

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

Philosophy 006 – Introduction to Philosophy

Section 03 & Section 80

Fall 2017

M/W/F 8:00 AM – 8:50 AM

Room: Mendocino Hall 3009

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

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Course Description

Course Catalogue: “Introduction to Philosophy: Knowledge, World and Self. Representative selection of philosophical problems will be explored in areas such as knowledge, reality, religion, science, politics, art and morals.”

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

Rosen, Gideon, Alex Byrne, Joshua Cohen & Seana Shiffrin (2015). *The Norton Introduction to Philosophy*. W. W. Norton & Company, Inc.: New York ISBN: 9780393932201

Note: There will be some additional readings posted to Blackboard. See reading schedule for complete breakdown.

Philosophy Course Learning Outcomes

- 1) Describe and distinguish key philosophical concepts in the main subfields of philosophy, including concepts such as free will, mind, knowledge, belief, reality, faith, reason, good, etc. and review a number of traditional and modern philosophical solutions to those problems.
- 2) Develop students' critical thinking abilities and analytic skills through analysis and critique of these problems and positions/solutions.
- 3) Read and comprehend philosophical texts, both classical and contemporary.
- 4) Discuss core philosophical problems, such as whether there is a god, what does it mean to be conscious, are we free to make choices, what is justice, etc.
- 5) Explain and defend a position on basic philosophical problems and demonstrate an overall understanding of the nature of philosophical questions and pursuits.
- 6) Write clear and concise explanations and arguments about basic philosophical problems.

General Learning Objectives Area C-2: (C2 Humanities: Literature, Philosophy, Languages Other than English)

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.

General Education Guidelines:

This course satisfies General Education Requirements in Area C2. Student Learning Objectives for Area C2 courses can be viewed at:

<http://www.csus.edu/acaf/ge/ge%20assessment/area%20c2%20learning%20outcomes.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/stu-0100.htm>

If you wish for more assistance/advice on the issue of plagiarism, please see the following CSUS library link <http://csus.libguides.com/home> (information on citing and researching)

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 (which will be discussed) 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 a significant amount of in-class 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.

Email Correspondence: Monday through Friday I check my Sac State *and* Gmail accounts a minimum of two times each day (morning and evening). If I do not respond to an email that you have sent within one business day, please feel free to resend the email. All emails not structured in the following format will be answered last, so to ensure a prompt reply please see the following link:

<http://www.csus.edu/phil/guidance/how-to-correspond.html>

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. Information can be found at the following link: <http://www.csus.edu/sswd/ApplicationProcess-Forms.html>. Please discuss your accommodation needs with me after class or during my office hours *before* the end of the third week of the semester.

Special Note: All instructors employed by CSU, Sacramento are ‘mandatory reporters’ of suspected child abuse or neglect according to the *California Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act*. As such, I am bound to the requirements established by CSU Executive Order 1083 which can be found at the following link: <http://www.calstate.edu/eo/EO-1083.html>

Evaluation/Homework Assignments

In-Class Assignments: There will be a number of in-class assignments throughout the term. These assignments will be worth a total of 5 – 10 points each (you will be informed of the specific point value when each assignment is given). At the end of the term, a total of 30 points will be possible. There are no make-ups on missed in-class work.

Quizzes: As outlined on the weekly course breakdown below, there will be two types of quizzes in this class.

- 1) Reading Quizzes:** Prior to each new section lecture/new topic, there will be a quiz to be completed *prior* to the lecture on that reading/subject (see weekly breakdown below for details). These quizzes must be completed in Blackboard and must be completed **10 minutes before** the scheduled class time. Each Reading Quiz will be made available on the date stated in the weekly breakdown and will be available until 10 minutes before that scheduled class. No make-ups will be given for missing a quiz. These quizzes will be multiple choice and/or true and false. Each quiz will be worth 10 points. Once you begin a quiz, you will have 20 minutes to complete it.
- 2) Lecture Quizzes:** This course is scheduled to meet Monday, Wednesday and Friday. As illustrated in the weekly breakdown below, each class session will involve a lecture/class discussion on the material assigned for that class. At the end of each week (after Friday’s lecture each week) students will be required to complete a short quiz on the lecture material provided. This quiz will be available in Blackboard on Friday after class and must be completed no later than 10 minutes before class on the following Monday (see schedule breakdown below). Once you begin a quiz, you will have 20 minutes to complete it. Like each Reading Quiz, the Lecture Quizzes will be multiple choice and/or true and false. Each Lecture quiz will be worth 10 Points.

