

Philosophy 100 Introduction to Philosophy: Survey of Problems  
03

TTH: 10:00 – 11:15 a.m. (62367)

INSTRUCTOR: Ron Loo  
OFFICE: Palanakila 144  
OFFICE HOURS: MW: 11:30 - 1:00p.m.  
TTH: 9:30 – 10:00a.m., 12:55 - 1:55p.m.  
(Other times by mutual agreement)  
TELEPHONE: 236-9144, rloo@hawaii.edu  
EFFECTIVE DATE: Fall 2014

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:

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) to 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"

- **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)

Skills

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.
9. Define philosophical terms.
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
- **S. Wiesenthal** - The Sunflower

- **HUMAN NATURE, SOCIETY, AND JUSTICE**

Hobbes, Locke, and Social Contract Theory

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. Reaction Paper: Write three (3) one page reaction papers: two based on videos shown in class, the third based on a letter to the editor. This assignment will require you to a) identify the question or concern of the video/ letter to the editor, b) support your position/ viewpoint regarding the question/concern with at least two (2) reasons, c) discuss how the topic of the video/ letter affects your life/beliefs. This assignment is due on the 14<sup>th</sup> week of the course. Late work will be accepted but penalized five (5) points per week.
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.

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)
Reaction Papers	150 = (3 x 50)
Conferencing	10 = (2 x 05)
Movie Report	50 = (1 x 50)
In-class Work	60 = (10 x 06)
Attendance	<u>60</u>
	470

METHOD OF GRADING:

3. Letter grades will be assigned based on the number of points accumulated for the course.  
  
A: 408-470  
  
B: 345-407  
  
C: 282-344  
  
D: 219-281  
  
F: 156-218  
  
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.
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 10 points for conferencing (2 conferences regarding writing skills, critical thinking skills, organizational skills) with the instructor during the semester.
5. Your instructor can help edit rough drafts of your short essays.

OTHER INFORMATION:

1. Reading Assignments:  
"Moderate" in that the reading assignments require thoughtful reflection. It is strongly recommended that 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 Preparation:  
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. Learning Assistance:  
Seek assistance with your learning problems as soon as they are encountered.
4. 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.
5. Cell Phones:  
Set your cell phones and/or pagers to "silent" so the class can focus on the lesson for the day.
6. Class Attendance:  
The subject matter of this course is intellectually challenging and students who miss classes regularly rarely do well.
7. Written Assignments: Your written work needs to reflect clarity of expression, good grammar, logical reasoning and critical thought.
8. Inappropriate Behavior:  
You may lose up to five (5) points per class period for non-participation in activities or distracting 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:  
Dec. 11 (Th) 12:45 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](mailto:lemke@hawaii.edu), or you may stop by Hale `Akoakoa 213 for more information. Revised May 10, 2007



Philosophy 100  
Overview

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

Monty Python and the Holy Grail (1974)

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: Sept. 16 (T)

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: Oct. 09 (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 (1933)  
Aristotle - Virtue Ethics  
Extreme Measures (1996)  
John Stuart Mill - Utilitarianism  
Immanuel Kant - Respect for Persons Ethic  
Nel Noddings - The Ethics of Caring  
S. Wiesenthal - The Sunflower  
Exam #3: Nov. 13 (Th)

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: Dec. 16 (T) 10:00 - 12:00 noon.

\*LAST DAY course work can be submitted for credit: Dec. 11 (Th) 12:45 p.m.