Philosophy 100 Introduction to Philosophy: Survey of Problems
03
MWF: 10:30 - 11:20 (63192)

INSTRUCTOR: Ron Loo
OFFICE: Palanakila 144
OFFICE HOURS: Mon: 1:30 - 3:30
Tues: 9:10 - 9:40, 2:45 – 4:15
Wed: 8:55 - 9:25, 3:45 – 4:45
TELEPHONE: 236-9144, rloo@hawaii.edu
EFFECTIVE DATE: Spring 2010

Windward Community College Mission Statement

Windward Community College is committed to excellence in the liberal arts and career development; we support and challenge individuals to develop skills, fulfill their potential, enrich their lives, and become contributing, culturally aware members of our community.

CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION:

This course will consist of an examination of some of the major controversies/issues/theories in philosophy.

ACTIVITIES REQUIRED AT OTHER THAN REGULARLY SCHEDULED CLASS TIMES:

Field Trip(s): Optional.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

At the completion of this course, you should be able to:

1. Analyze contemporary issues and events using philosophical concepts/theories.

2. Defend a position on a philosophical problem in philosophy. (This activity will require the student to take a stand, be clear about his/her values, identify assumptions he/she made regarding the problem, provide reasons for his/her viewpoint.)

3. Identify important individuals, events, theories, and concepts in Western philosophy.

4. Apply critical thinking skills (i.e., clarify concepts, raise normative questions, evaluate ideas presented in the text/handouts, identify philosophical issues/concerns) in various sources.
COURSE CONTENT:

Concepts or Topics	Skills

• PHILOSOPHY, PHILOSOPHERS, and ARGUMENTS
  Aims of Philosophy
  Philosophy and Religion
  Fields of Philosophy
  Deductive Argumentation
  Inductive Argumentation
  Readings:
  • Plato - The Apology
  • Bertrand Russell - The Value of Philosophy
  • Klemke, Kline, and Hollinger - “Introduction: Philosophy and the Study of Philosophy”
  • Tibor Machan - “Philosophy and Its Purpose”

  1. Apply philosophical concepts.
  2. Recognize the 5 aims of philosophy.
  3. Compare and contrast religion with philosophy.
  4. Recognize fields of philosophy.
  5. Recognize valid and invalid deductive arguments.
  6. Recognize strong and weak inductive arguments.
  7. Recognize assumptions and the effects of assumptions held.
  8. Recognize and apply philosophical theories.

• EPISTEMOLOGY AND SKEPTICISM
  A Definition of Knowledge,
  Justification, Perception, and the Problem of Knowledge
  The Importance of Studying Epistemology
  Theories of Truth
  Readings and Movies:
  • Plato - Theaetetus
  • Rene Descartes - Meditations, I, II
  • John Hospers - An Argument Against Skepticism
  • John Locke - Empiricism
  • 12 Angry Men (1957)

  10. Defend a position on a philosophical problem in philosophy.
  11. Explain the influence of selected Western philosophers.
  12. Compare and contrast philosophical theories.
  13. Apply critical thinking skills to course materials.
COURSE CONTENT:

Concepts or Topics

- **ETHICS AND MORAL THEORY**
  - Ethics and “Oughts”
  - Moral Reasoning
  - The Basics of Moral Theory
  - Readings and Movies:
    - Groundhog Day (1993)
    - **Aristotle** - Virtue Ethics
    - Extreme Measures (1996)
    - **John Stuart Mill** - Utilitarianism
    - **Immanuel Kant** - Respect for Persons Ethic
    - **Nel Noddings** - The Ethics of Caring
    - **Simon Wiesenthal** - The Sunflower

- **HUMAN NATURE, SOCIETY, AND JUSTICE**
  - King, Socrates, and Civil Disobedience
  - Readings and Movies:
    - **Thomas Hobbes** - Tyranny Before Anarchy and War
    - **John Locke** - A Democratic View of Government
    - **Martin Luther King, Jr.** - Letter From the Birmingham City Jail
    - Malcolm X (1992)
    - Miss Evers’ Boys (2002)
    - **George Orwell** - 1984
Phil. 100 Course Outcomes, 4

