

PHILOSOPHY 001: KNOWLEDGE AND REALITY

MTWR 11:30AM – 10:20AM F-4

T. LE
DEPT. OF PHILOSOPHY
DE ANZA COLLEGE
21250 STEVENS CREEK BLVD.
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is a survey course to introduce students to the philosophical study of logic, epistemology, metaphysics, and religion. Topics will include deductive and inductive arguments, formal and informal fallacies, Plato's theory of knowledge as well as that of Descartes, Hume, Berkeley, and Kant. We will also briefly explore the concept of the individual in relation to society.

Please note that even though there is no prerequisite to enroll in this course, I strongly recommend the completion of English 1A prior to enrolling in this course. Successful completion of any philosophy course requires that you have good reading comprehension and writing skills.

GRADING POLICY (1000 POINTS)

Dialogues.....10% (100 points)
Term Paper.....30% (300 points)
Quizzes.....30% (300 points)
Exams.....30% (300 points)

GRADE SCALE

98 – 100%: A+	78 – 79%: C+
93 – 97%: A	70 – 77%: C
90 – 92%: A-	68 – 69%: D+
88 – 89%: B+	63 – 67%: D
83 – 87%: B	60 – 62%: D-
80 – 82%: B-	00 – 59%: F

Grading is based upon an in-depth understanding of the course material and the display of critical thinking and insight. Students achieving an A in this course come to class on a regular basis, do all of the assigned readings including supplemental readings, doing all of the assigned reflection papers, doing well on all exams, completing a well written term paper, and asking questions if you do not understand the material covered in this course. All of this requires that you have a great degree of academic discipline as well as self-discipline, mental maturity, and a relatively stable personal life. If you want to do well, then it is your responsibility to have all or most of these conditions met prior to enrollment in this course.

Your grade for this course is final and will not be changed unless under justifiable circumstances as described in the Academic Policy. It is not permissible to turn in late assignments or make up assignments to increase your final grade once grades are submitted. Your grade is not negotiable if it is the result of your own incompetence. Receiving letter grades of D or F means that you will have to retake this course for it to count towards your GE and/or transfer requirements. Incompletes are only granted under severe circumstances that are beyond your control such as severe illness or death of a family member. Proper documentation is required when requesting an Incomplete.

YOU AGREE TO NOT DISPUTE YOUR FINAL GRADE. THE ONLY EXCEPTION IS GRADE MISCALCULATION ERRORS. WHAT YOU EARN IS WHAT YOU DESERVE. IF YOU DO NOT DO WELL,

IT IS YOUR OWN FAULT. IF YOU WANT TO DO WELL, YOU MUST DO WHATEVER IT TAKES (WITHIN THE BOUNDRIES OF THE LAW) TO SUCCEED.

TEXTBOOK

There is no required textbook for this course. However, there is an optional supplement, which can be purchased on my web site listed below. The supplement contains outlines to the readings for the term.

Various readings and outlines can also be accessed on my web site. There are some password protected PDF files on the web site. Enter "phil" to open these password protected documents.

Website: <http://www.Le-Foundation.org>

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

It is your responsibility to read and to understand the Academic Dishonesty Policy, especially the section on plagiarism. Plagiarism is when you use the works of others and claiming it as your own. All works belonging to another person must be cited. Cheating or plagiarism will result in academic and/or administrative sanctions. The student will normally receive a failing grade for the assignment, a failing grade for the course, be placed on disciplinary probation, or will be expelled. **IF YOU ARE CAUGHT CHEATING OR PLAGIARIZING, YOU WILL RECEIVE AN F FOR THE COURSE. ENROLLING IN THIS COURSE MEANS YOU UNDERSTAND AND AGREE TO UPHOLD THE ACADEMIC HONOR CODE.**

ATTENDANCE, PARTICIPATION, AND ENROLLMENT

Students are expected to read the material, do homework assignments, attend class, and be prepared to engage in classroom discussion because these are crucial elements of the learning process. You cannot participate if you do not attend, therefore you must attend if you do not want to be penalized for this. Attendance will be taken on random days. If I pass out a roll sheet, it is your responsibility to make sure that your name is on the roll sheet by the end of the class session, otherwise you will lose points. **POOR ATTENDANCE WILL UNDERMINE YOUR FINAL GRADE BY A MAXIMUM OF 100 POINTS (OR 10%).**

If you decide to stop attending class for whatever reason, it is your responsibility to drop from the course by the withdrawal deadline. You may receive an F for the course if you fail to do this. I will not give anyone an **INCOMPLETE** grade unless under justifiable circumstances as described in the College Policy and Procedures. I may decide to drop students who are deemed inactive (those not attending or not doing homework assignments).

