

Fall 2021
Introduction to Philosophy
Philosophy 100—02

Professor:

Charles Joshua Horn, Ph.D.

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Office Location: CCC 418

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, 1:30pm—2:00pm; Friday, 10:00am—11:00am; By Appointment

Zoom Office Hours: Tuesday, 9:30am—10:30am; By Appointment

<http://charlesjhorn.webstarts.com/index.html>

Course Information:

Class Time: MWF, 11:00am—11:50pm

Class Location: CCC 303

Reading in the Discipline:

This section of PHIL 100 will have an *optional* course where students can earn an additional 1 credit hour. PSL-109 is primarily a discussion-based course led by Lindsey Dashner, one of my advanced students in the Philosophy program here at UWSP. The discussion course is Pass/Fail and in the past, students enrolled in the discussion section of the course have, on average, a full letter grade higher in my course. [See here for more information on Reading in the Disciplines.](#) If you're interested, you can enroll in either section.

- PSL 109—27: Monday, 10:00am
- PSL 109—28: Thursday, 10:00am

Course Description:

One of the typical misconceptions of philosophy is that it is often understood merely as the study of old books that have no bearing or practical beneficial consequences for those who study it. While philosophy does sometimes involve the study of old books, the thought that philosophy cannot benefit us is simply false. Studying philosophy correctly can cultivate skills that can be used in a wide variety of settings—both academic and otherwise. Philosophy is also sometimes understood as a discipline that deals with “the big questions”, those which have no easy answers and which empirical study might not be able to answer. Our focus in this class will be on some of these big questions:

1. What does it mean to be a “good” person?
2. What is the nature of justice?
3. What does it mean for something to be true?
4. How do we know that our beliefs are true?
5. Does God exist? Is there a way that we could *prove* this one way or the other?
6. If God exists, how do we explain the existence of suffering in the world?
7. What is a mind? What kinds of things have minds?
8. What does it mean for something to be conscious?
9. What kinds of things can be conscious? Humans? Animals? Plants? Computers?

Text:**Rental:**

1. *Introduction to Philosophy: Classical and Contemporary Readings, 8th Ed.*
Oxford University Press
ISBN: 978-0-19-069872-0

Expectations:

Students are expected to check into Canvas daily in order to check for class announcements, complete assignments, use the discussion board, etc. Students are expected to attend every class and remain for the entire time. Do not come late or leave early. Students must complete the necessary readings prior to class and be prepared for discussion and participation. Students will treat other students with respect. This means, turning off all electrical equipment, including cell phones, laptops, and tablets. Students must also address their peers in a respectful tone. It is important to note that the nature of this class will inevitably result in disagreements among colleagues; however, it is essential to maintain respect toward one another despite disagreement.

Face Coverings: At all UW-Stevens Point campus locations, the wearing of face coverings is mandatory in all buildings, including classrooms, laboratories, studios, and other instructional spaces. Any student with a condition that impacts their use of a face covering should contact the [Disability and Assistive Technology Center](#) to discuss accommodations in classes. Please note that unless everyone is wearing a face covering, in-person classes cannot take place. This is university policy and not up to the discretion of individual instructors. Failure to adhere to this requirement could result in formal withdrawal from the course.

Other Guidance: Please monitor your own health each day using [this screening tool](#). If you are not feeling well or believe you have been exposed to COVID-19, do not come to class; email your instructor and contact Student Health Service (715-346-4646). As with any type of absence, students are expected to communicate their need to be absent and complete the course requirements as outlined in the syllabus.

- Maintain a minimum of 6 feet of physical distance from others whenever possible.
- Do not congregate in groups before or after class; stagger your arrival and departure from the classroom, lab, or meeting room.
- Wash your hands or use appropriate hand sanitizer regularly and avoid touching your face.
- Please maintain these same healthy practices outside the classroom.

Please follow the checklist to best increase the chances for success in the class.

