

Introduction to Philosophy—PHI 101

Section KA MW 1:00- 2:15 pm

Nassau Hall, Room 219

INSTRUCTOR | Dr. Amanda J. Favia

EMAIL ADDRESS | Amanda.Favia@ncc.edu

OFFICE HOURS | M 11⁰⁰ am -12¹⁵ pm, W 9³⁰- 10⁴⁵ am & By *Appointment*

ROOM | M217 Rm. G (Nassau Hall)

Course Description: This course is designed as an introduction to some of the enduring questions of thinking that have and continue to consume philosophers. In this class, we will examine the process of philosophy, a process with which we not only ask certain kinds of questions about knowledge, existence, morality, and politics, but a process that also helps us understand how to think and speak rationally and systematically about those questions.

Through the careful study of selections from classic and contemporary works of Western philosophy, we will consider a wide range of subjects within the field of philosophy (logic, epistemology, metaphysics, and ethics). Some philosophical questions we will address: How can we be sure the external world exists? What is knowledge and what can we know? What makes an action morally right or wrong?

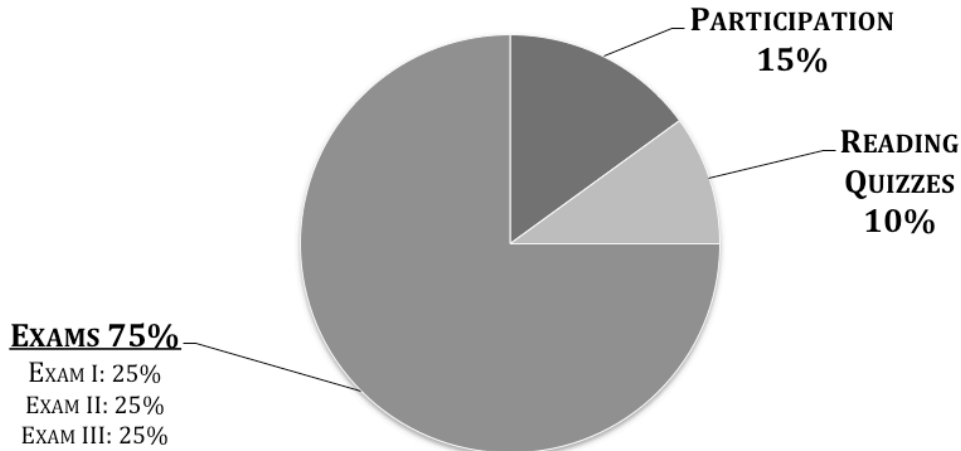
Required Text: *Introduction to Philosophy* Course Packets I, II, & III

Course Objectives:

- ✓ Establish a basic understanding and appreciation of some philosophical issues and theories in Western philosophy.
- ✓ Learn how to read, articulate, and understand philosophical texts.
- ✓ Develop the ability to identify, evaluate and compare philosophical positions on the basis of arguments.
- ✓ Develop critical thinking skills required to carefully examine and evaluate others, as well as your own, views.

GRADES

Your final grade will be determined in the following manner:



Course Requirements

Class Participation (15%): The class participation grade has three aspects: (1) Classroom Activity, (2) Attendance, and (3) Homework.

Participation in class discussions includes raising *relevant* questions and making comments that pertain to the topic being discussed and to the assigned readings. Participation also includes in-class assignments (group work) and homework. Excessive absences and consistent lateness to class will affect your grade negatively. For more details, see *Class Participation Rubric*.

Attendance and Lateness Policy: There is **NO** distinction between “*excused*” and “*unexcused*” absences—if you do not attend class then you are considered absent.

More than **THREE (3)** absences will result in a reduction of your **FINAL GRADE**. Excessive absences, **FIVE (5)** or more, will result in automatic **FAILURE of the course**. Consistent lateness to class will also affect your grade negatively. It is the student’s job to keep track of his or her absences.

Please be aware: if you are absent from class, and you miss classroom/assignment details, it is *your responsibility* to contact another *classmate*.

Weekly Reading Assignments: You should come prepared to ask and answer questions and to discuss the readings each day. *How to Help Yourself:* Although the readings in this class may be shorter in length than the ones you are used to in other courses, you will probably find that they are harder to get through and harder to understand. It will help if you take notes in a notebook while you are reading, and/or if you write down a short summary of what you have understood after reading each selection.

