

Introduction to Philosophy

Phil 11
at Tu & Th 9am - 12:30pm
in Engineering 2, Room 194
University of California, Santa Cruz
Summer 2017
Department of Philosophy



Instructor

Jordan Dopkins
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TA

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Course Description

An introduction to the main areas of philosophy through critical reflection on and analysis of both classical and contemporary texts. Focuses on central and enduring problems in philosophy such as skepticism about the external world, knowledge in general, and the mind-body problem.

Required Texts

There are no required texts for the course. All readings will be made available as PDFs on the course Canvas site. You may find the following free ebooks helpful:

Guidelines on Writing a Philosophy Paper. Pryor, Jim. 2016.
<http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/writing.html>

A Rulebook for Arguments. Weston, Anthony. Hackett Publishing Co.(Indianapolis) 2000.
<http://books.google.com/books?id=FtRN5QKMBnEC>

Course Requirements

Forum Contributions (20% of final grade)

You must contribute two *original* posts to the discussion forum on Canvas every week. Posts can be on any topic related to course readings or discussion that week. Your posts must be 100 words each to receive credit.

Reading Quizzes (20% of final grade)

At the beginning of each class there will be a multiple choice quiz based on the readings assigned for that class. The quizzes are very easy, and are designed to make sure students have read the material. Only the seven highest reading quiz grades will count towards the final grade (the three lowest scores will be dropped). There are no make-ups on the reading quizzes.

Midterm Paper (25% of final grade) and Final Paper (35% of final grade)

For the midterm and final paper, you must write a 1200-1500 word paper. I will assign the prompts one week before the paper is due. 12 point Times New Roman or Helvetica fonts. Double Spaced. You may **not** use outside sources, and so, you will not need a reference page. Please include parenthetical citations to the course readings that include the author's name and the page number. Example :

“Several years have now elapsed since I first became aware that I had accepted, even from my youth, many false opinions for true ... ” (Descartes. P.1).

Course Policies

Late assignments and make-up 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.

Please direct any questions you may have regarding assignments, evaluative feedback, or administrative concerns to the instructor. 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. When sending an email include “PHIL 11” in the subject line.

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 from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to me after class or during my office hours, preferably within the first week of the 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> .

You are responsible for being familiar with UCSC's policies on academic honesty (http://www1.ucsc.edu/academics/academic_integrity/index.html). Remember that I forbid the use of outside sources in your midterm paper and final paper.

Reading Schedule

Week 1 - Plato

The Euthyphro, by Plato

excerpts from the *Phaedo* by Plato

Week 2 - Hellenistic Philosophy and Medieval Philosophy

excerpts from *Outlines of Scepticism* by Sextus Empiricus

excerpts from *Ordinatio* by John Duns Scotus

Week 3 - Early Modern Philosophy

excerpts from *Meditations on First Philosophy* by René Descartes

excerpts from *A Treatise of Human Nature* by David Hume

Week 4 - Phenomenology

excerpts from *The Phenomenology of Perception* by Maurice Merleau-Ponty

excerpts from *The Wretched of the Earth* by Franz Fanon

excerpts from *The Second Sex* by Simone de Beauvoir

Week 5 - Telepistemology and the Gettier Problem

Telepistemology: Descartes's Last Stand by Hubert Dreyfus

Is Justified True Belief Knowledge? by Edmund Gettier