

## **Philosophy 26 – History of Philosophy**

Section 03

Fall 2015

M/W 1:30 - 2:45 PM

Room: Douglas Hall 110

Satisfies General Education Area C2 (see course objectives/requirements below)

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*I do not feel obligated to believe that the same God who endowed us with sense, reason, and intellect had intended for us to forgo their use...*

- Galileo Galilee (1564 – 1642)

*Tiger got to hunt, bird got to fly;  
Man got to sit and wonder 'why, why, why?'  
Tiger got to sleep, bird got to land;  
Man got to tell himself he understand.*

- Kurt Vonnegut, *Cat's Cradle*

*"Any Philosophy that can be put in a nut shell belongs in one."*

- Hillary Putnam

### **Course Description**

*PHIL 26. History of Philosophy:* Introduction to the history of philosophy, emphasizing such themes as the foundations of knowledge, the nature of reality, the basis of a good life and a just society, the existence of God, and the nature of self, and tracing the development of these themes from antiquity to the modern period. Graded: Graded Student.

What does it mean to believe something? How do you know that what you believe is true and represents reality? Is there a real, authentic reality outside of what you perceive to be real or is reality nothing but a subjective understanding? Is there a God? What does it mean to say that you know that you are a living, thinking thing? Is there an absolute right and wrong or is right and wrong nothing but what we as individuals or cultures determine to be right and wrong? Are you free or are you a determined being? Why should we care at all? These are questions that many of us – all of us – ask or have asked at one time or another. Our answers form the background upon which we live our lives and in some measure determine the way that we interact with the world and with others. For centuries, philosophers have struggled (as we all do) to answer these questions. This class will investigate many of the answers that philosophers have proposed. We will evaluate not only what these philosophers have said, but at the same time our own answers as well with the goal of understanding not only the answers given but the importance of the questions themselves. Philosophy is the love of wisdom, and it is my hope that by the end of this class we will have a better understanding of what that statement means and why the pursuit of philosophy is important to our lives.

## **Required Textbook**

*Classics of Philosophy*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. Pojman/Vaughn (Eds), OUP, NY 2011.

### **Departmental Learning Objectives:**

1. Identify and distinguish the main historical traditions in western philosophy, from Pre-Socratics to the Enlightenment.
2. Identify and explain key philosophical concepts as they arise in the different historical periods, including knowledge, reality, reason, substance, identity, mind/soul, causation, experience, etc.
3. Read and comprehend key texts in the history of philosophy.
4. Write clearly and cogently on a variety of topics in the history of philosophy.
5. Apply basic philosophical concepts to discuss problems of historical significance, including the mind-body problem, the challenge of skepticism, the relation of sensation/experience to knowledge, the limitations of reason, the relation of reason to passions, the existence of god, the challenge of determinism, etc.

### **Area C2 Learning Outcomes (C2 Humanities)**

The learning objectives associated with C2 should focus on the human condition. Specifically, students completing C2 requirements should be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the conventions and methods of the study of the humanities.
2. Investigate, describe, and analyze the roles and effects of human culture and understanding in the development of human societies.
3. Compare and analyze various conceptions of humankind.
4. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the historical development of cultures and civilizations, including their animating ideas and values.

Student Learning Objectives for Area C2 courses can be viewed at:

<http://www.csus.edu/indiv/b/bellonc/Area%20C%20Learning%20Outcomes%20%28Carried%20May%201%202014%29.pdf>

These course objectives and general education guidelines will be satisfied through a variety of practical assessments including quizzes, group work, essay writing and verbal communication (class/group participation).

### **Student Standards of Conduct**

***Plagiarism and/or cheating*** will not be tolerated in this class. All those who engage in these activities will receive a zero on the associated assignment. In addition, all incidents of

cheating and/or plagiarism will be reported to the department chair and to the Judicial Officer in the *Office of Student Affairs*. It is your responsibility to both know and adhere to Sac State's Academic Honesty Policy. This policy can be found at the following address:  
<http://www.csus.edu/umannual/student/UMAO0150.htm>

***In-Class Participation:*** Purposely “obstructing” the viewpoint of another student in the classroom during classroom discussions is prohibited. This class will involve many discussions concerning the material assigned for homework and the material presented during the classroom lectures. This being a philosophy course, many of these discussions *may* challenge certain beliefs that you hold. Open dialog and proper methods of argumentation are not only expected but required for this class.

