Syllabus
Introduction to Philosophy
PHIL 1000: Section 001 Class # 6831
Designation: HF
Credit: 3 Units

Instructor: Dr. Chapman Waters
Office: CTIH3 441
Office Hours: Mon & Wed 3:10 - 5pm
Email (preferred method of communication): chapman.waters@utah.edu
Class Location: CTIB 101
Class Time: MWF: 9:40am – 10:30am
Prerequisites: none

Course Description

In this course we will introduce and critically examine some of the ideas, themes, and problems found in the Western philosophical tradition. Students will be introduced to matters of philosophical interest such as the existence of God, perception and the nature of knowledge, the relationship between the mind and the body, persons and personal identity, and free will.

Learning Outcomes and Course Goals

Although we will often examine important ideas found in the history of Western philosophy, the primary objective of this course is not to provide students with a list of historical facts. The primary aim, for us, is to engage with the philosophical issues themselves via rigorous philosophical analysis. As such, a secondary objective of this course is to help students develop critical thinking and writing skills that are useful both in and out of the classroom. Students will learn about, and be expected to understand, the basic properties of arguments, characteristics of good arguments, characteristics of bad arguments, how to carefully and critically analyze the arguments of others, and how to develop and defend arguments of one’s own.

Required Text


All remaining readings will be available on the course CANVAS page.

Grading

Grades will be given on a 0-100 point grading scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100-93</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>92-90</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89-87</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86-83</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Final grades will be determined by short writing assignments, online discussion, three in-class exams, and class participation. These will be weighted as follows:

- **15%** Short Writing Assignments
- **15%** Online Discussion
- **20%** Exam 1
- **25%** Exam 2
- **25%** Final exam
- **0%** Class Participation

**THREE SHORT WRITING ASSIGNMENTS**
Short writing assignments will require that you respond to a question, or reading prompt, in no more than two paragraphs (300 words). There will be a total of five such assignments provided during the semester. You must turn in at least three of these. *It is your responsibility to ensure that you’ve turned in all three by the end of the semester.* Short writing assignments will be “pass/fail,” that is, you will receive full points for each assignment that you turn in and no points for any assignments that you fail to turn in. However, if the instructor finds that an assignment does not reflect a serious attempt to engage with the issues or questions specified in the assignment’s prompt, it will not count as submitted. Instructions for each assignment will be provided to you in class and on Canvas a reasonable amount of time before they are due. See the “SWA Guidelines” document on the Canvas course webpage for additional information.

**ONLINE DISCUSSION**
After you turn in a short writing assignment, all students who completed that assignment will be broken up into groups and required to engage in an Online Discussion about the relevant topic, question, or issue. You will do this online, through the Canvas course webpage. Online discussion grades will be given to each student individually, at the end of the semester. These will be based on the quality of the student’s contribution to online discussions over the entire semester. Additional information about online discussion, along with a grading rubric, will be provided on the Canvas course webpage.

**EXAMS**
Exams are designed to test students’ understanding of course content. All questions will be multiple choice. In addition to straightforward factual questions, there will also be questions that require students to think more critically about course topics. For instance, students may be asked to apply their understanding of a particular topic to a novel situation (more details later). The final exam is not cumulative.

**CLASS PARTICIPATION**
Officially, class participation counts for 0% of your final grade, but it can potentially help you. Participation will be taken into account at the end of the semester when calculating final grades. If a student is within 2 percentage points of a higher grade, then the student’s
participation in classroom discussion (or lack thereof) will be taken into consideration. No students will receive a lower grade in virtue of a lack of participation.

**Teaching and Learning Methods**

**Canvas:** I will use Canvas to distribute course materials (course schedule, readings, handouts, study guides, etc.) to students.

**Lecture:** Typically, lectures will proceed on the basis of typed handouts. These will be posted in the Course Schedule, on CANVAS, at least 24 hours before each lecture. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO PRINT OUT HANDOUTS AND BRING THEM TO CLASS. I won’t have extras and you’ll want to have them in front of your during lectures.

**Course Policies**

**Attendance** — Officially, I don’t take it. If you have to show up late to class, that’s fine. Come in when you can, but please do so quietly. It’s better you show up late than miss an entire class.

**Excused Absences:** In the absence of justifiable prior arrangements or cases of serious, unexpected and documented medical emergencies or bereavement, exams must be taken as scheduled. For circumstances that are not emergencies, students must send the instructor a request to take the exam at another time; this request should be sent a sufficient amount of time before the officially scheduled exam for the student to learn whether the excuse is acceptable.

**Academic Integrity:** You are expected to do your own work on all exams. The minimum penalty for cheating is a failing grade in the course. You will also be reported to the University’s Academic Misconduct Committee. Students are responsible for knowing and understanding the University’s policy on academic misconduct. For further information about this, consult the following website:

https://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.php.

**Course Conduct:** Students are expected to be respectful to each other and the instructor. Try your best to arrive on time and please do not start packing up your things before the class has ended.

**Electronic Devices:** Please put all electronic devices (cell phones, pagers, etc.) on silent or vibrate when class is in session.

**CANVAS:** The CANVAS course page will provide a detailed course schedule that will be updated as we go. (Below, there is a general indication of the topical progression of the course, as well as dates of exams and assignments; if you want to see the “official” course schedule, however, you should consult the CANVAS course page.)

