



FENG CHIA UNIVERSITY

Introduction to Philosophy

GHUR306, Summer 2019 (May 13 - Jun 14)

Lecturer: Dr. Annie J. Daniel

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Time: Monday through Friday

Contact hours: 60 (50 minutes each)

Credits: 4

Office hours: 2 hours (according to the teaching schedule)

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to the core complexities of philosophy. Within the course text, we will have the opportunity to analytically study present alternative perspectives; including analytic, continental, feminist, and non-Western viewpoints; alongside the historical works of major philosophers. Students will be presented with alternative views on philosophical issues and encouraged to reflect on the content to arrive at their own conclusions, which should be based on arguments in during the discussions with classmates, as well as on the discussions in your textbook. The purpose of philosophy is to encourage each person to think for himself or herself; no single source of arguments or information can take the place of personal dialogues and discussions.

Course Objectives:

This is an introductory course to the field of philosophical inquiry. Philosophy is the study of the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality, and existence, especially when considered as an academic discipline that is a particular system of philosophical thought.

Students will be able to:

1. Define philosophy and identify the major fields of philosophical study
2. Examine the history of Western thought, from the famous Greek philosophers up to the cutting-edge intellectuals of today.
3. Discuss the various thematic topics, including metaphysics, epistemology, free will and determinism, evil and the existence of God, personal identity, ethical values, and political philosophy.
4. Analyze the different perspectives, including Eastern philosophies, and postcolonial thought.

Required Text:

Solomon, Robert C., Higgins, Kathleen M., & Martin, Clancy. *Introducing Philosophy: A Text with Integrated Readings*

Publication Date - September 2015

ISBN: 9780190209452

Additional readings and resources will be distributed in class.

Grading Policy

This course is worth 100 points and the passing score is 60%.

Evaluation

Evaluation	Percentage
Unit Assignments	25 % (250 Pts.)
Unit Quizzes (6)	30 % (300 Pts.)
Midterm and Final Exam	45% (450 Pts.)
Total = 100 % /1000 Pts.	

It is important to complete all supplementary and textbook readings and to fully participate in class.

Your unit assessments, midterm and final exams will cover all unit materials and textbook readings.

Course Schedule

Week One

Philosophy

A. Socrates

Aristophanes, from *Clouds*

Plato, from *Apology*; from *Crito*; from *Phaedo*; from *Republic*

B. What Is Philosophy?

Plato, from *Apology*

Karl Jaspers, from "The 'Axial Period'"

Laozi, from *Dao De Jing*

C. A Modern Approach to Philosophy

René Descartes, from *Discourse on Method*

D. A Brief Introduction to Logic

Key Terms

Bibliography and Further Reading

CHAPTER 1. REALITY

A. "The Way the World Really Is"

Aristotle, from *Metaphysics*

B. The First Greek Philosophers

Parmenides, from *Fragments*

C. Ultimate Reality in the East: India, Persia, and China

From Upanishads

From Zend-Avesta

From The Confucian *Analects*

Laozi, from *Dao De Jing*

Buddha, from "Fire-Sermon"

D. Two Kinds of Metaphysics: Plato and Aristotle

Plato, from *Symposium*; from *Republic*; from *Meno*

Aristotle, from *Metaphysics*; from *Physics*; from *Metaphysics*

E. Modern Metaphysics

René Descartes, On Substance; from "Meditation VI"

Benedictus de Spinoza, from *Ethics*

Gottfried Wilhelm von Leibniz, from *Monadology*

* David Lewis, From *Counterfactuals*

Martin Heidegger, from "The Fundamental Question of Metaphysics"

CHAPTER 2. RELIGION

A. What Is Religion?

John Wisdom, from "Gods"

Albert Einstein, On the Design of the Universe

Keiji Nishitani, from "What Is Religion?"

B. The Western Religions

CHAPTER 2. RELIGION (continue)

C. Proving God: The Ontological Argument

St. Anselm, On The Ontological Argument

René Descartes, On the Ontological Argument

Immanuel Kant, Against the Ontological Argument

D. God as Creator: Intelligence and Design

St. Thomas Aquinas, Five Arguments for the Existence of God

William Paley, from "The Watch and the Watchmaker"

St. Thomas Aquinas, On the "Fifth Way"

David Hume, from *Dialogues on Natural Religion*

* Cory Juhl, On the "Fine-Tuning" Argument

E. Religion, Morality, and Evil

Immanuel Kant, On God and Morality

William James, from "The Will to Believe"

St. Augustine, from *Confessions*

From the *Bhagavadgita*

F. Beyond Reason: Faith and Irrationality

Mohammad al-Ghazali, from *The Deliverance from Error*

Søren Kierkegaard, On Subjective Truth

Paul Tillich, On the Ultimate Concern

G. Doubts about God and Religion

Fyodor Dostoyevsky, from *The Brothers Karamazov*

Karl Marx, from *Critique of Hegel's Philosophy of Right*

Friedrich Nietzsche, from *Beyond Good and Evil*; from *The Antichrist*; from *The Gay Science*

Sigmund Freud, from *The Future of an Illusion*

* Mary Daly, "Wanted: 'God' or 'the Goddess'?"