There will be no make-up quizzes if you miss a quiz (either type). I will, however, drop the lowest score received on each type of quiz at the end of the semester (one reading quiz and one lecture quiz). To do well on these quizzes and thus to do well in the class, you should make sure to attend class, to actively participate in the lecture and to complete the assigned readings.

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 5 points for every day that they are late (not every class session & not including Saturday or Sunday). 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 Assigned: Sept. 15th
Essay #2 Assigned: November 10th

Essay #1 Due: October 6th
Essay #2 Due: December 1st

Basic Essay Guidelines:

Students are expected to adhere to the guidelines posted in both “Writing Guidelines” & “How to Analyze a Philosophical Essay” that are located on the CSUS Department of Philosophy webpage. This information will be reviewed in class on *Monday of Week 5* (prior to the first essay being due). Below is the link to the webpage:

<http://www.csus.edu/phil/guidance/writing%20guidelines.html>

Below is a link to the department’s outline of proper philosophic analysis:

Philosophical Analysis: <http://www.csus.edu/phil/guidance/how-to-analyze.html>

Below is a link to the Department Grading Guidelines:

Grading Standards: <http://www.csus.edu/phil/guidance/grading-standards.html>

Examinations:

There will be two in-class examinations in this class (a midterm and a final exam). There will be a comprehensive review held on the Friday 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: Monday, October 16th (Week 8)

Final Exam: Monday, 12/11 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Extra Credit: *There will be one extra credit assignment offered in the Fall 2017 term. This assignment, which will be announced during Week 2, will involve attending a CSUS Ethics Center event like the Fall Ethics Symposium (November 20 and 21st, 2017) or another Visiting Speaker Event (see link below for details). Detailed instructions will be provided for this assignment, including specific event details, during the second week of class. Below are the links to the two event homepages:*

Center for Practical and Professional Ethics: <http://www.csus.edu/cppe/>

Grading Scale

All essays will be graded based upon an 80-point scale according to the following breakdown:

| | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| A Outstanding (75 - 80 pts) | A- Very Good (72 - 74 pts) |
| B+ Above Satisfactory (68.5 - 71 pts) | B Satisfactory (67 - 68 pts) |
| B- Below Satisfactory (64 - 67 pts) | C+ Above Average (61 - 63 pts) |
| C Average (58 - 60 pts) | C- Below Average (56 - 57 pts) |
| D+ Poor High (53 - 55.5 pts) | D Poor Low (48 - 52 pts) |
| F Unacceptable (47 and lower pts) | |

All Examinations will be graded based on a 100-Point scale according to the following breakdown:

| | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| A Outstanding (100 - 95 pts) | A- Very Good (94 - 90 pts) |
| B+ Above Satisfactory (89 - 86 pts) | B Satisfactory (83 - 85 pts) |
| B- Below Satisfactory (82 - 80 pts) | C+ Above Average (79 - 76 pts) |
| C Average (75 - 73 pts) | C- Below Average (72 - 70 pts) |
| D+ Poor High (69 - 66 pts) | D Poor Low (65 - 60 pts) |

F Unacceptable (59 and lower pts)

Total Points Breakdown

Quizzes:

1) Reading (17 x 10) 170 Points (160 after dropped quiz)

2) Lecture (12 x 10) 120 Points (110 after dropped quiz)

Essay #1: 80 possible pts

Essay #2: 80 possible pts

Examinations: 200 possible pts

In Class Group Work: 30 possible points

Total Points Possible 680 – 660 (after two dropped quizzes)

Final Grade Breakdown: A 680/660 – 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: (August 28th – September 1st)

Class Introduction – What Is Philosophy and Why We Are Not Entitled to Our Opinions?

- *For Mon: Class Overview*
- *For Wed: “Everyone has an opinion about everything!” – lecture on the meaning and value of our opinions (no reading assigned)*
- *For Fri: What is Philosophy and Why Is It Valuable?*
 - *Reading: “The Value of Philosophy” by Bertrund Russell (Posted to Blackboard)*
 - ***Due: Reading Quiz #1 (Due 10 minutes before class begins – posted to Blackboard August 30th)***
 - ***Due: Lecture Quiz #1 (Due no later than 10 minutes prior to class on Monday, Sept. 4th – Posted Friday, Sept. 1st)***

Week 2: (Sept. 4th – Sept. 8th)

What Do I Know? Rationalism

- *For Mon: Labor Day Holiday – No Classes Held*
- *For Wed: “Meditation I” by Rene Descartes (Pg. 299 – 304)*
 - ***Due: Reading Quiz #2 (Posted to Blackboard on Sept. 4th)***
- *For Fri: “Meditation II by Rene Descartes (Pg. 356 – 361)*
 - ***Due: Reading Quiz #3 (Posted to Blackboard on Sept 4th)***
 - ***Due: Lecture Quiz #2 (Due no later than 10 minutes prior to class on Monday, Sept. 11th)***

