

Spring 2022
Introduction to Philosophy
Philosophy 100—02

Professor:

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Office Location: CCC 418

Drop-In Hours: MWF, 2:00pm—3:00pm; By Appointment (Zoom also available during this time.)

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

Course Information:

Class Time: MWF, 12:00pm—12:50pm

Class Location: CCC 128

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?

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 109-29 (82595) Mondays at 10:00am in CCC 206

PSL 109-30 (82596) Tuesdays at 10:00am in CCC 320

Text:**Rental:**

1. *Introduction to Philosophy: Classical and Contemporary Readings, 9th Ed.*
Oxford University Press
ISBN: 9780197543825

Expectations:

Students are expected to check into Canvas daily 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.

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/RightsRespos/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/RightsRespos/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) Four Exams: 40 Points Total
 - a) Exams will be composed of multiple-choice questions to be completed in 50 minutes. Exams are open book/open note, but do not use the internet as a resource.
- 2) Fifteen Reading Quizzes 30 Points Total
 - 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!
- 3) Peer Review Workshop 10 Points Total
 - a) Part of the writing process for the Outline and Essay is to participate in the Peer Review Workshop. Students must bring in *two copies* of drafts of both the Essay and Outline as hard copies to receive credit.
- 4) One Outline: 10 Points Total
 - 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
 - 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
 - a) There will be a short quiz on the advantages of studying philosophy at UWSP!

7) Engagement

Engagement comes in many forms. I reserve the right to raise or lower final grades up to 10 points based on engagement, meaning that it is also possible for engagement points to remain at 0. There is no hard and fast rule for raising or lowering the 10 points. While the grade is subjective, it is not arbitrary. Taken together, engagement includes, but is not limited to:

- a) Preparation: reviewing readings and materials before class.
- b) Focus: avoiding distractions during class.
- c) Presence: responsive during class.
- d) Asking Questions: in class, out of class, on the discussion board, through email, etc.
- e) Listening: hearing what others say, and what they are not saying.
- f) Specificity: referring to specific ideas from readings and discussions.
- g) Synthesis: making connections between readings and discussions.

“Pass” Range			“Fail” Range	
(70—100 Points)			(<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: ETHICS AND SOCIETY**

Week 1		(September 4—September 10)	
September 7		Syllabus/Course Introduction	
September 9		Pig That Wants to be Eaten Exercise	
Online Tasks		No Tasks	
Week 2		(September 11—September 17)	
September 12	Q1	Logical Toolkit	Pg. 8—25
September 14	Q2	Herodotus, “Morality as Custom” Pojman, “Who’s to Judge?”	Canvas Canvas
September 16	Q3	Mortimer, “Morality is Based on God’s Commands” Arthur, “Why Morality Does Not Depend on God’s Commands”	Canvas Canvas
Online Tasks		Q1, Q2, Q3	
Week 3		(September 18—September 24)	
September 19	Q4	Bentham, “The Principle of Utility” Mill, “Utilitarianism”	Pg. 481—484 Pg. 485—501
September 21	Q5	Williams, “Utilitarianism and Integrity”	Canvas
September 23		“The Trolley Problem” Kant, “Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals”	Pg. 773—774 Pg. 520—536
Online Tasks		Q4, Q5	
Week 4		(September 25—October 1)	
September 26	Q6	Kant, “Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals”	Pg. 520—536
September 28	Q7	Aristotle, “Nicomachean Ethics”	Pg. 544—559
September 30	Q8	Nietzsche, “Excerpts from Beyond Good and Evil”	Canvas
Online Tasks		Q6, Q7, Q8	
Week 5		(October 2—October 8)	
October 3		Essay I Peer Review Workshop	
October 5		Exam I Review	
October 7		Exam I (Complete on Canvas)	
Online Tasks		Outline I, Essay I, Exam I	

UNIT II: KNOWLEDGE AND REALITY

Week 6		(October 9—October 15)	
October 10	Q9	Plato, “Allegory of the Cave”	Pg. 157—161
October 12		Descartes, “Meditations on First Philosophy (1 and 2)”	Pg. 164—169
October 14	Q10	Descartes, “Meditations on First Philosophy (1 and 2)”	Pg. 164—169
Online Tasks		Q9, Q10	
Week 7		(October 16—October 22)	
October 17		Nozick, “The Experience Machine”	Pg. 162—163
October 19	Q11	Hume, “Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding”	Pg. 193—219
October 21		Essay II Peer Review Workshop	
Online Tasks		Q11	

Week 8	(October 23—October 29)
October 24	The Matrix Clip (Morpheus Explanation) Change Blindness Videos
October 26	Exam II Review
October 28	Exam II (Complete on Canvas)
Online Tasks	Outline II, Essay II, Exam II

UNIT III: GOD AND EVIL

Week 9	(October 30—November 5)	
October 31	Q12	Anselm, “The Ontological Argument” Pg. 52—54
November 2	Q13	Aquinas, “The Existence of God” Pg. 54—56
November 4		Pascal, “The Wager”
Online Tasks		Q12, Q13
Week 10	(November 6—November 12)	
November 7		Hume, “Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion” Pg. 74—103
		Hume, “Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion” Pg. 74—103
November 9	Q14	Hume, “Of Miracles” Canvas
November 11		Essay III Peer Review Workshop
Online Tasks		Q14
Week 11	(November 13—November 19)	
November 14	Q15	Leibniz, “God, Evil, and the Best of All Possible Worlds” Pg. 104—106
November 16		Exam III Review
November 18		Exam III (Complete on Canvas)
Online Tasks		Q15, Outline III, Essay III, Exam III

UNIT IV: MINDS, BRAINS, AND IDENTITY

Week 12	(November 20—November 26)	
November 21		Descartes, “Meditations on First Philosophy (6)” Canvas
November 23	Q16	Descartes, “Meditations on First Philosophy (6)” Canvas
November 25		No Class—Academic Holiday
Online Tasks		Q16
Week 13	(November 27—December 3)	
November 28	Q17	Jackson, “What Mary Didn’t Know” Pg. 263—266
November 30	Q18	Turing, “Computing Machinery and Intelligence” Pg. 282—295
December 2	Q19	Searle, “Minds, Brains, and Programs” Pg. 295—308
Online Tasks		Q17, Q18, Q19
Week 14	(December 4—December 10)	
December 5	Q20	Dennett, “Where am I?” Pg. 355—363
December 7		Substantive Course Evaluations, Philosophy at UWSP
December 9		Exam IV Review
Online Tasks		Q20

Week 15

December 12

December 14

Online Tasks

(December 11—December 15)

Essay IV Peer Review Workshop

Make Up Day

Outline IV, Essay IV, “Philosophy at UWSP” Bonus Quiz, Course Evaluations

FINALS WEEK

Week 16

Online Tasks

(December 16—December 22)

Exam IV— (Complete on Canvas, 12/20/2022 from 2:45pm—4:45pm)