QUIZZES AND EXAMS (600 POINTS)

There are two exams, and each is worth 150 points for a grand total of 300 points. Each exam consists of short-response questions and/or at least one longer response question. There are also ten quizzes, and each is worth 30 points for a grand total of 300 points. Quizzes are held on a weekly basis (on Thursdays). The exams will be held during the middle and at the end of the term.

There are no make-up quizzes and exams unless you have a good excuse (e.g., being extremely ill, the death of a family member, or other events that would significantly impair your ability to take the exam). These or any other impairing events will require proof that the actual event had occurred.

DIALOGUES (100 POINTS)

You will be asked to write two dialogues throughout the term (2 – 3 pages each, single-spaced). The dialogue will consist of two or more characters from various readings arguing against one another. More information about this assignment will be given in class.

TERM PAPER (300 POINTS)

You are required to write one term paper (8+ pages in length) that critically analyzes a specific theme in the course. This is a persuasive paper (you must persuade the reader to accept your thesis). You will be graded primarily on content and insight. Well written papers contain a comprehensive literature review, critical analysis and critical insight.

Requirements

1. Your paper topic must be pre-approved, otherwise you will not receive credit.
2. Your term paper must be your original work. Proper citation must be provided to give credit to any works that is not yours.
3. Recycling or re-using term papers from other courses is not permissible.
4. You must provide an in-depth discussion from 3 peer-reviewed journal articles and 2 books.
5. You must provide a thesis and arguments to support your thesis.
6. You must incorporate various authors from our course.
7. The length of the paper is 8 pages minimum (double spaced, Times New Roman, font size 12). Anything else will lead to a grade penalty.
8. Include a cover page (title, name, class, e-mail, phone number)
9. Attach a copy of the first page of each journal article to the end of your term paper.
10. Use MLA style footnotes to cite your sources.

DE ANZA STUDENT JOURNAL OF PHILOSOPHY / PHILOSOPHY CLUB

All students are highly encouraged to submit your term paper to the De Anza Student Journal of Philosophy at the end of the term. I will also make recommendations if your term paper is of high caliber. Please contact the President of the Philosophy Club for more information about term paper submissions, being a staff member of the journal, or if you would like to join the philosophy club.

LEARNING DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICE

Student with learning disabilities should go to the Education Diagnostic Center to receive help, including information on testing accommodations. Location: Learning Center West, Room 110, Telephone: (408) 864-8839

Students with physical, psychological, sensory impairments, ADD/ADHD, and other disabilities should go to the Disability Support Services (DSS). Location SCS 41 Telephone: 408-864-8753

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT AND AGREEMENT

- a. I will come to class on a regular basis, do the reading, and be prepared to participate in classroom discussion. I understand that attendance is crucial to the learning process. I understand that failing to attend on a regular basis can result in point reductions.
- b. I understand that disruptive student behavior will lead to the appropriate disciplinary action such as suspension or expulsion from the class.
- c. I will come to class on time. If I come to class late, I agree to come in quietly and I will try to find a seat closest to the door. I will not leave early because this is extremely rude and it will disturb others. However, if I must do so, I will sit by the door and leave quietly.
- d. I will not pack up my things until the instructor has concluded the lecture or discussion because doing so may disrupt the concentration of others and the flow of the lecture or discussion.
- e. I will respect every other student, including their thoughts, beliefs, and background during various classroom discussions. I understand that it is permissible to criticize the ideas of others in a constructive manner, but it is not permissible to put anyone down for their ideas.
- f. I will not dominate the class lectures or class discussions with my own opinions and/or questions. Doing so will disrupt the flow of the lecture and inhibits others from asking questions or making comments.
- g. I will turn my cellular phone off or put it in silent mode so that it will not disturb others. If I receive an extremely urgent phone call, then I will quietly leave the classroom to take the call outside so that it will not disturb others.
- h. I will not play games or send text messages on my cellular phone. I understand that doing so is disrespectful and it is not appropriate in the classroom.
- i. I will not do assignments from other classes while being inside this class.
- j. I will not sleep in class. I will try my best to get enough rest the evening prior to class so that I can be alert the entire classroom time.
- k. I understand that if I wish to withdraw from the course, it is my responsibility to withdraw by the official deadline. Failure to do so will result in the instructor having to assign a letter grade.
- l. I understand that I am responsible for my success or my failure. Being successful means that I am willing to put in a lot of time and effort into the course and it means that I am willing to do whatever it takes (within the boundaries of the law) to succeed.
- m. I understand that complaining about my grade (including the final grade for this course) and negotiating for a higher grade due to my own incompetence is not permissible and will not be tolerated. I understand that the final grade is final and cannot be changed unless there was a miscalculation error.
- n. I accept full consequences for my actions including those that may undermine my final grade.
- o. By signing below, I agree to all of the above conditions in addition to the Academic Policy of De Anza College.

