

PHIL 100 Introduction to Philosophy: Survey of Problems

3 Credits

MW 10:00-11:15 p.m. in Palanakila 213 (CRN - 61228)

INSTRUCTOR: Steven Stegeman

OFFICE: Palanakila 152

OFFICE HOURS: Monday 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. or by appointment

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EFFECTIVE DATE: Spring 2016

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.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

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

Activities Required at Scheduled Times Other Than Class Times

- Extra-credit sessions will get scheduled. They will be interspersed throughout the semester as needed and scheduled as conveniently for all as possible. However, these sessions will be recorded and made available via Lualima and so will not be mandatory, though all students will be responsible for the content covered during these sessions. (For more, see “Course Tasks” section below.)
- Also, since all tests for this class, including the final one, are administered via Lualima, the meeting time scheduled week 17, that is, final-exam week will be used for a final culminating class for which bonus similar to an extra-credit session (explained above) will be awarded.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The student learning outcomes for the course are:

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 TASKS

Instructor's Detailed Course Description:

Self-critique is arguably the hallmark of Philosophy. The class will begin with a study of some of the basics: the ancient Greek philosophers, Socrates, Plato and Aristotle, and the Modal Branches of Philosophy. The class will then explore the dimensions of personal cultivation in relation to emotion, value formation and qualitative judgment. 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 (a Roman Stoic), Tenzin Gyatso (better known as the current Dalai Lama of Tibet), Mencius (a Confucian) and C. S. Lewis (better known for popular works such as *The Chronicles of Narnia*).

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

Grading Policy: Five Tests worth 20% each = 100%

- Tests will be timed take-home tests administered through Laulima. The question(s) on the “Modal Branches of Philosophy” handout for Test #1 will be done briefly in class.

Also, a whopping 15+% BONUS toward the final grade is available via the “Book, Attendance & Extra-credit Session Bonuses”!

- “Book Bonus” – Up to 5 bonus percentage points can be earned toward your final grade via the “Book Bonus”! It works like this: if you procure all four required texts on schedule (per the “Weekly Planner”) and legally, you will receive 5 bonus points; procure three, you get 3 points; two of the books, 2 points, and one book, 1 bonus point!!!
- Extra-credit sessions will get scheduled. They will be interspersed throughout the semester as needed. At least 1 bonus point will be awarded for attending such a session. However, these sessions will be recorded and made available via Laulima and so will not be mandatory, though all students will be responsible for the content covered during these sessions.
- For the remaining 10 available bonus points see the “Attendance Policy” below...

Attendance Policy:

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

“Attendance Bonus” – Attendance will be used to award bonus points towards a student’s final grade. Up to 10 bonus percentage points can be earned via the “Attendance Bonus”. They will be awarded as follows: 0 absences - 10 bonus points; 1 absence - 7 points; 2 absences - 5; 3 absences - 2!!! However, as these are bonus points, excused absences will NOT be taken into account.

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.

LEARNING RESOURCES

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).
- Lewis, C. S. *The Abolition of Man*, New York, New York: HarperCollins Publishers, Inc., 1974 (ISBN-10: 0060652942).
- Mencius. *Mencius*, trans. D. C. Lau, New York, New York: Penguin Books, 1970 (ISBN-10: 0140442286).

COURSE SCHEDULE

**** Before making any kind of recording of the class, please get the instructor's permission! ****

| Week | Weekly Planner (subject to adjustment) |
|------|--|
| 1 | Lectures on Philosophy Basics: Socrates, Plato, Aristotle and Modal Branches of Philosophy |
| 2 | Lectures on Philosophy Basics Test #1 on Philosophy Basics due/administered |
| 3 | Readings from <i>The Enchiridion</i> (Chapters I-IX, XII-XVII, XIX, XXII through XXVI, XXIX, XXX, XXXIII, XXXIV, XXXVIII, XLVI, and LI) |
| 4 | Readings from <i>The Enchiridion</i> Continued |
| 5 | Readings from <i>The Enchiridion</i> Continued |
| 6 | Readings from <i>The Enchiridion</i> Continued Test #2 on Epictetus due/administered |
| 7 | Readings from <i>How to See Yourself as You Really Are</i> (“Forward”, “Introduction”, Part I Chapters 1-3, Part II Chapters 4-7, Part IV Chapters 10-15, and Part VI Chapter 21) |
| 8 | Readings from <i>How to See Yourself as You Really Are</i> Continued |
| 9 | Readings from <i>How to See Yourself as You Really Are</i> Continued |
| 10 | Readings from <i>How to See Yourself as You Really Are</i> Continued |
| 11 | Readings from <i>How to See Yourself as You Really Are</i> Continued Test #3 on the Dalai Lama due/administered |
| 12 | Readings from <i>Mencius</i> (Sections VI.A.6, II.A.6, VI.A.1, VI.A.2, “Introduction” around pgs. xvi-xvii and xxii/16-17 and 22, VI.A.16, IV.B.11, I.A.1, VII.A.15, IV.A.10, IV.A.17, I.A.5, II.A.5, III.A.3, and VII.A.23) |
| 13 | Readings from <i>Mencius</i> Continued |
| 14 | Readings from <i>Mencius</i> Continued Test #4 on Mencius due/administered |
| 15 | Readings from <i>The Abolition of Man</i> (Chapters 1-2 through page 29) |
| 16 | Readings from <i>The Abolition of Man</i> Continued |
| 17 | Readings from <i>The Abolition of Man</i> Continued Test #5 on C. S. Lewis due/administered |