INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY AS A WAY OF LIFE
PHIL 11 ONLINE (5 units)
Philosophy Department | University of California, Santa Cruz | Summer 2019

TEACHING TEAM:

David Donley, Instructor
Office Hours in Zoom: by appointment
Email: ddonley@ucsc.edu

Brian Blanchette, Teaching Assistant
Office Hours in Zoom: by appointment
Email: bblanch@ucsc.edu

Lindsay Cooley, Teaching Assistant
Office Hours in Zoom: by appointment
Email: lcooley@ucsc.edu

Mariana Imaz-Sheinbaum, Teaching Assistant
Office Hours in Zoom: by appointment
Email: mimazshe@ucsc.edu

Alyssa Maples, Teaching Assistant
Office Hours in Zoom: by appointment
Email: armaples@ucsc.edu

Kelvin Villegas, Teaching Assistant
Office Hours in Zoom: by appointment
Email: kevilleg@ucsc.edu

Assisting students with last names:
Aghili – Espinoza
Fajardo – La
Lahrs – Newens
Nguyen – Sung
Tao – Zuniga

Email policy: as questions arise regarding assignments and administrative or logistical concerns, first consult this syllabus and prompts/guidelines/checklists/rubrics for the assignment in question. If an answer cannot be found there, then it is appropriate to email your teaching assistant. Look above to see which teaching assistant will be supporting you in the course. If the teaching team receives emails whose questions are explicitly answered by the syllabus and assignment materials, then the student will be directed to consult those materials. With respect to substantive philosophical questions about readings, arguments, or concepts, adequately addressing them often require back and forth discussion, and thus they are best answered during office hours, as opposed to email. Note regarding all email correspondence: please be kind, considerate, and professional.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course provides an introductory historical survey of ancient approaches to central topics comprising philosophy as a way of life. We will consider issues connected to the nature of reality, knowledge, the human mind, the social and political realm, and morality that have a bearing on our capacity for a flourishing existence. This survey begins with Ancient Greek philosophy and concludes with Buddhism, as a contrast to Western philosophical practice. Most importantly, this course aims to engender meaningful contemplation on our own assumptions about the nature of reality, knowledge, and values as they relate to our own pursuit of a good life.

**REQUIRED MATERIALS/TECHNOLOGY:**

All course materials (readings, assignment/activity prompts, grading rubrics, etc.) will be accessible within the modules on Canvas. All student work will be submitted through Canvas.

All course content for each week can be found on Canvas (canvas.ucsc.edu). To access this content and complete assignments, you will need:

- A reliable computer and internet connection to access modules on Canvas
- A webcam and microphone to participate in office hours via Zoom
- A modern web browser (Firefox, Safari, Chrome) to load Canvas or device in which you can download the Canvas app
- Microsoft Word or equivalent word processing software to complete assignments is recommended

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

1. **Lecture Quizzes** (20% of final grade)
   - In each module, every lecture will be followed by a short quiz testing your basic comprehension of concepts and ideas presented in lecture; quizzes are intended as a low stakes assessment to ensure students are keeping up with course content.
   - Each quiz will consist of up to ten multiple choice, multiple answer, and true-and-false questions. Each quiz is worth 10 points.
   - **Grading Policy:** There will be 13 quizzes; the three lowest scores will be dropped. This results in 10 quizzes, each being worth 2% of the final grade. Missed quizzes cannot be made up.

2. **Reading Response Journal Entries** (40% of final grade)
   - Every week there will be primary source readings consisting of selections from the works of philosophers discussed in the lecture. Upon completion of the readings, a 500-word reading response journal will need to be completed each week. Prompts with specific requirements and grading rubric can be found in the modules.
   - Reading response journals provide opportunities to practice analysis and evaluation of conceptions of the good life we consider in the course.
   - **Grading Policy:** There will be a total of 5 journal entries, each worth 20 points. Each journal entry is worth 8% of the final grade.
• **Lateness Policy:** To receive full credit for a late submission, the submission must have at minimum a 750-word count. Otherwise, the submission will receive half-credit (10 points). The lack of submission is scored a zero.

3. **Participation in Discussion Forum** (40% of the final grade)
   - Each week, upon completion of lecture and reading components of modules, students will contribute to an online discussion forum in Canvas.
   - Students will craft an initial post of approximate 250 words and then reply to another post with an approximately 150-word response.
   - **Grading Policy:** There will be a total of 10 posts for the course [(1 initial post + 1 reply) x 5 weeks]. The two posts for each week are worth 20 points or 8% of the final grade.
   - **Lateness Policy:** To receive full credit for a late submission, the initial post must have at minimum a 350-word count and the reply must have at minimum a 200-word count. Otherwise, the submission will receive half-credit (10 points). A lack of submission is scored a zero.

### Grading Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>Reserved for a student whose performance consistently exceeds other students earning an A in the course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>96% - 100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>91% - 95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>86% - 90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>81% - 85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>76% - 80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>71% - 75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>66% - 70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>61% - 65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>56% - 60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>51% - 55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0% - 50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>&gt; 65%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Course Policies:

This following are policies and expectations that have been established for this course. These policies and expectations are intended to create a productive learning atmosphere for all students. Please bring any concerns you may have to the teaching team’s attention.

