Philosophy 100 Introduction to Philosophy: Survey of Problems
03
MTWT: 10:00 - 11:35 (62054)

INSTRUCTOR: Ron Loo
OFFICE: Palanakila 144
OFFICE HOURS: Tues: 8:50 a.m. - 9:50 a.m.
               Wed: 11:35 a.m. - 12:35 p.m.
               Thurs: 11:35 a.m. - 12:35 p.m.
               (Other times by mutual agreement)
TELEPHONE: 236-9144, rloo@hawaii.edu
EFFECTIVE DATE: Summer 2011 (II)

WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT

Windward Community College offers innovative programs in the arts and sciences and opportunities to gain knowledge and understanding of Hawai‘i and its unique heritage. With a special commitment to support the access and educational needs of Native Hawaiians, we provide O‘ahu’s Ko‘olau region and beyond with liberal arts, career and lifelong learning in a supportive and challenging environment — inspiring students to excellence.

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:

Conferencing: Required.

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

- **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"
  - **Philosophical theories.**
  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
COURSE TASKS:

1. In-class Exams: Complete four (4) in-class exams. Each exam will consist of matching questions, short answer questions, and essay questions (history of philosophy questions, analysis questions, evaluation questions, comparison/contrast questions) that will require you to analyze, explain, 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, texts) that will be distributed two weeks prior to the exams. Make-up exams will only 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: Write one (1) essay which will require you to analyze, interpret, synthesize, summarize, and evaluate selected course materials. Each essay will consist of three (3) double-spaced, typewritten pages (with 1 inch margins) of philosophical reflection and will be based on readings assigned for the course. While students are required to write both a rough draft and a final draft for each essay, only the final draft is graded. Late work will be penalized ten (10) points per week for each week that the assignment is late.

3. Movie Report: Complete a movie report approved by the instructor. This assignment will require you to summarize, analyze, and philosophize on the theme(s) in the movie. See the instructor for the format of this report. Late reports will be accepted but will be penalized five (5) points per week for each week that the assignment is late.

4. In-class Work: Participate regularly in a variety of in-class activities. These activities include: class discussion, group work, video worksheets, in-class exercises, quizzes, writing assignments, and other forms of class work. Since these are in-class activities they cannot be made up if missed.
Phila. 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 100 = (1 x 100)
   Movie Report 50 = (1 x 50)
   Conferencing 12 = (2 x 06)
   In-class Work 60 = (10 x 6)
   Attendance 43 = (1 x 43)

415
METHOD OF GRADING:

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

   A: 365 - 415
   B: 314 - 364
   C: 263 - 313
   D: 212 - 362
   F: 161 - 211

   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. Students will earn a total of 12 points for conferencing (2 conferences regarding writing skills, critical thinking skills) with the instructor during the semester.

5. 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. Class Participation:
   Students are expected to prepare adequately for each class session. This means that reading and/or writing assignments should be completed so that they can be discussed by the next class.

3. 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.

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. Class Attendance:
   The subject matter of this course is intellectually challenging and students who miss classes regularly rarely do well.

7. Rough Draft (for Short Essay):
   Your instructor can help you edit your rough draft. Your draft must be double-spaced and incorporate 1 inch margins. It needs to reflect clarity of expression, good grammar, logical reasoning, and critical thought.
OTHER INFORMATION:

8. Inappropriate Behavior:

   You may lose up to five (5) points per class period for non-participation in activities or distracting or rude behavior, which includes but is not limited to:
   1) leaving your cell phone ringer on,
   2) answering your cell phone,
   3) text messaging,
   4) talking while a classmate or the instructor presents information,
   5) making disparaging or inappropriate remarks.

9. Last Day Course Work Can Be Submitted for Credit:

   Aug. 11 (TH), 12:30 p.m.

   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, HYPERLINK mailto:lemke@hawaii.edu 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: July 13 (W)

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: July 21 (TH)
Phil. 100 Course Outcomes, 10

Philosophy 100
Overview

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 (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
Exam #3: Aug. 02 (T)

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: Aug. 11 (TH) 10:00 - 12:00

*LAST DAY course work can be submitted for credit: Aug. 11 (TH), 12:30 p.m.