

PHIL 1000

Intro to Philosophy (HU)

Course Syllabus Fall 2024

Classroom: [REDACTED]
Schedule: [REDACTED]

Instructor: [REDACTED]
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Course Description

This course examines the historical development of western philosophy and philosophical problems concerning truth, reality, and values. Topics may include free will, God, meaning, identity, the good life, morality, argumentation and logic, knowledge, identity, social and political organization, some Eastern philosophy, and more. Skills of inquiry, argumentation and analysis are also developed.

Credit Hours: 3

General Education Designation: Humanities – HU

Required Materials

Textbook:

Archetypes of Wisdom: An Introduction to Philosophy by Douglas J. Soccio, 7th Edition, Cengage Learning. ISBN: 9780495603825

Additional Readings:

Selected readings and open-source materials available through Canvas, covering major philosophers and themes, including:

1. Plato's *Meno*
2. Descartes' *Meditations*
3. Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*
4. Epicurus on pleasure

5. Epictetus on Stoicism
6. Eastern philosophies, including selected Buddhist teachings
7. Enlightenment philosophers (Locke, Kant)
8. Existentialist perspectives (Sartre, Kierkegaard)

Note: Access to readings is provided at no additional cost on Canvas, and students are encouraged to review each module's "Reading" page for detailed texts and supplementary materials.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate familiarity with major figures and theories from the history of Western philosophy: from the earliest Greek stages through the major contemporary movements in Western Philosophy, and possibly the fundamentals of classical Eastern thought as well.
2. Explore and analyze classic and contemporary philosophical issues, problems, and positions, including, for instance, those concerning the nature of reality, free will, the problems of universals and of change, morality, the existence of God, the major modern epistemological schools, and existential and post-modern schools as possible subjects for discussion.
3. Draw understandings of philosophical concepts, arguments and explorations through substantive encounters with, and analyses of, primary philosophical texts, while grounding foundational understandings through secondary textual readings as needed.
4. Apply principal methods of philosophical investigation including the basics of philosophical reasoning, argumentative structure and analysis.
5. Demonstrate their ability to shift analytical lenses between various theoretical and conceptual frameworks, as well as various social and historical locations.
6. Effectively and concisely offer written arguments and analysis in order to develop and communicate their understandings of theoretical frameworks and substantive knowledge, apply theories to cases, process and evaluate sources of information and argument, expand points of inquiry, and persuade their audience to a particular position.
7. Practice principles of critical analysis and expression that will enable them to respectfully and effectively participate in public life with those who differ in perspectives and positions on important issues.
8. Demonstrate understanding of the complexities involved in socially and cultural pressing philosophical issues, perspectives and approaches. This attention to complexity and multiplicity will contribute to their active engagement in civic life.

9. Reflect on, evaluate and develop their own personal positions and perspectives, with the intention of intellectual and moral self-improvement and becoming more conscious citizens.

Course Requirements

1. Discussion and Participation

Weekly discussions engage students in philosophical dialogue, drawing on readings and encouraging critical thinking. Participation requires initial posts and responses to peers to foster a collaborative learning environment.

2. Short Essays and Reflections

Short essays focus on major themes, such as the nature of reality, ethics, and free will. These assignments allow students to develop and articulate their own viewpoints in response to philosophical questions.

3. Quizzes

Quizzes assess comprehension of key concepts from the readings and lectures. Each quiz includes a mix of multiple-choice and short-answer questions and is open-book but timed.

4. Unit Tests

Unit exams cover cumulative content, including both theoretical and applied questions, and are designed to deepen students' understanding of major philosophical schools and their relevance today.

5. Signature Assignment & ePortfolio

Students complete a capstone project where they explore a specific philosopher's impact on personal or societal views. This assignment is accompanied by reflective writing and is uploaded to the student's ePortfolio.

Grading Breakdown

Component	Weight (%)
Discussion and Participation	20%
Short Essays and Reflections	25%
Quizzes	20%
Unit Tests	20%
Signature Assignment & ePortfolio	15%

Note: Specific grading details may vary by section, and all assignments and due dates are outlined on Canvas.

Final Grade Distribution

A	A-	B+	B
100 to 94	<94 to 90	<90 to 87	<87 to 84
B-	C+	C	C-
<84 to 80	<80 to 77	<77 to 74	<74 to 70
D+	D	D-	E
<70 to 67	<67 to 64	<64 to 60	<60 to 0

Important Dates

Student Academic Calendar:

The “Student Academic Calendar” contains important dates including registration, tuition payments, holidays, and significant deadlines. Refer to the webpage for the most up-to-date information. [website link: <https://www.slcc.edu/academiccalendar/index.aspx>]

Final Exam Schedule:

The “Final Exam Schedule” lists information about when each course section will hold its final exam period. Refer to the webpage for the most up-to-date information. [website link: <https://www.slcc.edu/schedule/final-exam-schedule.aspx>]

Institutional Statements and Policies

General Education at SLCC:

This course fulfills the humanities requirement of the General Education Program at Salt Lake Community College. It is designed to teach you the core knowledge and skills of the discipline while also developing essential professional competencies and strategies for lifelong learning. General Education courses broaden your foundational skills and expand your understanding across diverse subjects. By integrating insights from various disciplines, you will learn to apply knowledge meaningfully, enrich your life, develop broader perspectives, deepen your understanding of the world, and challenge your assumptions.

E-Portfolios:

All General Education courses include a “Signature Assignment” that comprises part of each student’s e-Portfolio. For more information, see the statement about e-portfolios in Simple Syllabus.

Institutional Syllabus:

The “Institutional Syllabus” on Canvas includes important statements and information on a range of institutional policies, learning support and tutoring services, and student support resources. These sections provide guidance on student rights and responsibilities, grading policies, and various support services available to assist with academic advising, counseling, accessibility, student engagement, and more. For detailed information, please refer to the “Institutional Syllabus” on Canvas.

Course Schedule

Week	Topic	Assignments
1	Introduction to Philosophy	Syllabus Quiz, Initial Discussion Post
2	Pre-Socratic Philosophy	Quiz on Pre-Socratic Thinkers, Short Essay
3	Socrates and Plato	Reading Quiz, Reflection on Meno
4	Aristotle’s Ethics	Quiz on Virtue Ethics, Discussion on Aristotle
5	Epicurus and Stoicism	Reflection Paper, Quiz on Stoic Philosophy
6	Buddhist Philosophy	Discussion, Short Essay on Comparative Ethics
7	Medieval to Early Modern Philosophy	Midterm Exam
8	Rationalism and Empiricism	Reading Quiz on Descartes, Reflection on Knowledge
9	Kant and the Enlightenment	Quiz on Kant, Short Essay on Enlightenment Ideas
10	Existentialism and Identity	Reflection on Sartre and Kierkegaard
11	Ethics and Morality	Discussion, Quiz on Moral Philosophy
12	Mind-Body Problem	Reading Quiz on Dualism, Discussion
13	Philosophy of Science and Reality	Quiz, Reflection on Scientific Realism
14	Applied Philosophy and Ethics	Signature Assignment Draft
15	Course Review and Final Project	Final Project Submission

Week	Topic	Assignments
16	Final Exam	Comprehensive Exam