

Introduction to Philosophy
PHIL-1-55345
Spring 2020
MW 2:00-3:15
CCI 204

Instructor: Dr. Elizabeth Rard
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Office Hours: MW 12:00-12:50
TR 12:00-1:20
Or by Appointment

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:

Participation	10%	
Reading Reports	10%	(2 @ 5%)
Paper Outline	5%	
Argumentative Paper	20%	(1 @ 20%)
Quizzes	8%	(8 @ 1%)
Midterm Exams:	30%	(2 @ 15%)
Final Exam:	17%	(1 @ 17%)

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

Attendance: Students who have more than **4 absences during the first half of the semester may be dropped from the class.** Attendance will be taken at the very beginning of class. If you are not in your seat at the start of class, you will be marked absent. If you are late you **must raise your hand at the end of class until the instructor indicates that you have been marked as present.** There are **NO** excused

absences so save your absences for when you need them. In case of extreme circumstances contact your instructor.

NOTE: The instructor does not guarantee that students will be dropped after having more than 4 unexcused absences. Hence, if you decide to drop this class it is your responsibility to actually drop the class. Failure to do so may result in a grade of 'F' for this course.

Coursework:

Reading Assignments: Students are expected to complete readings before class and come prepared to discuss the readings. The date the reading is listed on the syllabus is the date we will be discussing the material so you need to read the sections prior to the class period the readings are listed for. It is recommended that students read all material at least twice, taking notes or creating outlines of the reading from which they can study.

Participation: Students are expected to come to class regularly having reviewed the assigned material. Students may not work on anything from another class during class time, nor may they use electronic devices for any purpose other than those related to this course (except in case of emergency). Students may use laptops for class related activities such as viewing the textbook or taking notes. **To earn participation points** students must attend lecture regularly and participate in class discussions by asking questions or contributing comments. Some participation points can be earned by attending office hours, or by emailing your instructor with questions, although the bulk of your points must come from in-class participation. Merely showing up to lectures regularly will not be sufficient to earn full points for participation. In addition, there will be several opportunities to earn some points through online activities during the semester.

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.

Seating Chart: A seating chart will be created during the first week of class. Students must sit in their assigned seats. Students who wish to change their assigned seats must ask the instructor. This is so that your instructor can keep track of your participation and be aware of your attendance levels, but more importantly it is so she can start to learn your names!

Quizzes: Quizzes will be given at the beginning of class and will cover material discussed in the last 1-2 meetings. Quizzes cannot be made-up, but you only need to take 8 out of the 9 quizzes. If you take all 9 quizzes the lowest quiz score will be dropped.

Examinations: There will be **three** exams in this course (two midterms and a final). The Final 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. **Points may be taken off of your exam if you come to the exam late or if your cell phone makes noise during the exam.**

Behavioral Standards: Students are expected to do their best to be on time. Students should silence all cell phones before entering the classroom. **CELL PHONE USE IN CLASS IS ONLY PERMITTED FOR EMERGENCIES.** All students will treat each other with professional courtesy at all times. Students should participate regularly in class discussions and are encouraged to ask questions. Unless otherwise prompted, students should raise hands when they have questions or comments. Discussion with other students during class work is encouraged, provided the focus of the discussion is the work being completed. Please do not whisper amongst yourselves while the instructor is lecturing, or while a fellow classmate is addressing the class with a question or comment. This is because such behavior is disrespectful to your fellow classmates, and because whispering, no matter how softly, is distracting to others. If you have a question during lecture then please raise your hand!

Late work/Absences:

Exams: Make-up **exams** will be granted on a case-by-case basis with **proof** of a valid excuse required. The instructor has final say as to what constitutes a valid excuse. If possible, students must discuss make-up exams with the instructor prior to the date of the exam. Failure to contact the instructor as soon as possible regarding missed exams may result in a score of 0 for the exam. Failure to provide documentation of a valid excuse may result in a score of 0 for the exam.

Late assignments: Late assignments will receive a 1/3 letter grade deduction per day (not per class day). All assignments are due at the beginning of class. A 10-minute grace period will be given to allow for parking and printer issues. After that the first 1/3 grade deduction begins and will continue until midnight on the following day. At that time, a second deduction of 1/3 grade will be incurred. Thereafter another 1/3 will be added at midnight every day. Exceptions will only be made with proof of a valid excuse (such as hospitalization), and are at the discretion of the instructor. No late work will be accepted after the last day of regular class.

Where to find your grade: Grades will be available on Canvas. Assignment/exam scores will be posted to Canvas prior to them being returned to students. **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 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 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

Important Dates:

1/31 LAST DAY TO DROP A FALL 2018 FULL-TERM CLASS TO AVOID A "W" IN PERSON
2/2 LAST DAY TO DROP A FALL 2018 FULL-TERM CLASS TO AVOID A "W" ON WEBADVISOR
3/13 LAST DAY TO DROP A FULL-TERM CLASS

OBSERVED HOLIDAYS (NO CLASS):

1/20 MLK, Jr. Day
2/14 Lincoln Day
2/17 Washington Day
4/6-4/10 Spring Recess

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.

Date	Plan
1/13	Introduction
1/15	Thales, Xenophanes
1/20	NO CLASS: MLK, Jr. DAY
1/22	Pythagoras
1/27	Heraclitus Quiz
1/29	Parmenides
2/3	Zeno READING REPORT 1 DUE Quiz
2/5	Plato: Apology
2/10	Plato: Apology Quiz
2/12	Plato: The Myth of the Cave and the Divided Line
2/17	NO CLASS: MLK, Jr. Day
2/19	Plato/Aristotle
2/24	Review
2/26	MIDTERM EXAM 1
3/2	Aristotle: Substance, Cause and Change
3/4	Anselm: The Ontological Argument READING REPORT 2 DUE Quiz
3/9	Aquinas: The Five Ways
3/11	Pascal: On the Wager for God's Existence Paley: On the Teleological Argument Quiz

3/16	Descartes: On Doubt and Certainty
3/18	Descartes cont. Paper Outline Due Quiz
3/23	Descartes cont.
3/25	Locke: Of Identity and Diversity Quiz
3/30	Review
4/1	MIDTERM EXAM 2
4/6-4-10	NO CLASS: SPRING RECESS
4/13	Locke cont.
4/15	Hume: Of Personal Identity
4/20	Hume: On Liberty and Necessity
4/22	Hume cont. Quiz
4/27	Kant: On the Sources of Knowledge
4/29	Kant cont. Quiz
5/4	Dennett: Where am I? Argumentative Paper Due
5/6	Dennett: Where am I?
5/11	Gettier: Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?
5/13	Review

FINAL EXAM: 5/18/20 2:00-3:50