

Philosophy 1: Introduction to Philosophy

Instructor Information

Dr. Elizabeth Rard
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Office: Virtual
Office Hours:
 M 1:00-2:30
 T 10:30-11:30
 W 9:00-10:30
 F 9:30-10:30

Course Information

Introduction to Philosophy
PHIL-1-53734
Fall 2020

Delivery: 100% Online
Asynchronous Lectures

Recorded Synchronous Discussion: Thursdays 9:30-10:30

*Attendance at the discussion is encouraged but is not mandatory. Inability to attend will not impact your grade.

Description

This course introduces students to traditional and contemporary views in metaphysics, epistemology, and value-theory. Topics may include the sources and limits of knowledge, the nature of reality, the relationship between mind and body, free will and determinism, the existence of God, and the nature of morally right action. Readings will include selections drawn from the primary texts of Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas, Descartes, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, or Kant, as well as various twentieth century philosophers.

Required Text

We will be using Online Educational Resource texts as our primary texts. The texts can be found (for free!) at:

<http://philosophy.lander.edu/intro/introbook-links.html>

<https://pressbooks.bccampus.ca/classicreadings/>

In addition, supplemental readings will be posted to Canvas throughout the semester. A reading list will be available on Canvas with directions for finding all readings. The list will be updated as the semester goes on.

Grading

| | | |
|---------------------|-----|-----------|
| Weekly Posts | 12% | (12 @ 1%) |
| Reading Reports | 12% | (2 @ 6%) |
| Paper Outline | 5% | (1 @ 5%) |
| Argumentative Paper | 20% | (1 @ 20%) |
| Quizzes | 12% | (12 @ 1%) |
| Midterm Exams: | 24% | (2 @ 12%) |
| Final Exam: | 15% | (1 @ 15%) |

Final Grade Breakdown:

| Percent of total points | Grade |
|-------------------------|-------|
| 90-100 | A |
| 80-89.99 | B |
| 70-79.99 | C |
| 60-69.99 | D |
| 50-59.99 | F |

Course Policies

Course Communication policy

Keeping in contact with your instructor is key to your success in any course. Here is some important information about how we'll keep in touch throughout the semester.

Where to find everything:

- **Canvas:** All course materials, instructions, assignments, etc. will be posted on Canvas. New course content will be released every Monday between 12:00-1:00. Course content will be organized in weekly modules.

How you can contact me:

- **Email:** You can contact me by sending an email to me at elizabeth.rard@reedleycollege.edu, or by messaging me through Canvas. When contacting me please include your **full name and class number** in the subject line of your message, and observe professional email etiquette. If emailing me directly please use only your official SCCCD email account. I am available Monday-Friday between the hours of 9am and 5pm and will respond to your email within 24 hours.
- **Office Hours:** During my office hours I am available via either of the above methods. In addition, I will be available through Zoom for live one-on-one video and audio drop in office hours. Please see the **Office Hours Page** of the **Introduction Module** for my up-to-date office hour schedule, and for more information about how to join office hours using Zoom.

How I will contact you:

- **Class Announcements:** I will post weekly class announcements on Canvas that will include reminders about upcoming assignments, any changes to our plan, or any other important information that I need to share with the class. Students are expected to check class announcements regularly on our course page.
- **Individual Messages:** If I need to get in contact with you specifically I will send a message through the Canvas inbox. Students are expected to check their SCCCD email regularly to monitor for any important communications.

Attendance and Drop Policy

Students are expected to participate consistently and regularly in all parts of this course throughout the semester.

- **Week One Drop:** During the first week of class students must post an introduction message or video in the **Introduction Discussion**. Any student who does not post by **noon on Friday of the first week of class** will be dropped as a no show.
- **Attendance:** Each week students are expected to post to a weekly discussion board, and complete a quiz on the weekly material. Attendance will be recorded based on completion of these two assignments. Failure to complete either will count as an absence (up to **two absences per week**). If a student has **more than four absences** prior to the end of Week 9 they may be **dropped from the class**. Please contact your instructor immediately in case of any emergency situation that results in more than four absences. **During exam weeks** completion of the exam will count as your attendance for the week.