***Attendance/Participation:*** Students are expected to attend each class session. This class will involve many in-class discussions and in-class group work. Students are expected to have completed the readings and participate in all in-class discussions.

***Cell Phones and Computers:*** Please set your phone to vibrate before class! Cell phones are not to be used in class – for any reason. If you must take a call (which I discourage unless an emergency) please step outside before you answer. No texting or Internet use will be allowed in class (unless directed by me).

### **Disability Accommodations**

If you have a disability and require accommodations, you will need to provide disability documentation to SSWD, Lassen Hall 1008, (916) 278-6955. Please discuss your accommodation needs with me after class or during my office hours early in the semester.

### **Evaluation/Homework Assignments**

#### **Group Work**

***Group Quizzes:*** As outlined on the weekly course breakdown below, each week there will be one *group* quiz where students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the material discussed and/or assigned that week. The first quiz will be held on Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> (please see the reading and assignment schedule at the conclusion of this syllabus for a complete quiz schedule). Each group will hand in one quiz, and you will be evaluated as a group. Each quiz will be worth a total of 15 points. The lowest score on one quiz will be dropped at the conclusion of the semester. Students will be assigned by random selection to a group on Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> and will remain with that same group throughout the semester. There will be a total of 210 possible quiz points at the conclusion of the term. There will be no make-up quizzes if you miss a quiz.

***In-Class Work/Group Work:*** There will also be a number of in-class exercises/group exercises throughout the semester that combined will be worth a total of 50 possible points (how much each assignment is worth will be noted before that assignment is provided). All in class work is to be completed during the class session in which the assignment is given. There will be no make-ups for a missed in class assignment.

**Essays:**

There will be two essays in this class. For each assignment, you will be provided with assignment topics, structural details and a grading rubric two weeks prior to the due date for each essay. Essays must be handed in at the beginning of class on the day that they are due. Late essays will be docked 7 points for every class session that they are late. If your essay is late, you must arrange a method to hand in the essay with me after the class that the essays are due.

**Essay #1 Due: Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Essay #2 Due: Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>**

Students are expected to adhere to the guidelines posted in “How to Analyze a Philosophical Essay” that is located on the CSUS Department of Philosophy webpage. This information will be reviewed in class on Monday and Wednesday of Week 5. Below is the link to the webpage: <http://www.csus.edu/phil/Guidance/How%20to%20Write%20an%20Analysis.htm>

**Examinations:**

There will be two in-class examinations in this class (a midterm and a final exam). There will be a comprehensive review held the class session before each exam. There will be no make-ups on exams - except with “extraordinary” circumstances - so schedule outside activities accordingly. Note: Extraordinary circumstances do not include personal athletic activities, vacations, car not starting, not feeling like it, etc. A doctor’s note (or something similar) will be required to schedule a make-up exam.

**Midterm Exam: Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup> (Week 8)**

**Final Exam: TBA (Held during finals week December 11<sup>th</sup> - December 18<sup>th</sup>)**

**Grading Scale**

All exams/essays will be graded based upon a 100 pt scale where 1pt = 1% of the total.

<b>A</b> Outstanding (96 – 100 pts)	<b>A-</b> Very Good (90 – 95 pts)
<b>B+</b> Above Satisfactory (86 – 89 pts)	<b>B</b> Satisfactory (83 - 86 pts)
<b>B-</b> Below Satisfactory (80 – 82 pts)	<b>C+</b> Above Average (76-79 pts)
<b>C</b> Average (73 – 75 pts)	<b>C-</b> Below Average (70 – 72 pts)
<b>D</b> Poor (60 – 69 pts)	<b>F</b> Unacceptable (59 and lower pts)

**Total Point Breakdown:**

**Quizzes: 210 possible pts**

**Essay #1: 100 possible pts**

**Essay #2: 100 possible pts**

**Examinations: 200 possible pts**

**In Class Group Work: 50 possible points**

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Total Points Possible 660

**Final Grade Breakdown:** **A** 660 – 631 pts; **A-** 630 – 591 pts; **B+** 590 – 565 pts; **B** 564 – 545 pts; **B-** 543 - 525 pts; **C+** 523 – 499 pts; **C** 498 - 479 pts; **C-** 478 – 459 pts; **D** 458 – 393 pts; **F** 392 or lower points