COURSE TASKS:

1. In-class exams: Complete four (4) in-class exams. Each exam will consist of matching questions, essay questions, comparison/contrast questions, evaluation questions, analysis questions, justification questions, short answer questions, fill in the blank questions, that will require you to analyze, apply, justify viewpoints, and/or evaluate course materials. Questions for the exams will be drawn from unit study guides (based on reading assignments, lectures, movies, paperbacks, text.) Make-up exams will be given in cases of illness (with a doctor’s note) or valid emergency. There is no comprehensive final exam for this course.

2. Short Essay: Complete one (1) short essay which will require you to summarize, compare/contrast, analyze, synthesize, apply, evaluate course materials. This assignment will consist of two (2) double-spaced, typewritten pages (with 1 inch margins) of philosophical reflection. This essay will be based on reading from a handout. Late work will be penalized three (3) points per week for each week that the assignment is late.

   While students are required to complete both a rough and a final draft for this essay, only the final draft is graded.

3. Class Participation: Complete a variety of in-class assignments, quizzes, focused free writes, group assignments, video worksheets, class participation exercises. These activities will require you to demonstrate, in class, your knowledge of the central ideas in the text, paperbacks, videos, handouts. Since these are in-class activities, they cannot be made up if missed.

4. Group Presentation: Give an oral presentation on a topic approved by the instructor. A typewritten outline of the presentation must be submitted 1 week prior to the presentation. Groups are limited to 4 members. Presentations must a) be approximately 15 minutes in length, b) be accompanied by a typewritten bibliography of 5 quality information sources (magazine articles, scholarly websites, government reports), c) be accompanied by a typewritten list of the names of group members and their respective contributions to the presentation, d) be accompanied by a typewritten outline of the presentation, e) be accompanied by an Information Source Form for each reference used. This assignment will require the group to demonstrate its understanding of a philosophical issue/concern and its impact on society.
Phil. 100 Course Outcomes, 5

MODE OF INSTRUCTION:

Instruction will consist of lectures, focused free-writing, large and small group discussions, and videos.

Lectures will focus on concepts/theories of major Western thinkers and on the major concerns of Western philosophy, the rudiments of critical thinking (clarify concepts, raise normative questions, evaluate ideas presented in the text/handouts, identify philosophical issues/concerns, recognition of assumptions that support theories/beliefs, identification of logical inconsistencies), the importance of the Humanities in enriching our lives. Discussions, on the other hand, will provide students with an opportunity to critically analyze, apply, and/or evaluate course materials.

Guest speakers will be invited when appropriate.

METHOD OF GRADING:

1. Criteria for evaluating course work:
   a. Grasp of the problem/concept/topic.
   b. Logic and persuasiveness of the presentation.
   c. Perceptiveness in seeing and in weighing various alternative interpretations.
   d. Demonstration of critical analysis.
   e. Clarity with which the topic/concept was discussed.

2. Weight of tasks:
   - Unit Exams 150 = (3 x 50)
   - Short Essay 50 = (1 x 50)
   - Class Participation 60 = (15 x 04)
   - Group Presentation 50 = (1 x 50)

   Total 310
METHOD OF GRADING:

3. Letter grades will be assigned based on the number of points accumulated for the course.

   A:  269 - 310
   B:  227 - 268
   C:  185 - 226
   D:  143 - 184
   F:  101 - 142

   W: Formal withdrawal from the course. (The student must withdraw from the course by the appropriate deadline to avoid receiving a failing grade for the course.)

LEARNING RESOURCES AND MATERIALS:

1. Required texts
   Kowalski, D.  Classic Questions and Contemporary Film
   Orwell, G.  1984
   Wiesenthal, S.  The Sunflower

2. Supplementary reprints will be assigned as appropriate. Recommended reading materials should be read for perspective.

3. Study guides for each unit will be disseminated in class 2 weeks prior to each exam. Unit exam questions will be drawn from these unit study guides.

