

INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 11

University of California, Santa Cruz
Department of Philosophy
Summer 2015

Lecture: Tuesday and Thursday 1:00 – 4:30 PM in Social Sciences 2, 071
Discussion Section: Wednesdays 11:00-12:30 PM in Social Sciences 2, 179

Instructor

David Donley
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Teaching Assistant

Cynthia Tibbetts
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Course Description

This course provides an introductory historical survey of classic and contemporary approaches to some central topics in several key sub-disciplines of Western philosophy: metaphysics, epistemology, philosophy of mind, social and political philosophy and ethics. With a focus on Western philosophy's influential thinkers, this survey begins with Ancient Greek philosophy and concludes with 20th century Continental Philosophy. As a contrast to Western philosophy, the class will end with discussion of Buddhism and Taoism. Additionally, through the use of poetry, literature, music, and film, this course seeks to show philosophy's influence on and relevance to other textual mediums. Lastly, and most importantly, this course aims to engender critical reflection on our own assumptions about the nature of reality, knowledge, values, and human subjectivity.

Required Texts

Looking At Philosophy: The Unbearable Heaviness of Philosophy Made Lighter (5th or 6th Edition) by Donald Palmer. McGraw-Hill 2009 or 2012.

Other required readings will be available as PDFs on eCommons.

Course Requirements

1. Midterm Exam (35% of grade)
 - Date: Thursday, July 2.
 - This exam will consist of ten identification questions, five short answer questions, and three long essay questions.
 - The exam will cover the material from the first two weeks of class.

- Blue Book is required.
2. Final Paper (35% of grade)
 - 6-8 pages
 - Prompt and writing guidelines can be found on eCommons.
 - Due Date: Monday, July 27 by 11:55 PM on eCommons.
 3. Participation (15% of grade)
 - Attendance is mandatory for both lecture and discussion section. Given that summer session classes are only five weeks, attendance in every class is necessary to keep with the material in order to be well prepared for the exam and paper. More than one unexcused absence will result in the loss of the entire participation grade.
 - Active participation in class discussions and well-developed free writes is necessary to receive full credit for the participation grade.
 - The use of cell phones, computers, tablets, or other electronic devices for non-DRC related purposes will result in the loss of the entire participation grade.
 4. Daily Reading Quizzes (15% of grade)
 - A reading quiz of the material to be covered in the day's class will be administered at the beginning of each class, except for the first day and the day of the midterm.
 - Each quiz will consist of identification and/or short answer questions.
 - Missed quiz due to an unexcused absence *cannot* be made up.

Other Course Policies

- **Lateness policy:** Late assignments and make-up quizzes and tests are *not* allowed, except for documented emergencies/illness, DRC accommodations, or conflicts with religious observance. Please notify the instructor in advance of your need for an exception to course deadlines and attendance requirements.
- **Email policy:** Please direct any questions you may have regarding assignments, evaluative feedback, or administrative concerns to the instructor and/or TA. Note regarding all email correspondence: Please be kind and considerate. Because substantive philosophical questions about readings, arguments, or ideas often require back and forth discussion, they are best answered in person—during office hours, or class discussion.
- **Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course!** If you qualify for classroom accommodations because of a disability, please submit your Accommodation Authorization Letter from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to me after class or during my office hours, preferably within the first week of the Summer session. The sooner you let me know your situation, the sooner I can assist you. Contact DRC at 831-459-2089 or by email at drc@ucsc.edu. For more information please visit UCSC's Disability Resource Center homepage: <http://drc.ucsc.edu/index.shtml>.
- **Plagiarism policy:** You are responsible for being familiar with UCSC's policies on academic honesty (http://www1.ucsc.edu/academics/academic_integrity/index.html). Proper sourcing and good scholarship are expected. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and will not be tolerated. Plagiarism will be handled on a case-by-case basis. If you have any questions or concerns about how to avoid plagiarism and ensure the originality of your work, please ask us.
 - UCLA has helpful tips on avoiding plagiarism:

- <http://unitproj.library.ucla.edu/col/bruinsuccess/>
- “How Not to Plagiarize”:
<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/images/stories/Documents/how-not-to-plagiarize.pdf>

Summer Session Key Dates

June 29 – Drop Deadline
 July 10 – Withdrawal Deadline

Lecture and Reading Schedule (tentative and subject to change)

DATE	TOPIC	READING
Week 1 – June 23	Syllabus & What is Philosophy?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Syllabus • Palmer: Introduction • Russell: The Value of Philosophy*
	The Sophists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palmer: Chapter 2 (Sophists) • Marshall: The Sophists*
June 25	Socrates & Plato	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palmer: Chapter 2 (Socrates & Plato) • Plato: Allegory of the Cave*
Week 2 – June 30	Aristotle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palmer: Chapter 2 (Aristotle) • Aristotle: <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i>*
	Hellenistic Philosophy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palmer: Chapter 3 (except Neoplatonism) • Supplemental Reading TBA
July 2	Mid-term Exam	N/A
Week 3 – July 7	Continental Rationalism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palmer: Chapter 5 (Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz) • Descartes: <i>Meditations</i>*
	British Empiricism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palmer: Chapter 5 (Locke and Berkley)
July 9	British Empiricism (cont.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palmer: Chapter 5 (Hume)
	Kant’s Critical Philosophy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palmer: Chapter 5 (Kant) • “Maria von Herbert’s Challenge to Kant”*
Week 4 – July 14	Dialectic Philosophy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palmer: Chapter 6 (Hegel and Marx) • Marx: <i>The German Ideology</i>*
	Consequentialist Ethics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palmer: Chapter 6 (Utilitarianism, Bentham, Mill) • Mill: <i>Utilitarianism</i>*
July 16	Schopenhauer’s Pessimism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palmer: Chapter 6 (Schopenhauer)
	Nietzsche’s Aesthetics of Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Palmer: Chapter 6 (Nietzsche) • Nietzsche: <i>The Gay Science and Beyond</i>

		<i>Good and Evil</i> *
Week 5 – July 21	Existentialism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 6 (Kierkegaard) and Chapter 7 (Heidegger and Sartre) • Sartre: “Existentialism is a Humanism”*
	Postmodernism	Chapter 7 (Structuralism and Post-Structuralism through Derrida)
July 23	Postmodernism (cont.)	N/A
	Buddhism and Taoism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selections from Buddhist Philosophy*

*PDF available on eCommons