Reading Quizzes (10%): 10 short quizzes based on assigned readings. Quizzes will be given during the **first 10 minutes of class**. There are **NO MAKE-UP** quizzes.

Exam I (25%), Exam II (25%) & Exam III (25%) are all in-class essay exams, which will be based on readings and class discussions. There is ONE and only one make-up exam. All are entitled to the make-up. So, any excuse will do (but just once). The make-up occurs on the second to last day of classes (12/15).

Other Course Policies

Cell Phones/Laptops: Turn *OFF* all cell phones, laptops and electronic devices before class begins. Students who do not abide by this may be asked to *leave the class* and consequently counted as *absent* from class.

Academic Integrity: Cheating & Plagiarism will result in automatic **FAILURE** of the course!

See Student Code of Conduct: http://www.ncc.edu/administration/policies/code_conduct.htm.

Please Note: If you have a physical, psychological, medical, or learning disability that may have an impact on your ability to carry out the assigned coursework, I urge you to contact the staff at the Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD), Building U, (516) 572-7241, TTY (516)572-7617. The counselors at CSD will review your concerns and determine to what reasonable accommodations you are entitled as covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. All information and documentation pertaining to personal disabilities will be kept confidential.

Class Schedule

(subject to revision)

September 2016

Mon	Tuesday	Weds	Thursday	Fri
			1	2
			Introduction to Philosophy	
5	6	7	8	9
NO CLASS: Labor Day	Readings: Plato, <i>The Apology</i>		Readings: Plato, <i>The Apology</i> (cont'd) Reading Quiz #1	
12	13	14	15	16
	Readings: Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> Reading Quiz #2		Readings: Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> (cont'd)	
19	20	21	22	23
	Readings: Kant, <i>The Metaphysics of Morals</i> Reading Quiz #3		Readings: Kant, <i>The Metaphysics of Morals</i> (cont'd) O'Neill, <i>A Simplified Account of Kant's Ethics</i>	
26	27	28	29	30
	Readings: Mill, <i>Utilitarianism</i> Reading Quiz #4		Readings: Mill, <i>Utilitarianism</i> (cont'd) Le Guin, <i>The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas</i>	

October 2016

Mon	Tuesday	Weds	Thursday	Fri
3	4	5	6	7
NO CLASS: <u>Rosh Hashanah</u>	Review for Exam I		Exam I	
10	11	12	13	14
	Readings: Clifford, <i>The Ethics of Belief</i> Reading Quiz #5		Readings: Clifford, <i>The Ethics of Belief</i>	
17	18	19	20	21
	<u>NO CLASS—Monday Schedule</u>		Readings: James, <i>The Will to Believe</i> Reading Quiz #6	
24	25	26	27	28
	Readings: James, <i>The Will to Believe</i> (cont'd)		Readings: Pascal, <i>The Wager</i> Blackburn, <i>Pascal's Wager</i> Reading Quiz #7	
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November 2016

Mon	Tuesday	Weds	Thursday	Fri
	1	2	3	4
	Review for Exam II		Exam II	
7	8	9	10	11
	<p>Readings: Descartes, <i>Meditations on First Philosophy: Meditation I</i></p> <p>Reading Quiz #8</p>		<p>Readings: Descartes, <i>Meditations on First Philosophy: Meditation I (cont'd)</i></p>	
14	15	16	17	18
	<p>Readings: Descartes, <i>Meditations on First Philosophy: Meditation II</i></p> <p>Reading Quiz #9</p>		<p>Readings: Descartes, <i>Meditations on First Philosophy: Meditation II (cont'd)</i></p>	
21	22	23	24	25
	<i>Film & Discussion: TBA</i>		<u>NO CLASS: Thanksgiving</u>	
28	29	30		
	<p>Readings: Hume, <i>An Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding</i></p> <p>Reading Quiz#10</p>			

December 2016

Mon	Tuesday	Weds	Thursday	Friday
			1	2
			Readings: <i>Hume, An Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding (cont'd)</i>	
5	6	7	8	9
	Readings: <i>Hume, An Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding (cont'd)</i>		Review for Exam III	
12	13	14	15	16
	Exam III		Makeup Exam	
19	20	21	22	23
	Grade Conferences		<i>No Class—Friday Schedule</i>	
26	27	28	29	30