

Required readings: The readings for this class are posted on Canvas in “Modules” and under “Readings.” You have no text book to purchase.

Course Outline

Week of:

May 15 What is philosophy?

22 **Ancient Origins:** Presocratics
Plato, *Apology, Meno, Republic*
Aristotle, *Physics*, Book II

TEST 1, online May 28th (1 PM) – May 30th (11PM)

29 **Knowledge:** Descartes, rationalism
Locke, empiricism
Hume, empiricism & skepticism
Kant, pure & empirical knowledge

TEST 2, online June 4th (1 PM) – Jun 6th (11 PM)

June 5 **The Mind:** Smart, “Sensations and Brain Processes”
Turing, “Computing Machinery and Intelligence”
Searle, “Minds, Brains, and Programs”
Jackson, “What Mary Didn’t Know”

(8th, Last day to withdraw without getting an “F”)

12 **Personal Identity:** Locke, personal identity--consciousness
Hume, personal identity--bundle
Free Will: d’Holbach & Laplace, determinism
James, “The Dilemma of Determinism”
Hume, Liberty v. Constraint

TEST 3, online June 18th (1 PM) – 20th (11 PM)

19 **God:** Boethius, *Consolation of Philosophy*
Thomas Aquinas, Five Ways (arguments for God’s existence)

Anselm, the Ontological Argument for the Existence of God
Gaunilo, Criticism of the Ontological Argument
Mackie, "Evil and Omnipotence"
Hume, Evil and Design
Flew, Religious Language & Falsifiability

FINAL EXAM, online Friday, June 23rd (1 PM) – Monday, June 26th (6 PM)

Due to unforeseen events, alteration of the assignment schedule may be necessary. If such occurs, I shall do my best to inform you as early as possible.

Course Content- Philosophy is the activity of examining, clarifying, and attempting to provide adequate responses to fundamental questions, such as: What is real? Do I experience the world as it really is, or is the world in some way dependent upon my experiencing it? What is truth? Can I be certain about anything? Does God exist? Would knowing whether or not God exists make any difference? Do I have a mind that is separate from my brain? Do I have free will, or are my actions determined by the laws of physics like everything else? How do I live the moral life? What is beauty? Are these genuinely well-formed questions in the first place, or are they just mistaken uses of language? We shall consider some of the best approaches to these issues from 2,500 years of philosophy. Your personal views are of interest in this course only in so far as they can be supported by sound reasoning and clear expression.

Grades- (1) Tests: You will have four, online tests (tests I, II, III, and a final), each of which will consist of 25 multiple-choice questions plus an essay. Tests I, II, and III will each cover a specific portion of the class material, while the final will cover the rest of the semester's material and will also be cumulative. I shall drop your lowest test grade (but not the final). If you miss a test, that will count for your dropped grade. If you miss a second test, you will receive a zero for that test. If you miss the final, you fail the course. (2) **Grade Calculation:** Tests -- 75% total; and class participation (discussion boards) -- 25%. (3) **Commitment:** Students who are sincerely committed to success in this course will not fail. Evidence of sincere commitment includes regular and substantial class participation. (4) **Posting of Grades:** Final grades will be posted online. I shall not give you your grade earlier. (5) **Grading Scale:** A=100-90; B+ = 89-87; B=86-80; C+ = 79-77; C=76-70; D=69-60; F=59 or below.

Office hours: You may contact me any time through Canvas mail, and I shall reply the same day (maybe not so quickly on weekends).

Be sure to read "College Policies, Important Dates, and Campus Resources" at left on the home page.

Course-related Institutional Learning Outcomes & Assessment Methods

Institutional Learning Outcomes	Quiz	Exam	Project/ Paper	Classroom Activity	Service Learning
Communication: The student will read, write, speak, and listen effectively.					
1. Read materials and effectively understand essential facts and concepts.		x			
Global Socio-Cultural Responsibility: The student will be an informed and responsible citizen in social, cultural, and global matters.					
Understand the local and global connections among power, knowledge, gender, and class.		x			