**Course Schedule**

Below, I’ve provided a general outline of the course schedule. However: *this syllabus is NOT a binding legal contract.* I reserve the right to revise this schedule (including dates of exams and assignments) as I see fit. If there are any changes regarding exams or anything else, they will be reflected in the official “Course Schedule” on the CANVAS course page.

**Week 1: Introduction and Preliminaries**
Monday 8/19 Syllabus
Wednesday 8/21 Branches of Philosophy
Friday 8/23 Logic and Arguments

**Week 2: Philosophy of Religion**

Monday 8/26
Wednesday 8/28 Arguments for the Existence of God
Friday 8/30

**Week 3: Philosophy of Religion**

Monday 9/2 (Labor Day No Class)
Wednesday 9/4 Arguments for/against the Existence of God
Friday 9/6

**Week 4: Philosophy of Religion**

Monday 9/9 Short Wring Assignment 1
Wednesday 9/11 Arguments for/against the Existence of God
Friday 9/13

**Week 5: Epistemology**

Monday 9/16
Wednesday 9/18 Knowledge and Reality
Friday 9/20

**Week 6: Epistemology**

Monday 9/23
Wednesday 9/25 Knowledge and Reality
Friday 9/27 EXAM 1

**Week 7: Epistemology**

Monday 9/30
Wednesday 10/2 The Problem of Induction
Friday 10/4 Short Writing Assignment 2

**Week 8: FALL BREAK**

Monday 10/7
Wednesday 10/9 No Class
Friday 10/11

**Week 9: The Philosophy of Mind**
Monday 10/14
Wednesday 10/16       The Mind-Body Problem
Friday 10/18 (Last day to withdraw)

**Week 10: The Philosophy of Mind**

Monday 10/21
Wednesday 10/23       The Mind-Body Problem
Friday 10/25 ←----------------- **Short Writing Assignment 3**

**Week 11: The Philosophy of Mind**

Monday 10/28
Wednesday 10/30       The Mind-Body Problem
Friday 11/1

**Week 12: Personal Identity and Immortality**

Monday 11/4       The Ship of Theseus
Wednesday 11/6       Selves, Souls, Memory, and Brains
Friday 11/8 ←----------------- **EXAM II**

**Week 13: Personal Identity and Immortality**

Monday 11/11
Wednesday 11/13       Selves, Souls, Memory, and Brains
Friday 11/15

**Week 14: Free Will**

Monday 11/18
Wednesday 11/20       Libertarianism, Compatibilism, and Determinism
Friday 11/22 ←----------------- **Short Writing Assignment 4**

**Week 15: Free Will**

Monday 11/25
Wednesday 11/27       Libertarianism, Compatibilism, and Determinism
Friday 11/29 (No Class)

**Week 16: Loose Ends**

Monday 12/2 ←----------------- **Short Writing Assignment 5**
Wednesday 12/4 (Last Day of Class) Tie up Loose Ends — Metaethics, if time permits
Friday 12/6 (“Reading Day”)

**Finals Week: Monday 12/9 – Friday 12/13**

**FINAL EXAM, Thursday, December 12, 2019 8:00am - 10:00am**
Other Policies and Resources

Veterans Center
If you are a student veteran, I want you to know that the U of Utah has a Veterans Support Center on campus. They are located in Room 161 in the Olpin Union Building. Hours: M-F 8-5pm. Please visit their website for more information about what support they offer, a list of ongoing events and links to outside resources: http://veteranscenter.utah.edu/. Please also let me know if you need any additional support in this class for any reason.

LGBT Resource Center
If you are a member of the LGBTQ community, I want you to know that my classroom is a safe zone*. Additionally, please know that the U of Utah has an LGBT Resource Center on campus. They are located in Room 409 in the Oplin Union Building. Hours: M-F 8-5pm. You can visit their website to find more information about the support they can offer, a list of events through the center and links to additional resources: http://lgbt.utah.edu/. Please also let me know if there is any additional support you need in this class.

Learners of English as an Additional/Second Language
If you are an English language learner, please be aware of several resources on campus that will support you with your language development and writing. These resources include: the Department of Linguistics ESL Program (http://linguistics.utah.edu/esl-program/); the Writing Center (http://writingcenter.utah.edu/); the Writing Program (http://writing-program.utah.edu/); the English Language Institute (http://continue.utah.edu/eli/). Please let me know if there is any additional support you would like to discuss for this class.

ADA
The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services.

Nondiscrimination
The University of Utah does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information or protected veteran’s status, in employment, treatment, admission, access to educational programs and activities, or other University benefits or services. Inquiries concerning perceived discrimination or requests for disability accommodations may be referred to the University’s Title IX/ADA/Section 504 Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066.

Sexual Misconduct/Title XI
Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a civil rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran’s status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential
consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677(COPS).

Wellness Statement
Personal concerns such as stress, anxiety, relationship difficulties, depression, cross-cultural differences, etc., can interfere with a student’s ability to succeed and thrive at the University of Utah. For helpful resources contact the Center for Student Wellness at www.wellness.utah.edu or 801-581-7776.

University Safety Statement.
The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. To report suspicious activity or to request a courtesy escort, call campus police at 801-585-COPS (801-585-2677). You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via text message. For more information regarding safety and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit safeu.utah.edu.

Philosophy Resources: (helpful for research and getting a better handle on complex issues)
- Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy: https://plato.stanford.edu/
- Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy: https://www.iep.utm.edu/