

Spring 2020
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 303

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 encouraged to attend every class and remain for the entire time. Students must complete the necessary readings prior to class and be prepared for discussion and participation. Students should treat others in the class with respect. This means, turning off all electronic devices (cell phones, laptops, tablets, etc.), addressing their peers in a respectful tone, and not eating in class. 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. Failure to meet any of these expectations could, and probably will, negatively influence your final grade. Students may also be asked to leave the class if students are disrespectful to their colleagues.

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.

- In-Class Exams: 60% Total (20% Each)
 - Exams will be multiple-choice and cover the material for the given unit.
- Reading Quizzes 20% Total (1% Each)
 - Students will have 5 minutes to answer questions on each reading. Reading quizzes can be taken at any time during the 48 hours prior the day of the lecture on Canvas.
- Essay: 20% Total (20% Each)
 - 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.

*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:

January 22		Syllabus/Course Introduction What is Philosophy?	
Unit I: God and Evil			
January 27	Q1	St. Anselm, "The Ontological Argument"	40-41
January 29	Q2	St. Thomas Aquinas, "The Existence of God"	42-44
February 3	Q3	David Hume, "Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion"	54-88
February 5	Q4	David Hume, "Enquiry: Section X: Miracles"	Canvas
February 10	Q5	Gottfried Leibniz, "God, Evil, and the Best of All Possible Worlds"	89-90
February 12	Q6	Paradoxes and Problems of Classical Theism	Canvas
February 17		Exam I	
Unit II: Minds, Bodies, and Persons			
February 19	Q7	Rene Descartes, "Meditations on First Philosophy (1 and 2)"	157-163
February 24	Q8	David Hume, "Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding"	211-237
February 26	Q9	A.M. Turing, "Computing Machinery and Intelligence"	295-307
March 2	Q10	John R. Searle, "Minds, Brains, and Programs"	308-321
March 4	Q11	Frank Jackson, "What Mary Didn't Know"	291-294
March 9		Film: <i>Ex Machina</i>	
March 11		Film: <i>Ex Machina</i>	
March 16		No Class—Spring Break	
March 18		No Class—Spring Break	
March 23	Q12	Daniel Dennett, "Where am I?"	378-386
March 25		Essay I Peer Review	
March 30		Exam II	
Unit III: Ethics and Society			
April 1	Q13	Herodotus, "Morality as Custom"	Canvas
		Louis Pojman, "Who's To Judge?"	Canvas
		<i>Ex Machina Essay I Due</i>	
April 6	Q14	Robert Mortimer, "Morality is Based on God's Commands"	Canvas
		John Arthur, "Why Morality Does Not Depend on God's Commands"	Canvas
April 8	Q15	Jeremy Bentham, "The Principle of Utility"	480-483
		John Stuart Mill, "Utilitarianism"	483-499
April 13	Q16	Williams, "Utilitarianism and Integrity"	510-518
		Nozick, "The Experience Machine"	Canvas
April 15	Q17	Immanuel Kant, "Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals"	527-535
April 20	Q18	Immanuel Kant, "Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals"	535-543
April 22	Q19	Aristotle, "Nicomachean Ethics"	568-583
April 27	Q20	Nietzsche, "Excerpts from Beyond Good and Evil"	Canvas
April 29		Film: <i>You Don't Know Jack</i>	
May 4		Film: <i>You Don't Know Jack</i>	
May 6		Final Exam Review, Course Evaluations, About the Department/Major/Minor	
May 14		Final Exam (Thursday, 12:30pm—2:30pm)	