

SAMPLE SYLLABUS
Introduction to Philosophy
PHI 153

Name:

Email:

Phone:

Office:

Office Hours:

Department: Division of Multidisciplinary Programs

Class meeting time and place:

Course Description:

An introduction to philosophy through the examination of prominent philosophical problems, topics, and theorists.

Core Objectives:

- Critical Thinking – to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information
- Communication – to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication
- Personal Responsibility – to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making
- Social Responsibility – to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will acquire factual knowledge concerning critical thinking and conduct of rational discourse. (Core objective: Critical Thinking)
2. Students will gain familiarity with certain fundamental philosophical problems and historically prominent conceptual systems associated with the philosophical disciplines of epistemology, philosophy of the person, and philosophy of religion. (Core Objective: Social Responsibility)
3. Students will come to recognize the importance of basic philosophical issues and distinctions in their own lives, and to analyze and evaluate the choices they make in regard to these issues. (Core Objectives: Communication and Personal Responsibility)

Text and Materials:

Peg Tittle. *What If . . . : Collected Thought Experiments in Philosophy*. New York: Pearson/Longman, 2005. ISBN: 0321202783

Or a professor may choose another text such as the following:

Brooke Noel Moore and Kenneth Bruder. *Philosophy: The Power of Ideas*. McGraw-Hill Humanities, 2010. ISBN: 0073407461

Nils C. Rauhut. *Ultimate Questions: Thinking About Philosophy*. Pearson, 2010. ISBN: 020573197X

Robert Solomon and Kathleen Higgins. *The Big Questions*. Wadsworth Cengage Learning, 2010. ISBN: 9780495595151
Self-designed course packet with appropriate primary and secondary readings.
Textbook choices will be reviewed periodically in light of new editions and publications.

Course Requirements:

Tests: There will be three examinations covering the material presented in the book and lecture, two during the semester and one final examination.

Research Assignment: There will be a research assignment requiring students to analyze and evaluate competing theories of epistemology, to formulate, justify, and clearly express their own position, and to explore the ramifications of their position on their individual decisions and social interactions.

Course Calendar:

Weeks 1-3: Unit 1

Philosophical reasoning: may include but is not limited to argument definition and analysis, the perils of groupthink, the canons of rational discourse

Includes instruction in Critical Thinking, Communication skills, Social Responsibility and Personal Responsibility.

Weeks 4-7: Unit 2

Understanding reality: includes epistemology; may also include but is not limited to metaphysics, philosophy of God, philosophy of science. **Includes instruction in Critical Thinking and Communication Skills.**

- First examination
- Research assignment, part 1: analyzing and evaluating epistemological theories

Weeks 8-11: Unit 3

Human and non-human nature: may include but is not limited to philosophy of the person, mind and body, artificial intelligence, animals and the environment. **Includes instruction in Critical Thinking, Communication Skills, Social Responsibility, and Personal Responsibility.**

- Second examination

Weeks 12-14: Unit 4

Knowledge for the sake of action: may include but is not limited to questions of how to lead one's life and how to interact with others individually and socially. **Includes instruction in Critical Thinking, Communication Skills, Social Responsibility, and Personal Responsibility.**

- Research assignment, part 2: exploring the ramifications of epistemological theories

Final Exam Week

- Final Examination

Grading Policy:

Exam 1: 25%
Exam 2: 25%
Research Assignment: 20%
Final Examination: 30%

Attendance Policy:

A student who accumulates more than three weeks' worth of absences during the semester will receive a final course grade of "F." Students are responsible for keeping track of their own attendance record and recognizing when their final course grade is endangered by excessive absences.

Academic Integrity (A-9.1)

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp

Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Students with Disabilities

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the

semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to <http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/>.