* Victor A. Gunasekara, "The Buddhist Attitude to God"

Week Two

CHAPTER 3. KNOWLEDGE

Bertrand Russell, from *The Problems of Philosophy*

* Plato, from *Republic*

Plato, from *Theatetus*

A. The Rationalist's Confidence: Descartes

René Descartes, from "Meditation I"; from "Meditation II"; from "Meditation VI"

B. Innate Ideas Concerning Human Understanding: John Locke

John Locke, from *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*

Gottfried Wilhelm von Leibniz, from *New Essays on Human Understanding*

C. Two Empiricist Theories of Knowledge

John Locke, from *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*

Bishop George Berkeley, from *Treatise Concerning the Principles of Human Knowledge*

D. The Congenial Skeptic: David Hume

David Hume, from *A Treatise of Human Nature*; from *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*

* E. A Contemporary Conundrum: Knowledge as Justified True Belief

CHAPTER 4. TRUTH & RELATIVISM

A. What Is Truth?

B. Theories of Truth

- * Brand Blanshard, On *The Coherence Theory*
- * Charles Peirce, from "How to Make Our Ideas Clear"
- * William James, On the Pragmatic Theory
- * Alfred Tarski, from "The Semantic Theory of Truth"

C. Kant's Revolution

Immanuel Kant, from *The Critique of Pure Reason*; from *Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics*

D. The Battle in Europe After Kant: Relativism and Absolutism

G. W. F. Hegel, from *The Phenomenology of Spirit*; from *Reason in History*

Friedrich Nietzsche, On Truth

E. Phenomenology

Edmund Husserl, from "Philosophy as Rigorous Science"; from *The 1929 Paris Lectures*

F. Hermeneutics and Pragmatism: Relativism Reconsidered

- Richard Rorty, from "Solidarity or Objectivity?"
- Isamu Nagami, from "Cultural Gaps: Why Do We Misunderstand?"

G. The Analytic Turn

- Bertrand Russell, from *The Problems of Philosophy*
- W. V. O. Quine, from "Epistemology Naturalized"

H. Feminist Epistemology

- Elizabeth Grosz, On Feminist Knowledge
- Uma Narayan, On Feminist Epistemology

Week Three

CHAPTER 5. MIND AND BODY

A. What Is Consciousness?

René Descartes, from "Meditation VI"; from "Meditation III"

B. The Problem of Dualism

René Descartes, from "The Passions of the Soul"

C. The Rejection of Dualism

Gilbert Ryle, from *The Concept of Mind*

J. J. C. Smart, from "Sensations and Brain Processes"

Jerome Shaffer, Against the Identity Theory

Paul M. Churchland, On Eliminative Materialism

David Braddon-Mitchell and Frank Jackson, from *Philosophy of Mind and Cognition*

John R. Searle, from "The Myth of the Computer"; from *Minds, Brains, and Science*

D. The Problem of Consciousness

Sigmund Freud, On the "Unconscious"

Thomas Nagel, from *Mortal Questions*

E. Changing Our Minds: Holism and

Consciousness and The Politics of the Mind-Body Problem

Aristotle, from *De Anima*

Galen Strawson, On "Cognitive Experience"

* Elizabeth V. Spelman, from "Woman as Body: Ancient and Contemporary Views"

CHAPTER 6. SELF

A. Consciousness and the Self: From Descartes to Kant

René Descartes, from "Meditation VI"

John Locke, On Personal Identity

David Hume, On the Idea of the Self

Immanuel Kant, Against the Soul as Substance

Meredith Michaels, On "Personal Identity"

* Derek Parfit, from *Reasons and Persons*

B. Existentialism: Self-Identity and the Responsibility of Choice

Jean-Paul Sartre, On Existentialism; * On Bad Faith; from *No Exit*

C. The Individual and the Community

Søren Kierkegaard, On "The Public"; On Self and Passion

Martin Heidegger, On "Dasein" and the "They"

David Reisman, On Individualism

Malcolm X, On Being "African"; from "At the Audubon"

Sherry Ortner, from "Is Female to Male as Nature Is to Culture?"