Week 3: (Sept. 11th – Sept. 15th)

Does This Syllabus Exist? Skeptical Empiricism and the Existence of the External World

- *For Mon: Of Scepticism with Regard to the Senses by David Hume (Pg. 304 – 312)*
 - ***Due: Reading Quiz #4 (Posted to Blackboard on Sept. 8th)***

- For Wed: Finish Hume (from Monday) and Start Proof of an External World by George Edward Moore (pg. 312 – 318)
 - **Due: Reading Quiz #5 (Posted to Blackboard Sept. 11th)**
- For Fri: Finish Moore (from Wednesday)
 - **Due: Lecture Quiz #3 (Due no later than 10 minutes prior to class on Monday, Sept. 18th)**
 - **Assign and Review: Essay #1**

Week 4: (Sept. 18th – Sept. 22nd)

Everyone Thinks They Know How to Write A Philosophy Paper!

- For Mon: Review of How to Write a Philosophical Essay
- For Wed: “I write good!” – A short Discussion about grammar
- For Fri: In-Class Group Work
 - **Due: Lecture Quiz #4 (Due no later than 10 minutes prior to class on Monday, Sept. 25th)**

Week 5: (Sept. 25th – Sept. 29th)

Well ... At Least I'm Free, Right?

- For Mon: Free Will by Galen Strawson (pg. 588 – 597)
 - **Due: Reading Quiz # 6 (Posted to Blackboard on Sept. 15th)**
- For Wed: Finish Strawson (No new reading)
- For Fri: Human Freedom and the Self by Roderick Chisholm (Pg. 598 – 605)
 - **Due: Lecture Quiz #5 (Due no later than 10 minutes prior to class on Monday, Oct. 2nd)**

Week 6: (October 2nd – October 6th)

Freedom, Part II: “I believe I have free will. I have no choice.” - Isaac Bashevis Singer

- For Mon: Finish Chisholm (no new reading)
- For Wed: Asymmetrical Freedom by Susan Wolf (Pg. 621 – 630)
 - **Due: Reading Quiz #7 (Posted to Blackboard on Sept. 29th)**
- For Fri: In-Class Exercise
 - **Due: Lecture Quiz #6 (Due no later than 10 minutes prior to class on Monday, Oct. 9th)**
 - **Due: Essay #1 (October 6th)**

Week 7: (October 9th – October 13th)

When I Look in the Mirror, I See Something There

For Mon: *Of Identity and Diversity*, from *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding* by John Locke (pg. 544 -551)

For Wed: Finish Locke and Start *A Critique of Locke's Theory of Personal Identity* by THOMAS REID (Posted in Blackboard under Additional Readings)

- **Due: Reading Quiz #8 (On Locke and Reid – Posted to Blackboard on Oct. 9th)**

Fri: Finish Reid and Review for Midterm Examination

- **Due: Lecture Quiz #7 (Due no later than 10 minutes prior to class on Monday, Oct. 16th)**

Week 8: (October 16th – October 20th)

Examination Time

- **For Mon: Midterm Exam**
- *For Wed: Exam Review*
- *For Fri: Group Exercises (materials provided in-class)*

Week 9: (October 23rd – October 27th)

Mind Games: What is a Mind and How Does it Relate to the Body?

- *For Mon: Descartes' Myth from The Concept of Mind by Gilbert Ryle (Pg. 363 – 371)*
 - **Due Reading Quiz #9 (Posted Oct. 20th)**
- *For Wed: Sensations and Brain Processes by J.J.C. Smart (Pg. 371 – 379)*
 - **Due Reading Quiz #10 (Posted Oct. 23rd)**
- *For Fri: The Nature of Mental States by Hilary Putnam (Pg. 379 – 386)*
 - **Due Lecture Quiz #8 (Due no later than 10 minutes prior to class on Monday, Oct. 30th)**

Week 10: (October 30th – November 3rd)

Mind Games Continued and the Intricate Study of Consciousness ...

- *For Mon/Wed: Can Computer's Think? From Minds, Brains, and Science by John Searle (Pg. 387 – 393)*
 - **Due: Reading Quiz #11 (Posted to Blackboard on Oct. 27)**
- *For Fri: What is it Like to be a Bat by Thomas Nagel (Pg. 402- 411)*
 - **Lecture Quiz #9 (Due no later than 10 minutes prior to class on Monday, Nov. 6th)**

Week 11: (November 6th – November 10th)

Is There A God Problem?

