

Fall 2019
Introduction to Philosophy
Philosophy 100—004H

Professor:

Charles Joshua Horn, Ph.D.

Joshua.Horn@uwsp.edu

Office Location: CCC 418

Office Phone: (715) 346-2849

Office Hours: MW, 1:00pm—2:00pm

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

Course Information:

Class Time: MW, 9:30am—10:45am

Class Location: CCC 126

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.

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) Two In-Class Exams: 40% 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) One Final Essay: 20% Total (20% Each)
 - i) In lieu of a final exam, there will be a final essay to be submitted during the final exam period. The final essay will be five pages. An additional prompt will be given out in class with a detailed rubric.
- d) One Presentation 20% Total (20% Each)
 - i) In each class period, one student will introduce the assigned reading for the day. The goal is *not* to offer a summary of the main claims from the text, but to raise questions, objections, and concerns for us to take up in the class. Students should prepare a handout in advance for the rest of the class to assist in the presentation. The presentation should last roughly 15-20 minutes.

*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 4	Syllabus/Course Introduction What is Philosophy?	
Unit I: God and Evil		
September 9	St. Anselm, "The Ontological Argument"	40
September 11	St. Thomas Aquinas, "The Existence of God"	42
September 16	David Hume, "Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion"	54
September 18	David Hume, "Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion"	54
September 23	Gottfried Leibniz, "God, Evil, and the Best of All Possible Worlds"	89
September 25	Film: <i>Life of Pi</i>	
September 30	Film: <i>Life of Pi</i>	
October 2	Exam I Review/Essay I Peer Review	
October 7	Exam I	
Unit II: Minds, Bodies, and Persons		
October 9	Rene Descartes, "Meditations on First Philosophy (1 and 2)" <i>Essay I Due</i>	157
October 14	David Hume, "Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding"	211
October 16	A.M. Turing, "Computing Machinery and Intelligence"	295
October 21	John R. Searle, "Minds, Brains, and Programs"	308
October 23	Frank Jackson, "What Mary Didn't Know"	291
October 28	Daniel Dennett, "Where am I?"	378
October 30	Film: <i>Ex Machina</i>	
November 4	Film: <i>Ex Machina</i>	
November 6	Exam II Review/Essay II Peer Evaluations	
November 11	Exam II	
Unit III: Ethics and Society		
November 13	Herodotus, "Morality as Custom"	Canvas
	Louis Pojman, "Who's To Judge?" <i>Essay II Due</i>	Canvas
November 18	Robert Mortimer, "Morality is based on God's Commands"	Canvas
	John Arthur, "Why Morality Does Not Depend on God's Commands"	Canvas
November 20	Jeremy Bentham, "The Principle of Utility"	480
	John Stuart Mill, "Utilitarianism"	483
November 25	Immanuel Kant, "Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals"	527
November 27	Immanuel Kant, "Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals"	527
December 2	Aristotle, "Nicomachean Ethics"	568
December 4	Nietzsche, "Excerpts from Beyond Good and Evil"	Canvas
December 9	Make-Up Day	
December 11	Course Evaluations, About the Department/Major/Minor	
December 17	Final Essay Due by 4:45pm	