Late Work Policy

Staying on top of course work is crucial to a smooth and successful semester. The late penalties outlined below are designed to help you stay on track and not fall behind. That being said I realize that sometimes life gets in the way. Always communicate with your instructor (me!) in a timely fashion if events occur that will prevent your timely completion of class assignments.

- **Quizzes and discussion posts:** These assignments are given weekly and are time sensitive. Both will become available at **noon on Monday** of the week they are given, and will close at **noon on Monday of the following week**. Once these assignments have closed they cannot be made up. Note: These assignments also count as your attendance for the week. The two lowest scores for each will be dropped.
- **Exams:** Make-up exams will only be given with documented proof of a valid excuse (such as hospitalization). If you know in advance that you will need to miss an exam contact your instructor immediately to discuss your options. Exams will be timed by may be completed any time during the exam week. Exams will be posted at **noon on Monday** and will close at **noon on Monday of the following week**.
- **All other assignments:** All other assignments (such as essays, problem sets, writing assignments etc.) can be submitted past the due date. If an assignment is not **submitted by the deadline** it will receive a 10% penalty. If an assignment is more than **24 hours late** the penalty will increase

to 20%. No additional penalties will be added. **No late work will be accepted after Friday at 2:00 pm of Week 17** (the last week of regular class).

Coursework

Reading Assignments

Students are expected to complete readings during the week that they are posted. Reading assignments will relate to the class lectures and discussions occurring during the week that they are posted.

Discussion Board Posts

Students are required to post to a weekly discussion board, and to reply to at least three fellow classmates per week. Specific directions will be provided each week. Students need to make their **initial post** by **2:00 pm on Friday** of the week they are due, and must post **responses** to other students by **noon on the following Monday**. Please follow academic etiquette when interacting on discussion boards. It's fine (and even encouraged) to question or disagree with someone's post, but always do so in a way that is respectful and has a goal of fostering communication and intellectual exploration.

Reading Reports

Students will write two reading reports. Further directions for this assignment will be posted on Canvas

Argumentative Paper

Students will write one main argumentative paper in which they must demonstrate an understanding of one major issue in the history of philosophy. Students will be required to construct original arguments supporting a thesis that takes a side on the issue, as well as give a critical evaluation of some of the classic arguments surrounding the issue. Further instructions for this assignment will be provided in class or on Canvas. There will be a corresponding outline assignment.

Quizzes

During non-exam weeks students will be expect to complete short, multiple-choice quizzes. The quizzes will contain approximately 5 questions and you will have 20 minutes to complete the quiz.

Examinations

There will be **three** exams in this course (two midterms and a final). They will be cumulative but will emphasize the material covered since the last exam. Anything in the readings or discussed in class is fair game for the exams. The exams will be open book/open note and will focus on explanation and analysis of the views we have discussed, rather than just memorization.

Where to find your grade

Grades will be available on Canvas. Assignment/exam scores will be posted to Canvas.. **IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT TO BRING ANY MISSING/WRONG SCORES TO THE ATTENTION**

OF THE INSTRUCTOR ASAP. All problems must be reported to the instructor within 24 hours of the final exam. After that scores will not be changed. Any student with a question about their current grade in the course should feel encouraged to contact the instructor.

Special Needs Requests

If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (i.e., Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact your instructor as soon as possible.

Academic Dishonesty

Students at Reedley College are entitled to the best education that the college can make available to them, and they, their instructors, and their fellow students share the responsibility to ensure that this education is honestly attained. Because cheating, plagiarism, and collusion in dishonest activities erode the integrity of the college, each student is expected to exert an entirely honest effort in all academic endeavors. Academic dishonesty in any form is a very serious offense and will incur serious consequences.

