



# FENG CHIA UNIVERSITY

## Introduction to Philosophy

**GHUR306, Summer 2019 (July 1-August 2)**

**Lecturer:** TBA

**E-mail:** TBA

**Time:** Monday through Friday (2 hours each day)

**Contact hours:** 60 (50 minutes each)

**Credits:** 4

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

### Overview

This course introduces the general nature of philosophical thought, and its basic methods and goals. The material covered includes selections by both current and historically important philosophers on such classic philosophical topics as the existence of God, the nature of right and wrong, and the possibility of knowledge. Through our readings and discussions we will also attempt to reach a clearer understanding of ourselves (personal identity), our relationship to other people (moral responsibility), and our relationship to the world around us (freedom of the will). Some of the general skills students will develop include the formulating and defending of theoretical positions and the ability to think critically about difficult and abstract issues.

### Course Objectives:

- To gain knowledge of major schools of Philosophical thought.
- To develop skills in critical thinking.
- To develop skills in writing about philosophical topics

### Required Book:

- *Voices of Wisdom: A Multicultural Philosophy Reader*. 2016. by Gary Kessler. Cengage Learning

- A notebook used only for this class

**Course Hours:**

The course has 25 sessions in total. Each class session is 120 minutes in length. The course meets from Monday to Friday.

**Assessment:**

*Exams:* There will be five exams over the five-week term. Each exam will be worth 16% of the final grade. Each exam will last about one hour. There will be a review of materials before the exam.

*Presentation:* Starting in week two, each student will be responsible for leading the discussion for an article assigned for that day. Students will choose articles on the first day of class. Students will do a five to ten-minute presentation of the article and guide the discussion following it. Students may use the study questions at the end of the reading to guide their discussion. Your Presentation will be worth 10% of your final grade.

*Attendance and Participation:* The remaining 10% of the student's grade will be determined by regular attendance and participation in class. Students are expected to participate in class discussion and ask questions when they are confused. We will do puzzles and paradoxes as class exercises as well. Students are allowed 2 absences maximum for the course before dropping a letter grade. Full and prepared participation is expected. Attendance is mandatory in the class. Respect towards the instructor and classmates is expected. Unjustified absences, disrespectful behavior in the classroom and lack of participation in class will have a negative impact on the final grade.

**Grading Scale:**

Grading System of FCU:

Letter Grade	Score
A	80-100
B	70-79
C	60-69
D	50-59
F	Below 50

**Assessment Summary:**

Type	Percent
Exams	80%
Participation	10%
Presentations	10%
Total:	100

**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.

**Cheating**

Cheating is the use of inappropriate and unacknowledged materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise. The use of books, notes, calculators and conversation with others is restricted or forbidden in certain academic exercises. Their use in these cases constitutes cheating. Similarly, students must not request others (including commercial term paper companies) to conduct research or prepare any work for them, nor may they submit identical work or portions thereof for credit or honors more than once without prior approval of the instructor.

**Fabrication**

Fabrication is the falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise. “Invented” information may not be used in any laboratory experiment or other academic exercise without authorization from the instructor. It is improper, for example, to analyze one sample in an experiment and covertly “invent” data based on that single experiment for several more required analyses. The student must also acknowledge reliance upon the actual source from which cited information was obtained. A writer should not, for example, reproduce a quotation from a book review and indicate that the quotation was obtained from the book itself.

### **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is the representation of the words or idea of another as one’s own in any academic exercise. To avoid plagiarism, every direct quotation must be identified by quotation marks or by appropriate indentation and must be properly cited in the text or in a footnote. Acknowledgment is required when material from another source stored in print, electronic or other medium is paraphrased or summarized in whole or in part in one’s own words. Information which is common knowledge such as names of leaders of prominent nations, basic scientific laws, etc. need not be footnoted; however, all facts or information obtained in reading or research that are not common knowledge among students in the course must be acknowledged.

### **Course Schedule**

**The schedule is tentative and will depend on class discussion.**

Day	Topic	Prepare
Week 1: Introduction to Philosophy		
Mon	Introduction to the course, The origins of Philosophy	NONE
Tues	What is Philosophy?	Chapter 1
Wed	Thinking Philosophically	Chapter 2, section 2.1
Thurs	Writing Philosophically	Chapter 2, section 2.2
Fri	Review of materials, Exam 1	
Week 2: Axiology (Value Theory)		

Mon	How Should One Live?: Buddha and Confucius	Chapter 3, Sections 3.1-3.3
Tues	How Should One Live?: Plato	Chapter 3, Sections 3.4
Wed	How Should One Live?: Aristotle	Chapter 3, Sections 3.5
Thurs	How Should One Live?: Bhagavad-Gita and Jesus	Chapter 3, Sections 3.6-3.7
Fri	Review of Materials, Exam 2	
Week 3: Axiology (Value Theory)		
Mon	How can I know what is right?: Kant, Mill,	Chapter 4, Sections 4.1-4.3
Tues	How can I know what is right?: Nussbaum, Al-Ahshari, and Hernandez	Chapter 4, Sections 4.4-4.5
Wed	How can I know what is right?: Noddings,	Chapter 4, Sections 4.6
Thurs	How can I know what is right?: Pojman	Chapter 4, Sections 4.7
Fri	Review of Materials, Exam 3	
Week 4: Axiology (Value Theory)		
Mon	What makes a society just?: El Fadl,	Chapter 5, Sections 5.1-5.2
Tues	What makes a society just?: Marx and Engels	Chapter 5, Sections 5.3
Wed	What makes a society just?: Rawls, King,	Chapter 5, Sections 5.4-5.6
Thurs	What makes a society just?: Deloria	Chapter 5, Sections 5.7
Fri	Review of Materials, Exam 4	
Week 5: Epistemology (Theory of Knowledge)		
Mon	Is Knowledge Possible?: Al-Ghazali	Chapter 7, Sections 7.1-7.2
Tues	Is Knowledge Possible?: Descartes, Hume	Chapter 7, Sections 7.3-7.4
Wed	Is Knowledge Possible?: Clifford, James, Koller	Chapter 7, Sections 7.5-7.6
Thurs	Is Knowledge Possible?: Maitra	Chapter 7, Sections 7.7
Fri	Review of Materials, Exam 5	