place four multiple choice quizzes on Carmen. You will have a window of time to complete them outside of class. You may use your notes but no other resources during the quizzes.

- Extra Credit: up to 2%

I will be keeping track of attendance and participation. Those who are exceptionally good attenders and/or contribute most to classroom discussion will be given a point or two of extra credit at the end of the quarter.

Attendance Policy

If you need to miss class, please send me an email with the word “absence” in the subject explaining your reason. If you need to reschedule an exam, you must contact me before the end of the scheduled exam day.

Academic Integrity

I have absolutely no tolerance for cheating in any form. Students who are caught cheating will be given the strongest possible consequences allowed by the university. Students who cheat and are not caught will be haunted by the memory of their misdeeds for the rest of their miserable lives.

Disability Statement

Students needing accommodation due to the impact of a documented disability should contact me privately to discuss their needs. The Office of Disability Services will help you to coordinate reasonable accommodation: (614) 292-3307, 150 Pomerene Hall, www.ods.osu.edu

General Education Curriculum (GEC)

In the GEC, this course is classified under Arts and Humanities: Cultures and Ideas. As such, this course has the following expected learning outcomes:

1. Students develop abilities to analyze, appreciate, and interpret major forms of human thought and expression.
2. Students develop abilities to understand how ideas influence the character of human beliefs, the perception of reality, and the norms which guide human behavior.

Class Schedule

I am optimistic that we will keep to the following schedule, but I reserve the right to change it at any time. Changes to the schedule, if there are any, will be announced in class.

Date	Topic	Authors
Tue, Jan 13, 2015	Introductions	
Thu, Jan 15, 2015	The Cave	Plato 1
Tue, Jan 20, 2015	The Philosopher	Plato 2
Thu, Jan 22, 2015	Logic	<i>Handout</i>
Tue, Jan 27, 2015	Skepticism	Descartes
Thu, Jan 29, 2015	Explanation	Vogel
Tue, Feb 3, 2015	The Matrix as Metaphysics	Chalmers
Thu, Feb 5, 2015	Personal Identity I	Locke
Tue, Feb 10, 2015	Personal Identity II	Williams
Thu, Feb 12, 2015	Personal Identity III	Parfit
Tue, Feb 17, 2015	Time Travel I	Sider
Thu, Feb 19, 2015	Time Travel II	Lewis
Tue, Feb 24, 2015	Exam I	
Thu, Feb 26, 2015	Divine Attributes	Swinburne
Tue, Mar 3, 2015	Teleological Argument	Collins
Thu, Mar 5, 2015	Problem of Evil	Mackie
Tue, Mar 10, 2015	Theodicy	Hick
Thu, Mar 12, 2015	Pragmatic I	Pascal/Clifford
Tue, Mar 17, 2015	No Class - Spring Break	
Thu, Mar 19, 2015	No Class - Spring Break	
Tue, Mar 24, 2015	Pragmatic II	James
Thu, Mar 26, 2015	Utilitarianism I	Mill
Tue, Mar 31, 2015	Utilitarianism II	Pojman
Thu, Apr 2, 2015	Deontology I	Kant/O'Neill
Tue, Apr 7, 2015	Deontology II	Kant/O'Neill
Thu, Apr 9, 2015	Virtue Ethics I	Aristotle
Tue, Apr 14, 2015	Virtue Ethics II	Hursthouse
Thu, Apr 16, 2015	Poverty I	Singer
Tue, Apr 21, 2015	Poverty II	Arthur
Thu, Apr 23, 2015	Poverty III	Pogge
Wed, Apr 29, 2015	Exam II (usual time and place)	