Ann Ferguson, On Androgyny

* Deirdre McClosky, from *Crossing*

D. One Self? Any Self? Questioning the Concept of Personal "Essence"

Hermann Hesse, from *Steppenwolf*

Luce Irigaray, from *This Sex Which Is Not One*

Genevieve Lloyd, from "The Man of Reason"

From the *Dhammapada*

Laozi, from *Dao De Jing*

Week Four

CHAPTER 7. FREEDOM

A. Fatalism and Karma

Sophocles, from *Oedipus the King*

Keiji Nishitani, On Fate

B. Predestination

St. Augustine, from *On Free Choice of the Will*

Muhammad Iqbal, from *The Reconstruction of Religious Thought in Islam*

Jacqueline Trimier, On the Yoruba *Ori*

Jonathan Edwards, from "Freedom of the Will"

C. Determinism

Baron Paul Henri d'Holbach, from *System of Nature*

Daniel Dennett, from *Elbow Room*

Robert Kane, On Indeterminism

John Stuart Mill, On Causation and Necessity

David Hume, On Causation and Character

Robert Kane, On "Wiggle Room"

Harry Frankfurt, from "Freedom of the Will and the Concept of a Person"

D. Compulsion and Ignorance

Aristotle, On Voluntary Action

Judith Orr, "Sex, Ignorance, and Freedom"

John Hospers, from "What Means This Freedom?"

B. F. Skinner, Beyond Freedom

B. F. Skinner, from *Walden Two*

Robert Kane, Beyond Skinner

Anthony Burgess, from *A Clockwork Orange*

Catharine MacKinnon, On Coercion of Women's Sexuality

CHAPTER 8. ETHICS

A. Morality

B. Is Morality Relative?

Gilbert Harman, from "Moral Relativism Defended"

St. Thomas Aquinas, from The *Summa Theologica*

John Corvino, from *Same Sex: Debating the Ethics, Science, and Culture of Homosexuality*

C. Egoism and Altruism

Plato, from *Republic*

* Tara Smith, The Necessity of Egoism (Ayn Rand)

D. Are We Naturally Selfish? A Debate

Mencius, On Human Nature: Man Is Good

Xunzi, from "Human Nature Is Evil"

Joseph Butler, *Against Egoism*

E. Morality as Virtue: Aristotle

Aristotle, from *The Nicomachean Ethics*

F. Morality and Sentiment: Hume and Rousseau

David Hume, On "Reason as Slave of the Passions"

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, from *Émile*

G. Morality and Practical Reason: Kant

Immanuel Kant, from *Fundamental Principles of the Metaphysics of Morals*

H. Utilitarianism

Jeremy Bentham, from *An Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation*

John Stuart Mill, from *Utilitarianism*

I. The Creation of Morality: Nietzsche and Existentialism

Friedrich Nietzsche, On "Morality as Herd-Instinct"; On "Master and Slave Morality"

Jean-Paul Sartre, from *Existentialism Is a Humanism*

* Simone de Beauvoir, from *The Ethics of Ambiguity*

J. Ethics and Gender

Virginia Held, On Feminist Ethics

Week Five

CHAPTER 9. JUSTICE

A. The Problem of Justice

B. Two Ancient Theories of Justice: Plato and Aristotle

Plato, from *Republic*

Aristotle, from *The Nicomachean Ethics*

C. Two Modern Theories of Justice: Hume and Mill on Utility and Rights

David Hume, On "Justice and Utility"

John Stuart Mill, from *Utilitarianism*

D. The Social Contract

Thomas Hobbes, from *Leviathan*

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, from *The Social Contract*

Thomas Jefferson et al., from The Declaration of Independence

E. Fairness and Entitlement

John Rawls, from "Justice as Fairness"

Robert Nozick, from *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*

F. Justice or Care: A Feminist Perspective

Cheshire Calhoun, from "Justice, Care, Gender Bias"

* María Lugones, from "Playfulness, 'World'-Traveling, and Loving Perception"

G. Individual Rights and Freedom

John Locke, from *The Second Treatise on Government*;

John Stuart Mill, from *On Liberty*

Malcolm X, On Civil and Human Rights

Amartya Sen, from "Property and Hunger"

H. Fighting for Rights and Justice: Civil Disobedience

Henry David Thoreau, from "Resistance to Civil Government" ("Civil Disobedience")

Martin Luther King, Jr., from "Letter from Birmingham Jail"

Academic Honesty

Feng Chia University defines academic misconduct as any act by a student that misrepresents the students' own academic work or that compromises the academic work of another scholastic misconduct includes (but is not limited to) cheating on assignments or examinations; plagiarizing, i.e. misrepresenting as one's own work any work done by another; submitting the same paper, or substantially similar papers, to meet the requirements of more than one course without the approval and consent of the instructors concerned; sabotaging another's work within these general definitions, however, Instructors determine what constitutes academic misconduct in the courses they teach. Students found guilty of academic misconduct in any portion of the academic work face penalties ranging from lowering of their course grade to awarding a grade of E for the entire course.