1. All assignments are set on a weekly schedule (Sunday—Saturday) and they can be submitted at any point during this period. Be sure to complete the reading assignment, quizzes, essays, and exams during the week specified on the course schedule.
2. Take advantage of office hours. There are in-person office hours, as well as virtual office hours on Zoom. See Canvas “Announcements” tab for full invitation URL and password to join. Please note that a waiting room is enabled so you may have to wait to join in case I am with another student.

Course Goals:

- Demonstrate an ability to read carefully, speak clearly, think critically, or write persuasively about cultures and cultural works/artifacts (including texts, images, performances, and technologies, as well as other expressions of the human condition).
- Identify and analyze how beliefs, values, languages, theories, or laws shape cultures and cultural works/artifacts.
- Engage a variety of ideas and worldviews critically by formulating reflective and informed moral, ethical, or aesthetic evaluations of cultures and cultural works/artifacts.

Academic Integrity:

Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism or helping others to commit these acts will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty will result in severe disciplinary action including, but not limited to, failure of the student assessment item or course, and/or dismissal from the University.

Academic integrity violations include, but are not limited to:

- 1) Cheating: Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, notes, study aids, or other devices in any academic exercise. This definition includes unauthorized communication of information during an academic exercise.
- 2) Fabrication and Falsification: Intentional and unauthorized alteration or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise. Falsification is a matter of inventing or counterfeiting information for use in any academic exercise.
- 3) Multiple Submissions: The submission of substantial portions of the same academic work for credit (including oral reports) more than once without authorization.
- 4) Plagiarism: Intentionally or knowingly presenting the work of another as one's own (i.e., without proper acknowledgment of the source). The sole exception to the requirement is when the ideas, information, etc., is common knowledge.
- 5) Complicity in Academic Dishonesty: Intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic dishonesty.

Additional information can be found at:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/SRR-2010/rightsChap14.pdf>

Disability Information:

Students with disabilities should register with the ADA coordinator on campus and let me know at the beginning of the semester. I would be happy to accommodate you in any way that I can. Just let me know. More information can be found at:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/ADA/rightsADAPolicyInfo.pdf>

Intellectual Property Notice:

Lecture materials and recordings for Philosophy 100 are protected intellectual property at UW-Stevens Point. Students in this course may use the materials and recordings for their personal use related to participation in this class. Students may also take notes solely for their personal use. If a lecture is not already recorded, you are not authorized to record my lectures without my permission unless you are considered by the university to be a qualified student with a disability requiring accommodation. [Regent Policy Document 4-1] Students may not copy or share lecture materials and recordings outside of class, including posting on internet sites or selling to commercial entities. Students are also prohibited from providing or selling their personal notes to anyone else or being paid for taking notes by any person or commercial firm without the instructor's express written permission. Unauthorized use of these copyrighted lecture materials and recordings constitutes copyright infringement and may be addressed under the university's policies, UWS Chapters 14 and 17, governing student academic and non-academic misconduct.

Grading Criteria:

To provide a great deal of flexibility for students, assignments can be submitted at any point during the week that they are due (Sunday—Saturday). Assignments can be made up beyond the due dates for both unexcused and excused absences. For unexcused absences, a late penalty may be imposed. Late work must be complete within one week of the assignment due date.

Canvas will automatically calculate and update grades as the semester progresses. To determine your current grade in the class, take the score in the "Total" column and divide by 100. If there are still remaining assignments left, add the remaining points possible to your points earned to see the best-case scenario for your grade. Then use the grading scale below. The goal for the class is to try to earn as many points as possible. Any points earned over these 100 points will count as extra credit. Final grades will be calculated based upon the following.

