

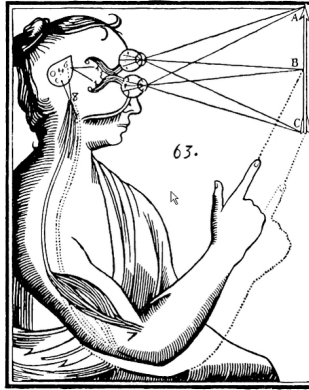
## **PHI 100-02C: Introduction to Philosophy**

University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point, Fall Semester 2018

Sec. 2C: T/R 11-12:15 CCC 128

Dr. Jason Zinser; Phone: 715-346-4146; Email: [jzins@uwsp.edu](mailto:jzins@uwsp.edu)

Office: 419 CCC Office Hours: 2-3 M-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:*

- Analyze reasoning in argumentation.
- Evaluate reasoning in argumentation.
- 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

Perry, Bratman and Fischer, *Introduction to Philosophy: Classical and Contemporary Readings*, Seventh Edition. Oxford University Press.

Additional readings will be posted on our D2L site.

## Graded Assignments

1. Three Exams (20% each – 60% total)
2. Three Short Essays (5% each – 15% total)
3. Ten Quizzes/Short Assignments (25% 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.

**Short Essays:** Short essays will be 500-word essays summarizing a reading or responding to a particular question. Essay prompts will be given in class. Essays 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 essays, 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/Escapes, 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.

T Sept 4 R Sept 6	Syllabus and Introduction Plato, Apology: Defense of Socrates (IP)
T Sept 11  R Sept 13	Logical Toolkit (IP) Reasoning and Critical Thinking Handout (D2L) Watch a short video: <a href="http://criticalthinkingresources.org/Introduction_to_Critical_Thinking/story_html5.html">http://criticalthinkingresources.org/Introduction_to_Critical_Thinking/story_html5.html</a>
T Sept 18 R Sept 20	<b>Epistemology</b> Hume, Miracles (D2L) Keeley, Of Conspiracy Theories (D2L)
T Sept 25 R Sept 27	Descartes, Meditations On First Philosophy (IP: only read sections I and II) Film: The Matrix
T Oct 2 R Oct 4	Continued and Review <b>EXAM</b>
T Oct 9 R Oct 11	<b>Philosophy of Religion</b> Aquinas: Five Arguments for God’s Existence (IP) Hume, Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion (IP: Only read X and XI)
T Oct 16  R Oct 18	Swinburne, Why God Allows Evil (D2L) <b>Philosophy of Mind</b> Churchland, Critique of Dualism (D2L)
T Oct 23 R Oct 25	Fodor, The Mind-Body Problem (D2L) Turing, Computing Machinery and Intelligence (IP)
T Oct 30 R Nov 1	Searle, Minds, Brains and Programs (IP) Film: NOVA: World’s Smartest Machine
T Nov 6 R Nov 8	Nagel, What is it Like to Be a Bat? (D2L) & Review <b>Exam</b>
T Nov 13 R Nov 15	<b>Free Will</b> Hume, Of Liberty and Necessity (IP) Chisholm, Human Freedom and the Self (IP)
T Nov 20 R Nov 22	Fried, Beyond Blame (D2L) <b>Thanksgiving Break!</b>
T Nov 27 R Nov 29	<b>Ethics</b> Rachels, Cultural Relativism (D2L) Nussbaum, Veiled Threats (D2L)
T Dec 4  R Dec 6	Mill, Utilitarianism (IP) Le Guin, The Ones Who Walk Away From Omelas (D2L) Kant, Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals (IP)
T Dec 11 R Dec 13	Aristotle, Nichomachean Ethics (IP) Continued and review

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