

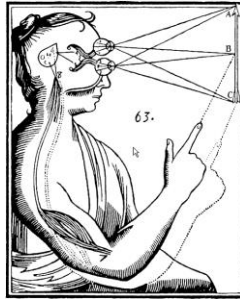
## **PHI 100-W01C: Introduction to Philosophy**

University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point at Wausau, Fall Semester 2019

T/R 2:00 - 3:15, Room 243

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Office: 325 Office Hours: 3:15-3:45 T/R and by appointment



From Rene Descartes (1677)

### Course Description

This course will survey many of the seminal problems of Western philosophy in a structured, analytic fashion. We will read both historically influential philosophers as well as contemporary contributions to a variety of philosophical problems.

### Essential Questions

- What makes a question “philosophical”? How do philosophers make progress on particular issues?
- What is the relationship between mind and the world?
- What makes an action right or wrong?
- What are arguments for (or against) God’s existence?

### Enduring Understandings

*You will come to understand that:*

- There are objective criteria to evaluate philosophical arguments.
- Opinions differ from beliefs.
- The appearance of the world may not accurately reflect reality.
- With diligent effort on their part, students will recognize critical thinking as a process of identifying, analyzing, evaluating, and constructing reasoning in deciding what conclusions to draw or actions to take.

### Knowledge, Skills, and Dispositions

*You should be able to:*

- Apply critical thinking skills to other professional and personal pursuits.
- Understand a variety of philosophical concepts, questions, and positions.
- Defend your own philosophical positions against criticisms.
- Read and comprehend challenging philosophical works.
- Appreciate and respect differing points of views.

## Required Texts

All readings will be posted on Canvas.

## Graded Assignments

1. Ten Quizzes/Short Assignments (10% total)
2. Three Papers (10% each - 30% total)
3. Three Exams (20% each - 60% total)

**Quizzes:** Quizzes will be “pop” and can occur anytime during class. I promise to give at least (12) quizzes or assignments and only the best (10) will count. As a result of this policy, quizzes cannot be made-up for any reason (including sickness, etc.). Please do not ask if there will be a quiz on any particular day.

**Papers:** Papers (500-word minimum) will summarize a debate or respond to a particular question. Prompts for papers will be given in class. Papers are to be turned in both electronically and in class. The electronic versions will be checked for “originality” via “Turnitin.com.” Details and suggestions on writing papers, as well as grading criteria, will be distributed in class.

**Exams:** There will be three exams. Exams will consist of multiple-choice, true/false, short-answer and essay questions. Exams will be, to a limited extent, cumulative. Exam dates are listed on the schedule.

Final grades will be determined on the following scale:

100-93	A	<87-83	B	<77-73	C	<67-60	D
<93-90	A-	<83-80	B-	<73-70	C-	<60	F
<90-87	B+	<80-77	C+	<70-67	D+		

**Late Policy:** Quizzes cannot be made-up. Short assignments will be docked 10% off per day late. Exams cannot be made-up without a university approved absence notification (e.g. a note from a health care provider explaining why the student couldn't be there). Furthermore, you need to contact me immediately in order to reschedule the exam as early as possible. If this condition is not met, you may not be able to re-take the exam.

**Academic Honesty:** If you commit any acts of academic dishonesty (such as plagiarism on written work or cheating on an exam) you will earn a zero for that work (and possibly other disciplinary actions). Please refer to the Student Academic Standards and Disciplinary Procedures for more information

(<https://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Documents/CommunityRights.pdf#page=11> ).

**Attendance:** Attendance is not mandatory and will not be recorded (with the exception of the first few classes, which is mandatory). With that said, if you do not attend class on a regular basis, you will do poorly. Furthermore, quizzes and assignments will be administered on a regular basis and schedule changes will be announced in class.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Statement: The ADA is a federal law requiring educational institutions to provide reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. For more information about UWSP's policies, see: <http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/ADA/rightsADAPolicyInfo.pdf>.

If you require *classroom and/or exam accommodations*, please register with the Disability and Assistive Technology Center and then contact me at the beginning of the course. For more information, please visit the Disability Center's office, located at 604 LRC or their webpage at: <http://www.uwsp.edu/disability/Pages/default.aspx>.

## Risk Management

“In the event of a medical emergency, call 911 or use red emergency phone. Offer assistance if trained and willing to do so. Guide emergency responders to victim.

In the event of a tornado warning, proceed to the lowest level interior room without window exposure. See [www.uwsp.edu/rmgt/Pages/em/procedures/other/floor-plans](http://www.uwsp.edu/rmgt/Pages/em/procedures/other/floor-plans) for floor plans showing severe weather shelters on campus. Avoid wide-span rooms and buildings.

In the event of a fire alarm, evacuate the building in a calm manner. Notify instructor or emergency command personnel of any missing individuals.

Active Shooter - Run/Escape, Hide, Fight. If trapped hide, lock doors, turn off lights, spread out and remain quiet. Follow instructions of emergency responders.

See UW-Stevens Point Emergency Management Plan at [www.uwsp.edu/rmgt](http://www.uwsp.edu/rmgt) for details on all emergency response at UW-Stevens Point.”

**Schedule:** Please note that there may be slight modifications to the schedule throughout the semester. If changes occur, they will be announced in class. Also, be sure to complete

the readings listed for a particular day *before class*, since we will be discussing them on the day they are listed. Readings in our text, “Introduction to Philosophy”, are listed as (IP) and readings on D2L are listed accordingly.

Sept 3 Sept 5	Syllabus and Introduction Plato, <i>Apology: Defense of Socrates</i>
Sept 10  Sept 12	Logical Toolkit and Reasoning and Critical Thinking Handout <b>Epistemology</b> Hume, <i>Miracles</i>
Sept 17 Sept 19	Keeley, <i>Of Conspiracy Theories</i> (Canvas) Descartes, <i>Meditations On First Philosophy</i> (only read sections I and II)
Sept 24  Sept 26	Film: <i>The Matrix</i> (watch on your own) Grau: <i>Bad Dreams, Evil Demons, and The Experience Machine</i> Continued and Review
Oct 1  Oct 3	<b>EXAM</b> <b>Philosophy of Religion</b> Aquinas: <i>Five Arguments for God’s Existence</i>
Oct 8 Oct 10	Hume, <i>Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion</i> (IP: Only read X and XI) Swinburne, <i>Why God Allows Evil</i>
Oct 15 Oct 17	<b>Philosophy of Mind</b> Fodor, <i>The Mind-Body Problem</i> Turing, <i>Computing Machinery and Intelligence</i>
Oct 22 Oct 24	Searle, <i>Minds, Brains and Programs</i> Nagel, <i>What is it Like to Be a Bat?</i>
Oct 29  Oct 31	Vold, <i>Are “you” just inside of your skin or is your smartphone part of you?</i> and Review <b>EXAM</b>
Nov 5 Nov 7	<b>Free Will</b> Hume, <i>Of Liberty and Necessity</i> Chisholm, <i>Human Freedom and the Self</i>
Nov 12 Nov 14	Fried, <i>Beyond Blame</i> (Canvas) <b>Ethics</b> Rachels, <i>Cultural Relativism</i> (
Nov 19 Nov 21	Nussbaum, <i>Veiled Threats</i> Mill, <i>Utilitarianism</i>
Nov 26 Nov 28	Kant, <i>Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals</i> Thanksgiving Break
Dec 3 Dec 5	Continued Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i>
Dec 10 Dec 12	Film: <i>Groundhog Day</i> Continued and Review

**Final Exam: Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2:45-4:45**