Cheating

Cheating is the act or attempted act of taking an examination or performing an assigned, evaluated task in a fraudulent or deceptive manner, such as having improper access to answers, in an attempt to gain an unearned academic advantage. Cheating may include, but is not limited to, copying from another's work, supplying one's work to another, giving or receiving copies of examinations without an instructor's permission, using or playing notes or devices inappropriate to the conditions of the examination, allowing someone other than the officially enrolled student to represent the student, or failing to disclose research results completely.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a specific form of cheating: the use of another's words or ideas without identifying them as such or giving credit to the source. Plagiarism may include, but is not limited to, failing to provide complete citations and references for all work that draws on the ideas, words, or work of others, failing to identify the contributors to work done in collaboration, submitting duplicate work to be evaluated in different courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors involved, or failing to observe computer security systems and software copyrights.

Incidents of cheating and plagiarism may result in any of a variety of sanctions and penalties, which may range from a failing grade on a particular examination, paper, project, or assignment in question to a failing grade in the course, at the discretion of the instructor and depending on the severity and frequency of the incidents.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Articulate metaphysical, epistemological, and ethical themes in the works of Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas, Descartes, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, or Kant, as well as some representative twentieth century philosophers.
2. Apply standards for argument assessment in evaluating the arguments of the great philosophers and the arguments that the students themselves create.

Objectives

In the process of completing this course, students will:

1. Achieve a familiarity with and appreciation of the philosophic endeavor as a whole (i.e., its scope, concerns, purpose, and methods), the specific endeavors of a number of well-known philosophers, and the relevance of philosophical inquiry to their own lives.
2. Demonstrate that familiarity and appreciation through discussion and writing.
3. Recognize, describe, and distinguish between metaphysical, epistemological, and value-theoretic issues in a variety of texts.
4. Develop skills pertaining to the recognition, clarification, and evaluation of arguments, which they can apply both to the arguments of others and to those of their own making.

Advisories

ENGL 1A or ENGL 1AH Reading and Composition

The following course schedule is **tentative**. The amount of time we spend on any given paper/topic will be partly determined by the energy of the discussion and the level of participation. Material will be removed from the schedule to allow for more in depth discussion when required. Any changes to the schedule will be announced in class ahead of time.

| Week | Plan |
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| Week 1 8/10 - 8/14 | <p><u>Content</u></p> <p>Introduction to the course</p> <p>What is philosophy</p> <p>Zoom Discussion: Thursday 9:30-10:30 (attend or watch)</p> <p><u>Assignments</u></p> <p>Welcome Discussion Post: Due at noon on 8/14. Failure to post will result in being dropped as a no-show.</p> <p>Quiz Week 1</p> |
| Week 2 8/17 -8/21 | <p><u>Content</u></p> <p>Overview of Philosophy: Branches and Time Periods</p> <p>Thales</p> <p>Zoom Discussion: Thursday 9:30-10:30 (attend or watch)</p> <p><u>Assignments</u></p> <p>Discussion Post Week 2</p> <p>Quiz Week 2</p> <p><u>Important Dates</u></p> <p>8/21 is the last day to drop with a refund</p> |

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| <p>Week 3 8/24 – 8/28</p> | <p>Content</p> <p>Heraclitus Xenophanes Zoom Discussion: Thursday 9:30-10:30 (attend or watch)</p> <p>Assignments</p> <p>Discussion Post Week 3 Quiz Week 3 Reading Report 1 Due 8/28</p> <p>Important Dates</p> <p>8/28 is the last day to drop to avoid a 'W' in person. 8/30 is the last day to drop to avoid a 'W' on WebAdvisor</p> |
| <p>Week 4 8/31 – 9/4</p> | <p>Content</p> <p>Pythagoras Parmenides Zoom Discussion: Thursday 9:30-10:30 (attend or watch)</p> <p>Assignments</p> <p>Discussion Post Week 4 Quiz Week 4</p> |
| <p>Week 5 9/7 – 9/11</p> | <p>Content</p> <p>Plato's Apology Zoom Discussion: Thursday 9:30-10:30 (attend or watch)</p> <p>Assignments</p> <p>Discussion Post Week 5 Quiz Week 5</p> <p>Important Dates: 9/7 Labor Day (no classes) 9/11 Last Day to change to/from Pass/No Pass grading</p> |
| <p>Week 6 9/14 – 9/18</p> | <p>Content</p> <p>Introduction to Part 2</p> <p>Assignments</p> <p>MIDTERM: Released at noon on 9/14 Due at noon on 9/21</p> |
| <p>Week 7 9/21 – 9/25</p> | <p>Content</p> <p>Plato's Theory of the Forms Zoom Discussion: Thursday 9:30-10:30 (attend or watch)</p> <p>Assignments</p> <p>Discussion Post Week 7 Quiz Week 7</p> |
| <p>Week 8</p> | <p>Content</p> |

