



### **Assessment Tasks & Grading:**

#### **1) 40% Class participation & Discussion -**

Participation in the course's On-line forums: I will ask you to do the week's reading and provide 3 short answer questions. Once those have been submitted, I will provide a response and offer in-depth questions for you to answer in paragraph format by the end of the week.

#### **2) 30 % Presentations/Essays**

- **1st Presentation & Write up** - In this essay you will have the chance to examine one of the Metaphysical theories in depth, pointing out its perceived strengths and weaknesses, as well as how it is relevant to the modern discussions, and what your conclusion is - **15%**

- **2nd Presentation & Write up** - A culmination of the course, you will be expected to express your own views on all of the subjects covered, and how they fit in relation to other theories and counter arguments. - **15%**

**3) 10% Midterm** – Exactly what you'd expect. Essay style format, as it is take-home like all assignments in this class.

#### **4) 20% Final Exam**

A final exam, testing your knowledge of the theories, and understanding of their application will be administered at the end of the semester.

#### ***Policy on Late submissions and rewrites:***

*Late assignments will be deducted 5% (half a letter grade) per day they are late, up to a period of one week. If they have not been turned in after one week and there have been no other arrangements made, then such work will be considered to be a missed assignment.*

#### ***Policy on Plagiarism:***

*Plagiarism includes but is not limited to submitting, in fulfillment of an academic requirement, any work that has been copied in whole or in part from another individual's work without attributing that borrowed portion to the individual; neglecting to identify as a quotation another's idea and particular phrasing that was not assimilated into the student's language and style or paraphrasing a passage so that the reader is misled as to the source; submitting the same written or oral or artistic material in more than one course without obtaining authorization from the instructors involved.*

*Any student who plagiarizes in this course will receive a failing grade and will be referred to the Dean.*

#### ***Disability 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.***

## COURSE CONTENT

(The Instructor reserves the right to change this schedule and readings if necessary.)

[IP = Introducing Philosophy; HO = Hand Out]

### **Introduction**

- What is Philosophy?
- Thinking Tools, How to engage Philosophy
- Logical Fallacies to avoid.

### **a) Metaphysics**

- Greek
  1. Pre-Socratics
  2. Plato, Aristotle
- Indian
- Daoist
- Modern

### **b) Religion**

- Arguments for & Against the Existence of 'God'
- Pascal's Wager & the Leap of Faith
- Hinduism
- Buddhism

### **c) Epistemology – What is True? How Can we Know?**

- Empiricism v. Idealism
- *Skepticism & Illusion*
- Phenomenology & Pragmatism

### **d) Ethics – How do we tell Right from wrong?**

- Kant's Categorical Imperative
- Utilitarianism
- Virtue Ethics
- *Buddhist Compassion*
- *Modern Moral Issues*

### **Skills or Competencies**

1. *Understand historical & contemporary philosophical theories*
2. *Increase skills in thinking about and addressing philosophical or ethical issues..*
3. *Defend their own positions using reason, argument, and compassion*
4. *Learn how to understand the reasoning behind positions that they disagree with, and argue against them rationally rather than simply dismissing them*
5. *Be able to establish one's own basis for what is worthy of consideration, based on the theories we have covered, and explain how that provides a better criteria than alternative points of view, answering possible criticisms*