

Course Syllabus for PHIL 100 – Introduction to Philosophy: Survey of Problems (CRN 62412 - 3 credits)

Instructor: Steve Stegeman, Office: Hale Palanakila 222, Phone: 236-9297, E-mail: stegeman@hawaii.edu

Class Time: Tuesday, Thursday 8:30-9:45, Class Location: Palana 213

Office Hours: Thursday 10:00-11:00 or by appointment

Catalog Course Description:

Great philosophical issues, theories, and controversies. Course will focus on issues such as the problem of determinism, the problem of induction, the problem of distributive justice, the problem of the highest good, and the problem of the function of government. (3 hours lecture)

Instructor's Detailed Course Description:

Self-critique is arguably the hallmark of Philosophy. This class will explore the dimensions of personal cultivation in relation to process, quality, emotion and value formation. This exploration will take us through philosophies East and West, ancient and contemporary. The narrational trajectory of this course is set by the philosophies of Epictetus, Tenzin Gyatso (better known as the current Dalai Lama of Tibet) and Mencius.

Grading Policy: 80% (Four “mini-tests” worth 20% each) + 20% (Four “PEQ’s” worth 5% each) = 100%

What is a “PEQ”? It stands for “Passage, Explanation, Question”. First, from the current readings, you are to quote *and cite* your favorite “Passage”. The citation method to be used is APA. Author and page number are indicated in parentheses. That parenthetical is placed *after/outside* the end quotation mark and before the punctuation (e.g., a period or comma). For example, “Blah, blah, blah” (Kesha, pg. xxx). Next, you are to give an “Explanation” as to what you think the passage means and, more importantly, why you like it. Last, you are to pose a “Question”. It could either be a question that the passage prompts and has left you thinking about moving forward or a question that concerned you and that you had thought about before that the passage touched upon. You **MUST** end a PEQ with a question, and the question should be specific and reasonably answerable (in a fairly academic way by a college instructor). PEQ’s are graded on a 5.0-point scale at .5-point intervals. There is an automatic 1.0-point score reduction for PEQ’s not submitted in a timely manner (see the “Weekly Planner” below).

Also, a WHOPPING 15% BONUS toward the final grade is available via the “Book and Attendance Bonuses”!
“Book Bonus” – Up to 6 bonus percentage points can be earned toward your final grade via the “Book Bonus”! It works like this: if you procure all three required texts on schedule (per the “Weekly Planner”) and legally, you will receive 6 bonus points; procure two, you get 4 points; one, 2 bonus points!!!

For the remaining 9 available bonus points see the “Attendance Policy” below.

Grade Scale: 90 or higher = A; 80-89 = B; 70-79 = C; 60-69 = D. Below 60 is a failing grade.

Attendance Policy:

Students should miss no more than eight classes. Tardies will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Upon a ninth absence a student should receive an F.

“Attendance Bonus” – Attendance will be used to award bonus points towards a student’s final grade. Up to 9 bonus percentage points can be earned via the “Attendance Bonus”. They will be awarded as follows: 0 absences - 9 bonus points; 1 absence - 6 points; 2 absences - 4; 3 absences - 2!!! However, as these are bonus points, excused absences will not be taken into account.

Required Texts:

Dalai Lama. *How to See Yourself as You Really Are*, trans. Jeffrey Hopkins, New York, New York: Atria Books, 2006 (ISBN-10: 0743290461).

Epictetus. *The Enchiridion*, trans. Thomas W. Higginson, New York, New York: Macmillan Publishing Company, 1948 (ISBN-10: 0023546409).

Mencius. *Mencius*, trans. D. C. Lau, New York, New York: Penguin Books, 1970 (ISBN-10: 0140442286).

Student Learning Outcomes:

1) Analyze contemporary issues and events using philosophical concepts and theories. 2) Defend a position on a philosophical problem in philosophy. 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 and handouts, and identify philosophical issues and concerns).

Week	Weekly Planner (subject to adjustment)
1	Lectures on Philosophy Basics
2	Lectures on Philosophy Basics 1st “PEQ” should be in by the end of this week so as to avoid the 1-point score reduction!
3	Lectures on Philosophy Basics Mini-test #1 on Philosophy Basics Selected Readings from <i>The Enchiridion</i>
4	Selected Readings from <i>The Enchiridion</i>
5	Selected Readings from <i>The Enchiridion</i> 2nd “PEQ” should be in by the end of this week so as to avoid the 1-point score reduction!
6	Selected Readings from <i>The Enchiridion</i> Mini-test #2 on Epictetus Selected Readings from <i>How to See Yourself as You Really Are</i>
7	Selected Readings from <i>How to See Yourself as You Really Are</i>
8	Selected Readings from <i>How to See Yourself as You Really Are</i>
9	Selected Readings from <i>How to See Yourself as You Really Are</i>
10	Selected Readings from <i>How to See Yourself as You Really Are</i> 3rd “PEQ” should be in by the end of this week so as to avoid the 1-point score reduction!
11	Selected Readings from <i>How to See Yourself as You Really Are</i> Mini-test #3 on the Dalai Lama Selected Readings from <i>Mencius</i>
12	Selected Readings from <i>Mencius</i>
13	Selected Readings from <i>Mencius</i>
14	Selected Readings from <i>Mencius</i>
15	Selected Readings from <i>Mencius</i>
16	(Buffer Week) 4th “PEQ” should be in by the end of this week so as to avoid the 1-point score reduction!
17	Mini-test #4 on Mencius
Have a Good Summer Break!	

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)