- **Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course!** UC Santa Cruz is committed to creating an academic environment that supports its diverse student body. If you are a student with a disability who requires accommodations to achieve equal access in this course, please submit your [Academic Access Letter](#) from...
the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to me privately during my office hours or by appointment, as soon as possible in the academic quarter, preferably within 1 week. I also encourage you to discuss with me ways we can ensure your full participation in this course. I encourage all students who may benefit to learn about the DRC and the UCSC accommodation process. You can visit the DRC website at drc.ucsc.edu. You can make an appointment and meet in-person with a DRC staff member. The phone number is 831-459-2089, or email drc@ucsc.edu.

- **Plagiarism policy:** You are responsible for being familiar with UCSC’s policies on academic misconduct (https://www.ue.ucsc.edu/academic_misconduct). 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.
  - UCSC’s library resource page: https://guides.library.ucsc.edu/citesources
  - UCLA has helpful tips on avoiding plagiarism: http://guides.library.ucla.edu/bruin-success/

**SUMMER SESSION KEY DATES:**

Monday, July 1 – Drop Deadline (tuition refund)
Friday, July 5 – Grade Change Option
Friday, July 12 – Withdrawal Deadline (no tuition refund)
Thursday, August 1 – Grades Due

**COURSE SCHEDULE (TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>MODULES</th>
<th>ACTIVITIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Module 1: Course Orientation and Introduction to Philosophy</td>
<td>• Lecture: “What is Philosophy?”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Orientation &amp; Lecture Quiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Readings: Syllabus &amp; Bertrand Russell’s “The Value of Philosophy”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Module 2: The Sophists &amp; The Figure of Socrates</td>
<td>• Lecture: “The Sophists &amp; the Figure of Socrates”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Lecture Quiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Module 3: Plato’s Academy</td>
<td>• Lecture: “Plato’s Academy”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Lecture Quiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Reading: Plato’s Symposium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Additional Components</td>
<td>• Complete Reading Response Journal Entry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Post on Discussion Forum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• All components must be completed by Saturday, June 29th at 11:59 PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Week 2 | Module 4: Aristotle’s Lyceum | • Lecture: “Aristotle’s Lyceum” and “Aristotle’s Six States of Character”  
• Lecture Quiz  
• Reading: Aristotle’s *Nicomachean Ethics* (selections) |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Module 5: Hellenistic Philosophy | • Lecture: “Hellenistic Schools: Introduction, Cynicism, & Skepticism”  
• Lecture Quiz |
| Module 6: Hellenistic Philosophy (continued) | • Lecture: “Hellenistic Schools: Epicureanism & Stoicism”  
• Lecture Quiz  
• Reading: Seneca’s *Moral Letters to Lucilius* (selections) |
| **Additional Components** | • Complete Reading Response Journal Entry  
• Post on Discussion Forum  
All components must be completed by Saturday, July 6th at 11:59 PM |

| Week 3 | Module 7: Ancient Western Philosophical Practice | • Lecture: “Spiritual Exercises & Concentration on the Self”  
• Lecture Quiz |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Module 8: Ancient Western Philosophical Practice (continued) | • Lecture: “Expansion of the Self”  
• Lecture Quiz  
• Reading: Aurelius’ *Meditations* (selections) |
| Module 9: The Figure of the Buddha | • Pre-Lecture Reflection  
• Lecture: “Introduction to Buddhism”  
• Lecture Quiz  
• Reading: *Pali Canon* (selections) |
| **Additional Components** | • Complete Reading Response Journal Entry  
• Post on Discussion Forum  
All components must be completed by Saturday, July 13th at 11:59 PM |

| Week 4 | Module 10: Early Buddhism (continued) | • Lecture: “Early Buddhism (continued)”  
• Lecture Quiz  
• Reading: *Pali Canon* (selections) |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Module 11: Introduction to Zen Buddhism | • Pre-Lecture Reflection  
• Lecture: “Introduction to Zen Buddhism”  
• Lecture Quiz  
• Reading: Laozi’s *Tao te Ching* (first half) |
| **Additional Components** | • Complete Reading Response Journal Entry  
• Post on Discussion Forum  
All components must be completed by Saturday, July 20th at 11:59 PM |
| Week 5 | Module 12: Zen Buddhism (continued) | • Lecture: “Zen Buddhism (continued)”
• Lecture Quiz
• Reading: Laozi’s *Tao te Ching* (second half) |
| --- | --- | --- |
| | Module 13: Philosophy as a Way of Life | • Lecture: “Philosophy as a Way of Life”
• Lecture Quiz
• Reading: Nietzsche’s *The Gay Science* (selections) |
| | Additional Components | • Complete Reading Response Journal Entry
• Post on Discussion Forum
All components must be completed by Friday, July 26th at 11:59 PM |