4. The writing resource instructor can help edit drafts of your critical thinking exercises.
OTHER INFORMATION:

1. Reading Assignments:
   "Moderate" in that the reading assignments require thoughtful reflection. It is strongly recommended that selected reading assignment questions be answered in writing and kept in a notebook to serve as review for exams and preparation for class discussions.

2. How To Succeed In This Course:
   a. Keep up with reading and writing assignments.
   b. Attend class regularly and take "good notes".
   c. Participate in class discussions.

3. Extra Credit:
   Students can earn a total of five (5) points. See the instructor for this option.

4. Cell Phones:
   Set your cell phones and/or pagers to "silent" so the class can focus on the lesson for the day.

5. Readability of Written Assignments:
   Students are responsible for the readability of handwritten assignments. Type your assignments if your handwriting is hard to read.

6. Course Expectations:
   I expect you to study for your exams. If you perform poorly on a test, no makeup exam will be available. If you are having a hard time understanding the material, it is your responsibility to come and see me before the exam.

7. Last Day Course Work Can Be Submitted for Credit:
   May 05 (W), 12:30.

DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT
If you have a physical, sensory, health, cognitive, or mental health disability that could limit your ability to fully participate in this class, you are encouraged to contact the Disability Specialist Counselor to discuss reasonable accommodations that will help you succeed in this class. Ann Lemke can be reached at 235-7448, lemke@hawaii.edu, or you may stop by Hale `Akoakoa 213 for more information. Revised May 10, 2007
UNIT 1: PHILOSOPHY, PHILOSOPHERS, AND ARGUMENTS
What Is Philosophy?
Aims of Philosophy
Fields of Philosophy
Deductive Argumentation
Inductive Argumentation
Philosophical Analysis and Objectivity
Readings and Movies
  Plato – The Apology
  Bertrand Russell – The Value of Philosophy
  Klemke, Kline, Hollinger – “Introduction: Philosophy and the Study of Philosophy”
  Tibor Machan – “Philosophy and Its Purpose”
Exam #1: Feb. 05 (F)

UNIT 2: EPISTEMOLOGY AND SKEPTICISM
What Can We Know?
A Definition of Knowledge
Justification, Perception, and the Problem of Knowledge
The Importance of Studying Epistemology
Theories of Truth
Readings and Movies
  Plato – Theaetetus
  Rene Descartes – Meditations I, II, VI
  12 Angry Men (1957)
  John Hospers – An Argument Against Skepticism
  John Locke – Empiricism
  Immanuel Kant – Critique of Pure Reason
Exam #2: Mar. 08 (M)
UNIT 3: ETHICS AND MORAL THEORY
What Ought I Do?
Ethics and “Oughts”
Moral Reasoning
The Basics of Moral Theory
Readings and Movies
  Plato – Gyges and the Ring
  Groundhog Day (1933)
  Aristotle – Virtue Ethics
  Extreme Measures (1996)
  John Stuart Mill – Utilitarianism
  Immanuel Kant – Respect for Persons Ethic
  Nel Noddings – The Ethics of Caring
  Simon Wiesenthal – The Sunflower

Exam #3: Apr. 12 (M)

UNIT 4: HUMAN NATURE, SOCIETY, AND JUSTICE
What Is The Nature of A Just State?
Hobbes, Locke, and Social Contract Theory
King, Socrates, and Civil Disobedience
Marginalized Voices
Readings and Movies
  Thomas Hobbes – Tyranny Before Anarchy and War
  John Locke – A Democratic View of Government
  Martin Luther King, Jr. – Letter From the Birmingham City Jail
  Malcolm X (1992)
  Malcolm X – The Harvard Speeches
  Miss Evers’ Boys (2002)
  George Orwell – 1984

Exam #4: May 12 (W) 10:30 - 12:20

*LAST DAY course work can be submitted for credit: May 05 (W), 12:30 noon.