Name: _____ Signature: _____

College: De Anza College Class: Phil 001 Instructor: T. Le Term: Winter 2012

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 01 (JAN. 9 -): LOGIC AND ARGUMENTATION

- DEDUCTIVE AND INDUCTIVE LOGIC
- MEDIA AND ADVERTISING
- QUIZ 1

WEEK 02 (JAN. 17 -): PLATO'S METAPHYSICS, ETHICS, AND BUDDHIST METAPHYSICS

- NO CLASS ON MONDAY, JAN. 16
- PLATO, *REPUBLIC*
- QUIZ 2

WEEK 03 (JAN. 23 -): ARISTOTLE'S METAPHYSICS AND ETHICS

- ARISTOTLE, *METAPHYSICS*, *NICOMACHEAN ETHICS*, AND *POLITICS*
- QUIZ 3

WEEK 04 (JAN. 30 -): ARGUMENTS FOR GOD

- ARGUMENTS FOR GOD
- THE PROBLEM OF EVIL
- FREE WILL AND DETERMINISM
- QUIZ 4

WEEK 05 (FEB. 6 -): ARGUMENTS FOR GOD, *CONTINUED*

- PROBLEM OF EVIL, *CONTINUED*
- KANT ON THE NOUMENA AND PHENOMENA WORLDS
- QUIZ 5

WEEK 06 (FEB. 13 -): TERM PAPER RESEARCH AND METHODOLOGY

- MONDAY: Go over term paper requirements and research methods
- TUESDAY: Meetings with students with last name ending in A - L
- WEDNESDAY: Meetings with students with last name ending in M - Z
- THURSDAY: MID-TERM EXAM

WEEK 07 (FEB. 21 -): ETHICS

- NO CLASS ON MONDAY, FEB. 20
- Moral relativism, moral objectivism, moral egoism, divine command, and natural law theory
- Le, “The Search for Guiding Principles through Natural Law Theory”
- QUIZ 6

WEEK 08 (FEB. 27 -): ETHICS, CONTINUED

- Le, “Mill and Kant on Morality”
- John Stuart Mill, *Utilitarianism*
- Immanuel Kant, the *Metaphysics of Morals*
- QUIZ 7
- FRIDAY, MAR. 2: LAST DAY TO DROP WITH “W”

WEEK 09 (MAR. 5 -): PHENOMENOLOGY AND EXISTENTIALISM

- HEGEL
- KIERKEGAARD
- QUIZ 8

WEEK 10 (MAR. 12 -): EXISTENTIALISM

- TERM PAPER DUE MONDAY, MARCH 12. ALL LATE SUBMISSIONS ARE SUBJECT TO A 20% PENALTY
- NIETZSCHE
- MOVIE – *WHEN NIETZSCHE WEPT* / UNDERSTANDING THE ETERNAL RECURRENCE
- QUIZ 9

WEEK 11 (MAR. 19 -): EXISTENTIALISM

- SARTRE, *EXISTENTIALISM IS A HUMANISM*
- WEDNESDAY: QUIZ 10
- THURSDAY: REVIEW FOR FINAL EXAM

WEEK 12 (MAR. 26 -): FINAL EXAM

- MONDAY, MARCH 26: EXAM 3