- 1) 'Getting Started' Quiz: 5 Points Total (5 Points Each)
 - a) There will be a short quiz on material from the syllabus. Review the syllabus carefully and answer the questions.
- 2) Two Exams: 50 Points Total (25 Points Each)
 - a) Exams will be composed of 50 multiple-choice questions to be completed in 75 minutes. Exam I will cover Unit I and II. The Final Exam (Exam II) will cover Units III, IV, and V. Exams are open book/open note, but do not use the internet as a resource.
- 3) Fifteen Reading Quizzes 30 Points Total (2 Points Each)
 - a) There are quizzes associated with most of the readings in the class. Students will have 5 minutes to answer questions on the readings designated on the course schedule (look for Q# on the schedule to see which quiz is associated with each reading). Because there are 20 quizzes on the course schedule, students may earn up to 10 bonus points in extra credit for the semester. This also means that you can skip up to 5 quizzes and still earn the full 30 points for this part of your grade!
- 4) One Outline: 10 Points Total (10 Points Each)
 - a) There are four films on the syllabus: *The Dark Knight*, *Inception*, *The Life of Pi*, and *Ex Machina*. Students may select any **one** of those prompts to work through the process of writing a philosophical essay. The first step of this process is to *outline* the essay by clearly stating your thesis, providing one argument (with evidence and a conclusion that follows from that evidence), and addressing one objection to your own argument. In the event that students complete more than one outline, only the first will be graded.

- 5) One Essay 10 Points Total (10 Points Each)
- a) The second step of this process is to take the outline and write an *essay*. In grading your essays, I will consider whether you have a sufficient understanding of the relevant texts, have answered the questions *clearly, concisely, and thoroughly*, and have argued your position persuasively. A full rubric will be provided with each prompt. If students complete more than one prompt, then only the first will be graded. Writing additional essays is not permitted and they will not be graded. Each essay should be one single-spaced page (500 words). Students should consult the “Tips for Writing” on Canvas and “Writing Philosophy Papers” on pg. 14 of the textbook for help with writing their persuasive essay. It would also be helpful to complete an outline of your paper before starting. Look at the “Essay Construction Handout” for a blueprint. Essays should be uploaded to Canvas as PDFs.
- 6) One “Philosophy at UWSP” Bonus Quiz 5 Points Total (5 Points Each)
- a) There will be a short quiz on the advantages of studying philosophy at UWSP!

“Pass” Range (70—100 Points)			“Fail” Range (<70 Points)	
“A” Range	“B” Range	“C” Range	“D” Range	“F” Range
	B+ (87—89)	C+ (77—79)	D+ (67—69)	F (<60)
A (94—100)	B (84—86)	C (74—76)	D (60—66)	
A- (90—93)	B- (80—83)	C- (70—73)		

Course Schedule:**Unit I: Basics of Philosophy**
(September 2—4)**Week 1**

September 3	Syllabus/Course Introduction What is Philosophy? Hearts and Heads Living in a Vat The Problem of Evil Total Lack of Recall	Canvas Canvas Canvas Canvas
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Online Tasks “Getting Started” Quiz

Week 2
(September 5—September 11)

September 6	Academic Holiday	
September 8	Logical Toolkit	Pg. 8—13
Online Tasks	Q1 (Logical Toolkit)	

Unit II: Ethics and Society:
What does it mean to do the ‘right’ thing?

September 10	Herodotus, “Morality as Custom” Pojman, “Who’s To Judge?”	Canvas Canvas
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Online Tasks Q2 (Herodotus, Pojman)

Week 3
(September 12—September 18)

September 13	Mortimer, “Morality is Based on God’s Commands” Arthur, “Why Morality Does Not Depend on God’s Commands”	Canvas Canvas
September 15	Bentham, “The Principle of Utility” Mill, “Utilitarianism”	Pg. 528—531 Pg. 532—548

September 17 Utilitarianism Review
The Good Place, Season 1 Episode 5

Online Tasks Q3 (Mortimer, Arthur), Q4 (Bentham, Mill)

Week 4
(September 19—September 25)

September 20	Williams, “Utilitarianism and Integrity” Nozick, “The Experience Machine”	Pg. 559—567 Canvas
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September 22 “The Trolley Problem” Pg. 851—852

September 24 Critiques of Utilitarianism Review
The Good Place, Season 2 Episode 5

Online Tasks Q5 (Williams, Nozick)

