

Fall 2020
Introduction to Philosophy
Philosophy 100—02

Professor:

Charles Joshua Horn, Ph.D.

Joshua.Horn@uwsp.edu

Individual Office Hours: Friday, 9:00am—10:00am; By Appointment

Group Office Hours: Thursday, 11:00am—11:30am

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

Course Information:

Fully Online, Administered on Canvas

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. 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?

Text:**Rental:**

1. *Introduction to Philosophy: Classical and Contemporary Readings, 8th Ed.*
Oxford University Press
ISBN: 978-0-19-069872-0

Expectations:

Students are expected to check into Canvas daily in order to check for class announcements, complete assignments, use the discussion board, etc. Please follow the checklist to best increase the chances for success in the class.

1. All assignments are set on a weekly schedule. Be sure to complete the reading assignment, quizzes, essays, and exams during the week specified on the course schedule.
2. In order to provide maximum flexibility to student schedules, all lectures have been pre-recorded and uploaded to Canvas. Please do not share these with anyone outside of the class. See the “Intellectual Property Notice” in the syllabus.
3. There will be discussion-based Group Office Hours via Zoom once a week (Thursday mornings from 11:00am—11:30am). Although these sessions are optional and ungraded, they provide a way to get real-time feedback on questions related to the course and to discuss course content. Scheduled sessions can be found in the Zoom tab on Canvas.
4. Take advantage of individual office hours. 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.

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. Canvas will automatically calculate and update grades as the semester progresses. In order to determine your current grade in the class, take the score in the “Total” column and divide by 100. Then use the grading scale below. The goal for the class is to try to earn as many points as possible. Final grades will be calculated based upon the following. Assignments can be completed at any point during the week they are assigned (Sunday—Saturday).

- a) Two Exams: 60% Total (30% Each)
 - i) Exams will be composed of 50 multiple-choice questions to be completed in 75 minutes. Exam I will cover Unit I and II. The Final Exam (Exam II) will cover Units III, IV, and V.
- b) Fifteen Reading Quizzes 30% Total (2% Each)
 - i) 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 in extra credit for the semester. This also means that you can skip up to 5 quizzes and still earn the full 30% for this part of your grade!
- c) One Essay: 10% Total (10% Each)
 - i) There are four films on the syllabus: *The Dark Knight*, *Inception*, *The Life of Pi*, and *Ex Machina*. Students must write an essay answering the prompt associated with the movie of their choice. The essay should be one single-spaced page. 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. Students should submit only one essay for the semester. In the event that more than one essay is submitted, only the first submission will be graded, so choose carefully.

A Range (90—100%)	B Range (80—89%)	C Range (70—79%)	D Range (60—69%)	F Range (0—59%)
	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.

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>

We will be using an online exam proctoring service called Honorlock in this course. You will be required to use Honorlock for exams in this course. Please see the Honorlock – Student Information module for additional resources. I strongly suggest that you take the Honorlock Practice Exam to familiarize yourself with this process before the first graded exam.

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.

Course Schedule:**Unit I: Basics of Philosophy****Week 1****(August 30—September 5)**

Syllabus/Course Introduction

What is Philosophy?

Hearts and Heads

Living in a Vat

The Problem of Evil

Total Lack of Recall

Canvas

Canvas

Canvas

Canvas

Week 2**(September 6—September 12)**

Academic Holiday

Logical Toolkit

Writing Philosophy Papers

Essay Construction Handout

Tips for Writing

Pg. 8—13

Pg. 14—16

Unit II: Ethics and Society**Week 3****(September 13—September 19)**

Q1 Herodotus, “Morality as Custom”

Pojman, “Who’s To Judge?”

Q2 Mortimer, “Morality is Based on God’s Commands”

Arthur, “Why Morality Does Not Depend on God’s Commands”

Canvas

Canvas

Canvas

Canvas

Week 4**(September 20—September 26)**

Q3 Bentham, “The Principle of Utility”

Mill, “Utilitarianism”

Q4 Williams, “Utilitarianism and Integrity”

Nozick, “The Experience Machine”

Pg. 528—531

Pg. 532—548

Pg. 559—567

Canvas

Week 5**(September 27—October 3)**

Q5 Kant, “Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals”

Kant, “Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals”

Pg. 583—590

Pg. 590—599

Week 6**(October 4—October 10)**

Q6 Aristotle, “Nicomachean Ethics”

Q7 Nietzsche, “Excerpts from Beyond Good and Evil”

Pg. 607—622

Canvas

Week 7**(October 11—October 17)**

Q8 “The Prisoner’s Dilemma”

“The Trolley Problem”

Film: *The Dark Knight*

Pg. 846

Pg. 851—852

Week 8**(October 18—October 24)**

Exam I (On Units I—II)

Unit III: Knowledge and Reality

Week 8	(October 18—October 24)	
	Q9	Plato, “Allegory of the Cave” Pg. 165—169
Week 9	(October 25—October 31)	
	Q10	Descartes, “Meditations on First Philosophy (1 and 2)” Pg. 170—175
	Q11	Hume, “Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding” Pg. 222—248
Week 10	(November 1—November 7)	
		Film: <i>Inception</i>

Unit IV: God and Evil

	Q12	Anselm, “The Ontological Argument” Pg. 40—42
Week 11	(November 8—November 14)	
	Q13	Aquinas, “The Existence of God” Pg. 42—44
	Q14	Hume, “Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion” Pg. 54—88
		Hume, “Of Miracles” Canvas
Week 12	(November 15—November 21)	
	Q15	Leibniz, “God, Evil, and the Best of All Possible Worlds” Pg. 89—91
		Film: <i>Life of Pi</i>

Unit V: Minds, Brains, and Identity

Week 13	(November 22—November 28)	
	Q16	Descartes, “Meditations on First Philosophy (6)” Pg. 187—193
	Q17	Jackson, “What Mary Didn’t Know” Pg. 303—306
Week 14	(November 29—December 5)	
	Q18	Turing, “Computing Machinery and Intelligence” Pg. 322—335
	Q19	Searle, “Minds, Brains, and Programs” Pg. 335—348
Week 15	(December 6—December 12)	
	Q20	Dennett, “Where am I?” Pg. 406—414
		Film: <i>Ex Machina</i>
Week 16	(December 13—December 19)	
		Final Exam (Exam II on Units III—V)
		Course Evaluations