

SYLLABUS

Philosophy 1-A - Introduction to Philosophy
Kings River/Reedley Community College--Spring 1998

Instructor: David Crabtree - off campus phone: 855-8787 (7 a.m. to 7 p.m.) e-mail: dcrabtreepsnw.com
Office Hours: T/Th 11:00 to Noon or by appointment
Location: HE-54 (Reedley Campus)

Course Objectives:

This course will introduce you to some of the topics of philosophy. You will learn the value and use of the practice, (i.e., its scope, concerns purposes and methods) as it has been encountered by a number of specific philosophers and as it applies to daily living, through weekly reading assignments and regular class discussions. You will also be expected to demonstrate, through discussion and in writing, that you are familiar with and appreciate philosophical endeavors.

Course Content:

There will be three main content areas covered in this course: Epistemology, metaphysics, and ethics. You will be expected to understand these terms and use them by the end of the course. Several readings on appropriate topics will be discussed in each content area.

Epistemology. You will be expected to know various definitions of knowledge, the objects of knowledge, the distinctions between knowledge and belief, and the implications of several different epistemological points of view.

Metaphysics. The natures of the universe, mind, and God will be examined. You will be expected to understand and discuss the properties and problems associated with each. You will also be expected to understand and discuss some of the problems associated with the mind-body relationship as well as the relationships between free-will and determinism and between good and evil.

Ethics. Questions related to moral judgment and action will be investigated. You will be expected to understand and discuss the nature of and grounds for judgment of good and bad. You will also be expected to understand and discuss how several particular bases for good and bad become actualized through value systems into action.

Textbooks & Required Materials:

The Experience of Philosophy, 3rd ed., Daniel Kolak and Raymond Martin

Wisdom Without Answers, 3rd ed., Daniel Kolak & Raymond Martin

Meno, Plato, translated by G.M.A. Grube

A Man For All Seasons, Robert Bolt

Blue Books for exams

Important Dates: Drop Deadline Date: 3/13/98 Spring Recess: 4/6 to 4/10

Course Expectations

Time & Effort:

Most learning in college occurs as the result of study and/or preparation done outside of class. Class time is best used to clarify and explore, in depth, the issues studied outside of class. You can expect to spend between six and nine hours each week in addition to class time. If you are spending less, you are probably not doing enough to prepare or are not taking the course seriously.

Philosophy is mentally demanding. There is more to this course than memorizing some information that you might later reproduce on exams or in conversations. You will be expected to think about and evaluate the issues raised by the assignments and class discussions. You may find it helpful to regularly refer to some or all of the resources which accompany this syllabus. You may find it helpful to refer to other resources not listed or assigned.

Attendance & Participation:

The study and practice of philosophy requires that one engage in conversation. Since I must evaluate your work, I must be present, and able to participate, during some of your conversations. You, too, are expected to attend and participate in all classes. I understand that emergencies arise, and will tolerate four absences (two for night classes) without your grade being impacted. Tardiness, while less objectionable, is nonetheless impolite and shows, if frequent, a basic disrespect for your instructor and peers. Missing more than the equivalent of two weeks of class is grounds for a W or F grade (two tardies will be counted as one absence). Your grade will reflect the quality and quantity of your participation in the class conversation. If you do not regularly **attend and participate** in this class, you will fail the course.

Written Work:

All written assignments completed outside of class are to be **typewritten** and follow MLA guidelines. Written work completed in class should be written in black or blue ink. Exams will be completed in black or blue ink, in bluebooks you bring to class. Appropriate grammar is expected; poor grammar will have a negative effect on your grade. With this in mind, it is recommended that you find and use a reliable editor (proofreader). The tutorial center on campus is one source for assistance. Please use it.

Late Work & Extra Credit

Essays will be accepted (without penalty) up to one week late only if there is a written and justifiable explanation (explanation due at the time the assignment was due). Unexcused late papers will lose four percent for each day they are late. No papers will be accepted more than one week late. If you are ill (or have car/computer trouble?!), you are encouraged to make other arrangements to turn in your assignment. Quizzes and study questions will not be accepted late. There will be no extra credit opportunities in this course.

Grading:

Student grades will be based on both written and oral work. Regular participation in class discussions is required to pass this course. Study questions will be assigned for each reading. Study questions can be addressed with brief written answers (approximately one or two paragraphs will answer each question in most cases). On occasion there will be unscheduled "quizzes" on the content of assigned readings. There will be three Essays, 500 - 700 words in length (approximately 4-6 pages), assigned during the semester. A final exam will be given. Exams will use the essay format. The final grade will be determined from your point total.

Area	% of Grade	Final Grade	% Total
Attendance/Participation	35%	A	90% or above
Study Questions/Quizzes	30%	B	80% or above
Essays	25%	C	70% or above
Final Exam	10%	D	60% or above

Course Outline

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Reading assignments listed below will be discussed during the week shown. Each assignment should be read in advance. You can expect to be quizzed on the material at the beginning of each week. Study questions related to the reading assignments will be due the first class meeting of the week following its listing below.

- Week 1. Syllabus, Course Outline & Guide to Writing Philosophy Papers
Wisdom: Preface & Introduction
- Week 2. Experience: Plato - p. 2
- Week 3. Experience: Milgram, Krishnamurti, & Walters - p. 19
- Week 4. Experience: Einstien, Kolak & Goloff, & Dennett - p. 36
Wisdom: Chapter 1 & 2
- Week 5. Bolt
Video - "A Man For All Seasons"
- Week 6. Experience: Locke - p. 68, Hume - p. 77
Wisdom: Chapter 3
Essay 1 Due - Pick a Philosopher.
- Week 7. Experience: Perry - p. 81 & Kundera - p. 118
- Week 8. Experience: Holbach & Hume - p. 130
Wisdom: Chapter 4 & 8
- Week 9. Experience: James & Taylor - p. 150
- Week 10. Experience: Descartes & Locke - p. 172 Berkeley & Russell - p. 184
Wisdom: Chapter 5 & 7
Video - "Knowledge or Certainty"
Essay 2 Due - Pick a Problem or Question.
- Week 11. Experience: Anselm, Aquinas & Pascal - p. 222 Clifford & James - p. 231
Wisdom: Chapter 6 & 10
- Week 12. Experience: Kolak - p. 244 & Martin - p. 265 & Wiredu - p. 281
Wisdom: Chapter 11
- Week 13. Experience: Mill - p. 556 & Bennett - p. 568
Wisdom: Chapter 13
- Week 14. Experience: Russell - p. 623 & Plato p. 544 & p. 588
Wisdom: Chapter 14
Essay 3 Due - Pick A Problem or Question.
- Week 15. Meno
- Week 16. Bolt
Review Course
- Week 17. Final Exam