Week 5	(September 26—October 2)	
September 27	Kant, “Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals	Pg. 583—599
September 29	Kant, “Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals	Pg. 583—599
October 1	Deontology Review The Good Place, Season 1 Episode 7 The Good Place, Season 1 Episode 11	
Online Tasks	Q6 (Kant)	
Week 6	(October 3—October 9)	
October 4	Aristotle, “Nicomachean Ethics”	Pg. 607—622
October 6	Nietzsche, “Excerpts from Beyond Good and Evil”	Canvas
October 8	Critiques of Virtue Ethics, Nietzsche Review The Good Place, Season 1 Episode 3	
Online Tasks	Q7 (Aristotle), Q8 (Nietzsche)	
Week 7	(October 10—October 16)	
October 11	Writing Philosophy Papers Essay Construction Handout Citation Primer Tips for Writing	Pg. 14—16
October 13	Unit II Review and Discussion	
October 15	Essay I Peer Review	
Online Tasks	Film: <i>The Dark Knight</i> <i>The Dark Knight</i> Essay Due Exam I (On Units I—II)	
	<u>Unit III: Knowledge and Reality:</u> <u>How do we know what we think we know?</u>	
Week 8	(October 17—October 23)	
October 18	Plato, “Allegory of the Cave”	Pg. 165—169
October 20	Descartes, “Meditations on First Philosophy (1 and 2)”	Pg. 170—175
October 22	The Matrix Clip (Morpheus Explanation) Change Blindness Videos	
Online Tasks	Q9 (Plato), Q10 (Descartes)	

Week 9	(October 24—October 30)	
October 25	Hume, “Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding”	Pg. 222—248
October 27	Unit III Review and Discussion	
October 29	Essay II Peer Review	
Online Tasks	Q11 (Hume) Film: <i>Inception</i> <i>Inception</i> Essay Due	
	<u>Unit IV: God and Evil</u>	
Week 10	(October 31—November 6)	
November 1	Anselm, “The Ontological Argument”	Pg. 40—42
November 3	Aquinas, “The Existence of God”	Pg. 42—44
November 5	Pascal, “The Wager”	
Online Tasks	Q12 (Anselm), Q13 (Aquinas)	
Week 11	(November 7—November 13)	
November 8	Hume, “Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion”	Pg. 54—88
November 10	Hume, “Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion”	Pg. 54—88
November 12	Hume, “Of Miracles”	Canvas
Online Tasks	Q14 (Hume)	
Week 12	(November 14—November 20)	
November 15	Leibniz, “God, Evil, and the Best of All Possible Worlds”	Pg. 89—91
November 17	Unit IV Review and Discussion	
November 19	Essay III Peer Review	
Online Tasks	Q15 (Leibniz) Film: <i>Life of Pi</i> <i>Life of Pi</i> Essay Due	
	<u>Unit V: Minds, Brains, and Identity</u>	
Week 13	(November 21—November 27)	
November 22	Descartes, “Meditations on First Philosophy (6)”	Pg. 187—193
November 24	Jackson, “What Mary Didn’t Know”	Pg. 303—306
November 26	Academic Holiday	
Online Tasks	Q16 (Descartes), Q17 (Jackson)	

Week 14	(November 28—December 4)	
November 29	Turing, “Computing Machinery and Intelligence”	Pg. 322—335
December 1	Searle, “Minds, Brains, and Programs”	Pg. 335—348
December 3	Kara Video 1 Kara Video 2 Sophia Video	
Online Tasks	Q18 (Turing), Q19 (Searle)	
Week 15	(December 5—December 11)	
December 6	Dennett, “Where am I?”	Pg. 406—414
December 8	Unit V Review and Discussion	
December 10	Essay IV Peer Review	
Online Tasks	Q20 (Dennett) Film: <i>Ex Machina</i> <i>Ex Machina</i> Essay Due Extra Credit Quiz Course Evaluations	
Week 16	(December 12—December 18)	
December 16	Final Exam (Exam II on Units III—V) ONLY ACTIVE FROM (2:45pm—4:45pm)	