

Fall 2018
Introduction to Philosophy
Philosophy 100—03C

Professor:

Charles Joshua Horn, Ph.D.

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Office Location: CCC 418

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Office Hours: MW, 1:00pm—2:00pm

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

Course Information:

Class Time: MW, 2:00pm—3:15pm

Class Location: CCC 227

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 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. Does God exist? Is there a way that we could *prove* this one way or the other?
2. How do we explain the existence of suffering in the world?
3. What is the nature of consciousness?
4. What kinds of things can be conscious? Humans? Animals? Plants? Computers?
5. What does it mean to be a “good” person?
6. What is the nature of justice?

Text:

Rental:

1. *Introduction to Philosophy: Classical and Contemporary Readings*
Oxford University Press
ISBN: 978-0-19-020023-7

Expectations:

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.

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.

Critical Thinking is purposeful, reflective reasoning about what conclusions to draw or actions to take. With diligent effort on their part, students will:

1. Recognize critical thinking as a process of identifying, analyzing, evaluation, and constructing reasoning in deciding what conclusions to draw or actions to take.
2. Construct reasoning as it applies to philosophical questions and issues.

Grading Criteria:

Late work will never be accepted unless an extension has been granted by Dr. Horn prior to the due date or a university approved excuse is given. Late work must be complete within one week of returning to the class. Extensions will only be granted in extreme circumstances. Additionally, this course will utilize the Canvas online system to facilitate certain aspects of the class. It is required that you check in with Canvas regularly to find class updates, submit work, check grades, etc. Final grades will be calculated based upon the following.

- a) Three In-Class Exams: 60% Total (20% Each)
 - i) Exams will be multiple-choice and cover the material for the given unit.
- b) Two Essays: 20% Total (10% Each)
 - i) Each essay will be one single-spaced page and will address each film that we watch in the course. An additional prompt will be given out in class with a detailed rubric.
- c) Ten Quizzes 20% Total (2% Each)
 - i) Quizzes will be administered at the beginning of classes randomly and will be on the reading material for the day.

*Grading will be anonymous when possible and will follow this scale:

A Range (90—100%)	B Range (80—89%)	C Range (70—79%)	D Range (64—69%)	F Range (0—63%)
	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)		

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. 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>

Course Schedule:

September 5	Syllabus/Course Introduction What is Philosophy?	
	Unit I: God and Evil	
September 10	St. Anselm, “The Ontological Argument”	40
September 12	No Class	
September 17	No Class	
September 19	St. Thomas Aquinas, “The Existence of God”	42
September 24	David Hume, “Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion	54
September 26	David Hume, “Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion	54
October 1	Gottfried Leibniz, “God, Evil, and the Best of All Possible Worlds	89
October 3	Film: <i>Life of Pi</i>	
October 8	Film: <i>Life of Pi</i> /Essay I Peer Evaluations	
October 10	Exam I	
	Unit II: Minds, Bodies, and Persons	
October 15	Rene Descartes, “Meditations on First Philosophy (1 and 2)” <i>Essay I Due</i>	157
October 17	David Hume, “Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding”	211
October 22	A.M. Turing, “Computing Machinery and Intelligence”	295
October 24	John R. Searle, “Minds, Brains, and Programs”	308
October 29	Frank Jackson, “What Mary Didn’t Know”	291
October 31	Daniel Dennett, “Where am I?”	378
November 5	Film: <i>Ex Machina</i>	
November 7	Film: <i>Ex Machina</i>	
November 12	Essay II Peer Evaluations	
November 14	Exam II	
	Unit III: Ethics and Society	
November 19	Herodotus, “Morality as Custom”	Canvas
	Louis Pojman, “Who’s To Judge?” <i>Essay II Due</i>	Canvas
November 21	Robert Mortimer, Morality is Based on God’s Commands	Canvas
	John Arthur, Why Morality Does Not Depend on God’s Commands	Canvas
November 26	Jeremy Bentham, “The Principle of Utility”	480
	John Stuart Mill, “Utilitarianism”	483
November 28	Immanuel Kant, “Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals”	527
December 3	Immanuel Kant, “Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals”	527
December 5	Aristotle, “Nicomachean Ethics”	568
December 10	Nietzsche, “Excerpts from Beyond Good and Evil”	Canvas
December 12	Final Exam Review, Course Evaluations, About the Department/Major/Minor	
December 17	Final Exam (2:45pm—4:45pm)	