## Reading/Assignment Schedule

- Week 1: Class Introduction – What Is Philosophy and Why We Are Not Entitled to Our Opinions?  
For Mon: Class Overview - (no reading)  
For Wed: Movement from myth to philosophy & the pre-Socratic philosophers  
Readings: Thales, Anaximander & Anaximenes  
**Quiz #1**
- Week 2: Pre-Socratics Continued  
For Mon: Labor Day Holiday - September 7th  
For Wed: Heraclitus and Parmenides & Answering Parmenides challenge & **Quiz #2**  
Readings: Heraclitus (pg 10, 14-15) & Parmenides (pg 15-17) & The Pluralists (10-11) & Leucippus Democritus (19-20)
- Week 3: Socrates & Plato  
For Mon: Lecture on Socrates, Socratic Dialogue and Plato  
Readings: Plato Intro (22-25), Euthyphro (25-36), Apology (36-58)  
For Wed: **Quiz #3** & Euthyphro and Apology Continued
- Week 4: Plato and the Forms  
For Mon: Readings - the Meno (101) & start Republic (112-201)  
For Wed: Reading - finish Republic (112-201) & **Quiz #4**
- Week 5: Aristotle  
For Mon: Aristotle's Logic  
Readings: Intro (202-205), Categories (205-209) & Posterior Analytics (209-217)  
For Wed: Aristotle's Logic Continued & Quiz #5 & **Quiz #6**
- Week 6: Aristotle Continued  
For Mon: Aristotle's View on The Natural and Metaphysical World & Readings: Physics (217 -229)  
For Wed: Physics Continued, Aristotle's Metaphysics and Aristotle wrap up... & **Quiz #6** & **Review For Essay #1**  
Reading: Metaphysics (237 -266)
- Week 7: World Post Aristotle and How to Write a Philosophic Essay  
For Mon: The World Post Aristotle  
Reading: Epicurus (342-349), Epictetus (349-361) & Sextus Empiricus (361-379)

For Wed: If Necessary, finish Sextus Empiricus & How to Write a  
Philosophic Essay; **Quiz #7**  
Reading:  
<http://www.csus.edu/phil/Guidance/How%20to%20Write%20an%20Analysis.htm>

- Week 8: Study Time!  
For Mon: Exam Review Guide provided and reviewed  
For Wed: Midterm Exam
- Week 9: Rene Descartes  
For Mon: Readings - Intro (487-489), Meditations I (489-491); **Essay #1**  
**Due – October 26<sup>th</sup>**  
For Wed: Readings - Meditations II & III (491-502) & **Quiz # 8**
- Week 10: Rene Descartes Continued  
For Mon: Readings - Meditations IV & V (502-509)  
For Wed: Readings - Meditation VI (509-515) & **Quiz #9**
- Week 11: Thomas Hobbes & John Locke  
For Mon: Readings - Leviathan (517-557) & **Quiz #10**  
For Wed: Veteran's Day Holiday, Nov. 11th
- Week 12: John Locke & George Berkeley  
For Mon: Readings - An Essay Concerning Human Understanding  
(640-675)  
For Wed: Reading - Of the Principles of Human Knowledge (678-693) &  
**Quiz #11**
- Week 13: David Hume & Immanuel Kant  
For Mon: Reading - An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding  
(718-781)  
For Wed: **Quiz #12** & Critique of Pure Reason - start (815-921)
- Week 14: Immanuel Kant finish & Fredrich Nietzsche  
For Mon: Readings - Critique of Pure Reason - finish (815-921)  
For Wed: Review of Essay #2, **Quiz # 13**, Readings (1041-1044) &  
(1051-1063)
- Week 15: William James, Pragmatism & Existentialism  
For Mon: Readings - The Will To Believe & Pragmatism (1084-1107)  
For Wed: **Quiz # 14**, Due: Essay #2 (December 9th) & Final Examination  
Review  
Reading: John Paul Sartre's Existentialism Is A Humanism  
(1231-1237)
- Week 16: Final Examination TBA