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| <p>9/28 – 10/2</p> | <p>Aristotle Zoom Discussion: Thursday 9:30-10:30 (attend or watch)</p> <p>Assignments</p> <p>Discussion Post Week 8 Quiz Week 8 Reading Report 2 Due 10/2</p> |
| <p>Week 9 10/5 – 10/9</p> | <p>Content</p> <p>Anselm Aquinas Zoom Discussion: Thursday 9:30-10:30 (attend or watch)</p> <p>Assignments</p> <p>Discussion Post Week 9 Quiz Week 9</p> <p>Important Dates: 10/9 Last day to drop a full-term class</p> |
| <p>Week 10 10/12 -10/16</p> | <p>Content</p> <p>Pascal Paley Problem of Evil Zoom Discussion: Thursday 9:30-10:30 (attend or watch)</p> <p>Assignments</p> <p>Discussion Post Week 10 Quiz Week 10</p> |
| <p>Week 11 10/19 – 10/23</p> | <p>Content</p> <p>Descartes' Method of Doubt Zoom Discussion: Thursday 9:30-10:30 (attend or watch)</p> <p>Assignments</p> <p>Paper Outline Due 10/23 Discussion Post Week 11 Quiz Week 11</p> |
| <p>Week 12 10/26 – 10/30</p> | <p>Content</p> <p>Introduction to Part 3</p> <p>Assignments</p> <p>MIDTERM: Released at noon on 10/26 Due at noon on 11/2</p> |

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| <p>Week 13 11/2 – 11/6</p> | <p>Content</p> <p>Descartes' Mind Body Dualism Problems of Mind Body Dualism Theories of Mind Zoom Discussion: Thursday 9:30-10:30 (attend or watch)</p> <p>Assignments</p> <p>Discussion Post Week 13 Quiz Week 13</p> |
| <p>Week 14 11/9 – 11/13</p> | <p>Content</p> <p>Locke on Identity Zoom Discussion: Thursday 9:30-10:30 (attend or watch)</p> <p>Assignments</p> <p>Discussion Post Week 14 Quiz Week 14</p> <p>Important Dates 11/11 Veterans Day (no classes)</p> |
| <p>Week 15 11/16 – 11/20</p> | <p>Content</p> <p>Hume on Identity Zoom Discussion: Thursday 9:30-10:30 (attend or watch)</p> <p>Assignments</p> <p>Discussion Post Week 15 Quiz Week 15</p> |
| <p>Week 16 11/23 – 11/27</p> | <p>Content</p> <p>The Problem of Free Will</p> <p>Assignments</p> <p>Final Paper Due 11/18 at 2:00 pm Quiz Week 16</p> <p>Important Dates 11/26-11/27 Thanksgiving Holiday (no classes)</p> |
| <p>Week 17 11/30 – 12/4</p> | <p>Content</p> <p>Various Solutions to the Problem of Free Will Zoom Discussion: Thursday 9:30-10:30 (attend or watch)</p> <p>Assignments</p> <p>Discussion Post Week 17 All late work due by 2:00 pm on 12/4</p> |
| <p>Week 18 12/7 – 12/11</p> | <p>Assignments</p> <p>Final Exam is Due by 2:00 pm on 12/9</p> |