- *For Mon: Building a God Exercise (Provided in Class)*
- *For Wed: The Ontological Argument from Proslogian by Anselm of Canterbury (Pg. 8 – 10) and a Review of Descartes' version of the argument (Reading for Descartes' version posted to Blackboard under additional readings)*
 - **Due: Reading Quiz #12 (Posted to Blackboard on Nov. 6th)**
- *For Fri: Holiday – No Classes Held*
 - **No Lecture Quiz This Week**
 - **Review Essay #2 Assignment (November 10th)**

Week 12: (November 13th – November 17th)

Pascal Loved to Gamble but What if God Doesn't Know How to Play the Game?

- *For Mon: The Wager from Pensees by Blaise Pascal*
 - **Due: Reading Quiz #13 (Posted to Blackboard Nov. 10th)**
- *For Wed: In-Class Exercises (No New Reading)*
- *For Fri: "The Euthyphro Problem" by Plato (Provided on Blackboard)*
 - **Due: Lecture Quiz #10 (Due no later than 10 minutes prior to class on Monday, Nov. 20th)**

Week 13: (November 20th – November 24th)

The Nature of Justice and the State

- *For Mon: Leviathan* by Thomas Hobbes (Pg. 937 – 944)
 - **Due: Reading Quiz #14 (Posted to Blackboard Nov. 17th)**
- *For Wed: Leviathan Continued* (No New reading)
- *For Fri: The Utilitarian Justification of the State* by David Lyons (Pg. 962 – 970)
 - **Due: Lecture Quiz #11 (Due no later than 10 minutes prior to class on Monday, Nov. 27th)**

Week 14: (November 27th – December 1st)

Justice for Justice Sake ... Whatever That Means

- *For Mon: A Letter Concerning Toleration* by John Locke (Pg. 979 – 982)
 - **Due: Reading Quiz #15 (Posted to Blackboard Nov. 24th)**
- *For Wed: On Liberty* by John Stuart Mill (Pg. 982 – 990)
 - **Due: Reading Quiz #16 (Posted to Blackboard Nov. 27th)**
- *For Fri: Two Principles of Justice, from A Theory of Justice* by John Rawls (Pg. 1016 – 1025)
 - **Due: Reading Quiz #17 (Posted to Blackboard Nov. 29)**
 - **Due: Essay #2 (Friday, December 1st)**
 - **No Lecture Quiz This Week**

Week 15: (December 4th – December 8th)

Picking Up The Pieces ... What Does It All Mean? Review and a Quiz!

- *For Mon: "The Problem of the Point of View" by James Rachels (Posted on Blackboard)*
- *For Wed: Group Work and Final Exam Review*
- *For Friday: Final Exam Review*
 - **Due: Lecture Quiz #12 (Taken in Class on Dec. 8th)**

Week 16: (December 11th – December 15th)

Final Examination: **Monday, 12/11 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM**

General Assignment/Due Dates Breakdown

DUE BEFORE CLASS ON THE DATE STATED BELOW

RQ = Reading Quiz

RQ1 – 9/1
RQ2 – 9/6
RQ3 – 9/8
RQ4 – 9/11
RQ5 – 9/13
RQ6 – 9/25
RQ7 – 10/4
RQ8 – 10/11
RQ9 – 10/23
RQ10 – 10/25
RQ11 – 10/30
RQ12 – 11/8
RQ13 – 11/13
RQ14 – 11/20
RQ15 – 11/27
RQ16 – 11/29
RQ17 – 12/1

DUE 10 MINUTES PRIOR TO CLASS ON THE DATE LISTED BELOW

LQ = Lecture Quiz

LQ1- Monday, Sept. 4th by 7:50 AM
LQ2- Monday, Sept. 11th by 7:50 AM
LQ3- Monday, Sept. 18th by 7:50 AM
LQ4- Monday, Sept. 25th by 7:50 AM
LQ5- Monday, Oct. 2th by 7:50 AM
LQ6- Monday, Oct. 9th by 7:50 AM
LQ7- Monday, Oct. 16th by 7:50 AM
LQ8- Monday, Oct 30th by 7:50 AM
LQ9- Monday, Nov. 6th by 7:50 AM
LQ10- Monday, Nov. 20th by 7:50 AM
LQ11 – Monday, Nov. 27th by 7:50 AM
LQ12 – Monday, Dec. 4th by 7:50 AM

ESSAY ASSIGNMENTS:

ESSAY #1: 10/6

ESSAY #2: 12/1

EXAMINATIONS:

MIDTERM EXAM: 10/16 – Normal Class Time

FINAL EXAM: **Monday, 12/11 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM**