

Chaminade University Summer Evening/Online 2020-2021

Course Name and Number: PH 100-90 Introduction to Philosophy

Instructor Name: Dr. Mark Brasher

Instructor Contact Information:

Email Address: mark.brasher@chaminade.edu You may also email the instructor from within the course website (Canvas) email system. Email is the preferred way of contacting the instructor. I teach at multiple locations and my phone is off when I am driving or teaching so phone contact is the least efficient and slowest way to communicate with me. I check my email regularly and will get back to you as soon as possible.

Home Phone: (808) 381-6080 (Please do not call outside 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Hawaii time). If you cannot email me and are being deployed without prior notice or hospitalized and cannot get to your email, you may leave a voicemail message for me. But again, the most efficient way to communicate with me is via email.

Course Information

Course Description: An examination of the role, themes, arguments, and discursive styles that characterize philosophy as an intellectual discipline. Both traditional and critical theories will be considered and the role of the mytho-poetic and religious discourses will receive special attention.

Course Objectives: By studying major topics in philosophy and various approaches to them, students who successfully complete the course will have a basic understanding of the practice and history of philosophical inquiry. By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Identify and explain major questions and significant responses in philosophy.
- Identify and evaluate issues involved in important philosophical debates.
- Explain the strengths and weaknesses of major approaches.
- Define vocabulary essential to philosophical discourse.

More generally, you should also be able to:

- Read critically and answer questions about ideas presented in a college level textbook and in online lecture notes.
- Analyze issues and contribute to a college level discussion with peers and the instructor.
- Apply concepts, synthesize relevant information and present a consistent argument concerning significant issues.
- Track deadlines, pace work and fulfill requirements for college level assignments.

Prerequisites and Co-requisites:

None.

Course Topics: Overview of philosophy, logic, metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, philosophy of art, social and political philosophy, and an introduction to eastern thought.

Specific Course Requirements:

This course involves 6 components. The first four are weekly activities:

1. Reading the instructor's notes on-line.
2. Reading the week's assignment in the textbook.
3. Answering the exercise questions about the current week's reading at the end of the assigned

chapter and uploading answers to the ecollege dropbox.

4. Reading and posting on the weekly discussion board on ecollege.

Besides the weekly work, there will also be:

5. Term paper (optional: see 2 alternative grading patterns for the course, below)
6. Take-home, Final Essay Exam on the topics discussed in the course.

** Additional requirement: each student must email the instructor in ecollege during the first week, so that the instructor knows who is participating in the course. Students who do not email during week 1 may receive a deficiency and/or be contacted by Chaminade regarding the course.*

Textbooks, Supplementary Materials, Hardware and Software Requirements

Required Textbook:

"Fundamentals of Philosophy" Eighth Edition by David Stewart, H. Gene Blocker - Ohio University Publisher: Prentice Hall, Print ISBN 13-9780205242993

Supplementary Materials:

On-line Lecture notes, powerpoint presentations on the course website and on-line discussions.

Course Website address on CANVAS:

<http://chaminade.instructure.com>

Hardware Requirements:

Canvas is accessible from most PCs and Macintosh computers, including tablets and some smartphones with a reliable internet connection.

Software Requirements:

Students must have a recently updated webbrowser to access Canvas. If your browser has not been recently updated it may not be able to view all the material on Canvas. You may also have to have cookies enabled or otherwise adjust certain settings to allow pop-up windows in order to navigate all content in the course. Students may use any wordprocessing software to compose their weekly work. It must be copied and pasted into the posting window in Canvas in order to submit it. Once you upload it, you can see what I see, so you know I received it and you know it is readable.

Assessment and Grading

Grading Procedure:

Students earn points each week for the posts they make to the discussion board and the answers to questions about the assigned reading that they upload each week. At the end of the course, students earn credit on the final exam by completing the take-home essay exam about the topics studied in the course and uploading it by the deadline at the end of the course

Grade Distribution & Grading Scale:

Grading is based 50% on weekly work, this includes weekly posts to the discussion board and weekly answers based on the assigned reading. Each week's posts or answers are worth up to 25 points respectively. Incomplete or irrelevant posts do not earn full credit, incorrect or incomplete answers do not earn full credit. Half of the course assessment is based on the final

exam, which allows the student to demonstrate his or her understanding and mastery of the material we have covered during the course.

(Weekly work: 25% posts, 25% answers; 50% exam = 100% total)

Alternatively, if a student “opts in” for a term paper, the second half of the grading is split between credit for the final exam and credit for the term paper. (50% weekly work , 25% exam, 25% paper= 100% total)

Grading scale: 90%+ = A, 80%+ = B, 70%+ = C, 60%+ = D, less than 60% = F

Assignments and Participation

Assignments and due dates:

Schedule:

Week 1: July 6-12

Week 2: July 13-19

Week 3: July 20-26

Week 4: July 27-August 2

Week 5: August 3-9

Week 6: August 10-16

Week 7: August 17-23

Week 8: August 24-30

Week 9: August 31-September 6

Week 10: September 7-13

Final Exam: September 15 (due date to be confirmed later)

Assignments:

Week 1: Introduction to the course and to the website

Read the weekly lectures notes on the website, answer the weekly questions and post in the weekly discussion board. Also: email the instructor in the canvas class site (worth 10 points).

The “chapter” reading assignments that follow refer to the required course textbook. Note that each PART is about a chapter length (about 30 pages) and is subdivided into short sub-sections they call “chapters” which are about 4-5 pages long. The CAPITALIZED readings are special sections that are sometimes assigned and sometimes optional, as noted.

Week 2: Introduction to Philosophy Read PART 1. WHAT IS PHILOSOPHY?

Read Chapter 1. The Activity of Philosophy. Chapter 2 . Philosophy’s History 3. Philosophy and the Examined Life. And the READING: Socrates: In Defense of Philosophy.

Week 3: Logic. Read PART 2. THINKING ABOUT THINKING (LOGIC).

Read 4 . The Life of Reason. 5. Argument Forms. 6. Induction and Philosophy of Science. 7. Strategies for Philosophical Argument.

Week 4: Metaphysics. Read parts of PART 3. WHAT IS REAL? (METAPHYSICS).

Read 8 . Introduction to Metaphysics. 9. Dualism. Read “Plato: The Divided Line” . 10. Materialism (You may read or skip Epicurus “First Principle”). 11 . Idealism (You may skip or read Berkeley “The 3 Dialogues”). 12 . The Mind-Body Problem. (You may read or skip Lent “Surviving in a different body”.) Read 13 . Freedom and Determinism: The metaphysics of Human Agency (You may skip or read Peter Van Inwagen “The Moral Argument”).

Week 5: Epistemology. Read Part 4 HOW DO WE KNOW.

Read 14 . Introduction to Epistemology. Read 15. The Quest for Certainty. Read the Reading: René Descartes Mediations. Read 16. Trust Your Senses. Read the Reading: David Hume - Skeptical Doubts Concerning the Operations of the Understanding. Carefully read 17 . A Compromise. Immanuel Kant. Two Sources of Knowledge. You may read or skip 18 .

Knowledge and Human Practices: The Pragmatist Tradition. You may skip or read the readings which follow.

Also: email the instructor week 5 if you are opting in for the term paper!

Week 6 : Ethics. Read parts of Part 5. WHAT OUGHT WE TO DO? (ETHICS).

Read 19 . Introduction to Ethical Reasoning. Skip 20. Moral Skepticism. Skip 21. Morality and Metaphysics. Read 22. Eudaemonism: the Morality of Self-Realization. Read the READING: Aristotle - Nichomachean Ethics. Read 23. Utilitarianism: Morality Depends on Consequences.. Read the READING: John Stuart Mill - Utilitarianism. Read 24. Deontology: Morality Depends on Motives. Carefully read the READING: Immanuel Kant - Fundamental Principles. And read Recent Developments in Ethics.

NOTE: This semester the course is skipping Part 6 Philosophy of Religion. (Topics alternate for different semesters).

Week 7: PHILOSOPHY OF ART. Read Part 7 Philosophy of Art (Esthetics)

Read Chapter 30 Introduction to the Philosophy of Art Read Chapter 31. The Value of Art. Read the READING Blocker: The Esthetic Attitude. Read Chapter 30. Art as Ideal. Read the READING Clark: The Naked and the Nude. Read Chapter 31. Esthetics and Ideology. Read the READING Jeffers: Politics of Representation.

Week 8: SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY Read Part 8.

Read Chapter 34. Introduction. Read 35. The Liberal, Secular State. Read the READING: Locke – A Letter concerning Toleration. Read 36. The Individual and the State. Read the READING: JS Mill – Liberty. Read 37. Human Rights. Skip or read Blocker: Human rights. Read 38. Individual Happiness and Social Responsibility. Skip Holowchack “Happiness”.

Week 9: EASTERN THOUGHT. Read Part 9. Eastern Thought.

Read 39. Philosophy East and West. Read 40. Confucian Theories of Human Nature. Read the READINGS: Mencius, Xun Zi, Dong Zhongshu, Other Chinese Theories (Lao Tzu). Read 41. Hindu Debate on Monism. Read any selections included: The Bhagavad Gita; Upanishads. Shankara, Ramanua on the Vedanta Sutras. Read 42 Buddhist Theory of Emptiness. Read the reading excerpted from Nagarjuna.

Week 10: Take-home FINAL EXAM. No new chapter assigned.

Please post feed back in the weekly discussion. Please work on your take-home final essay exam. Directions and requirements are explained in the Week 10 Notes.

Class Participation or Attendance:

Each week, students will read the instructor's on-line notes on the current topic. Then they will read the topic in the textbook while answering the exercise questions at the end of each assigned chapter (questions are also available in the dropbox). Student answers need to be uploaded to the dropbox for credit (do not email answers). Please just "copy and paste" all of your answers at once into the dropbox message, do not upload or attach it as a file. After answering, students should log into the weekly discussion area and read and post responses (minimum 3 weekly: 1 to me, 2 to classmates) . At the end of the course there will be a take-home, written final exam related to what we have examined in the course. Students may opt in (by the end of week 5) to do a term paper, and then the points for the final are split between the final and the term paper. In order to do the paper students must discuss a topic with the instructor week 5. It is recommended, but not required that students submit an outline of the optional paper for comments and changes and submit a draft by week 7. Instructor will return it with recommended changes for the final draft.

Punctuality:

Each week of the course runs from Monday morning through the following Sunday night. To receive credit for your work, you need to upload your answers or post on the discussion board by the deadline (each week: Sunday 11:55 p.m., Hawaii time). In order for the "online discussion to work" you really need to log in once and post your first post, preferably by Friday or Saturday, and a second time Sunday to read and reply to other students posts. Try to avoid waiting until Sunday midnight to make all of your posts to the discussion board or there will be no interaction with your classmates. Occasionally, if work and school prevent you from doing this, I will give you full credit for just submitting and posting everything Sunday night, but please try to make this an exception, not usual.

In this course you will need to do the work and submit it by the scheduled dates. The deadlines for the entire course are in the schedule, plan backwards from the due date to give you enough time to complete the assignments. This broad introductory course presents a number of different topics to the student that cannot be mastered simultaneously. The work is divided into 10 separate weeks worth of work in order to afford a realistic opportunity to the student to master each topic. Each student is required to participate regularly throughout the ten-week term. However, a hospital emergency, unexpected duty or some other circumstance may briefly

interfere with your participation at some point during the term. If this occurs, you need to contact me as soon as possible, arrange to make-up your missing work and to post your missing posts on the discussion board.

If you do not contact me and inform me I cannot know what you are doing and will record zero credit for the missed work. If you continue in the course, you will still need to complete all of the missing work, it is not "waived," any unfinished or missing work will reduce your course grade. If your work is regularly late or you are not participating at all, a deficiency notice may be sent in and I may recommend you drop the course in order not to receive a failing grade on your permanent transcript. It is always the student's responsibility to officially withdraw from a course if he or she is not participating, in order to prevent a failing grade being recorded on his or her transcript.

Note that all work must be in by the day of the final exam and no incompletes with extended deadlines will be possible, beyond the 10 weeks of the course, except in the most extreme circumstances with documented evidence and completed paperwork, in cases where the students contacts the instructor and explains what is happening and makes the necessary arrangements.

The time/work requirements for courses are stated on the Chaminade website and in this course syllabus. Students who do not have time to follow a course should not register for a course. (If you are working full time and taking many other courses this does not mean you may expect to do less work in this course, it is a full credit university course.)

Course Ground Rules

Students are responsible for keeping copies of all submitted work; uploading blank or damaged files will not earn credit. (You can see in Canvas what you have uploaded and whether it is damaged or readable by clicking and opening them.)

Your weekly uploaded answers will be checked and returned to you in canvas for you to review in case there were any corrections. This normally will be within 7 days after the deadline. It is the responsibility of the student to review these corrections. Be sure to ask about any corrections or comments you do not understand.

Student conduct throughout the course is regulated by the code of conduct printed in your Student Handbook and the Chaminade University College Catalog. Basically, the code requires that everyone in the classroom (or on-line) treat each other with respect. Additionally: students must never present another's work as their own (plagiarism) or cheat in any way. Students failing to abide by the code may be reprimanded, expelled from the course, or from the university, as appropriate to the situation and provided for by the policies of Chaminade University. There is also an introduction to conduct in online discussions that applies to all of

your postings to the class discussion board on canvas. This can be found on the course homepage in canvas, under "Code of Conduct".

Any paper submitted for the course will be checked through turnitin.com to ensure there is no plagiarism contained in it. If plagiarism is found, the student will fail the course and the evidence will be turned over to the Chaminade University Academic Dean with a recommendation that the plagiarizer be expelled from the university.

Guidelines for Communications

It always remains the responsibility of the student to maintain contact with the instructor. If you lose access to Canvas you need to contact Chaminade and correct the situation as soon as possible. You should print and save a copy of this syllabus with the contact information and requirements on it, for your reference throughout the ten-week course. Ceasing to communicate, without withdrawing from the course may lead to a deficiency notice and/or a failing grade for the course. To repeat: if you stop participating and do not withdraw, your transcript will have an "F" on it.

Further guidelines for electronic communication:

Email:

- Email the instructor from within Canvas whenever possible.
- If you email the instructor outside canvas use your Chaminade email account so I know it is you and can discuss academic matters with you.
- Always include a subject line and identify which course you are in.

Discussion Groups:

- Review the discussion threads before entering the discussion.
- Always stay within the discussion threads by using the "Reply" button rather starting a new topic.
- Do not make insulting or inflammatory statements to other members of the discussion group. Be respectful of other's ideas.
- Be patient and read the comments of others thoroughly before entering your remarks.
- Respond in a thoughtful and timely manner.

Canvas assignment box submissions:

- Simply "copy and paste" your whole set of weekly answers out of whatever text document you typed them in and paste them into the weekly assignment dropbox area for the correct week.

- Do not write questions to me on the work you submit in the weekly dropbox, it is checked weekly, not daily. If you have a question, be sure instead to email me in Canvas or at mark.brasher@chaminade.edu.
- You can see for yourself that you have uploaded your answers by looking in the dropbox; no need to email me and ask if I received them, if you can see them there, I can see them.
- Weekly assignments are checked after the deadline and returned usually within a week after the due date. Please return to the weekly assignment box and check your returned work for any corrections I have made. Email if you have any questions about the corrections or comments.

Library

Further resources may be found through the Chaminade library website (www.chaminade.edu/library) and other recommended sites listed on the class website.

Students With Disabilities

It is the student's responsibility to self identify with the Director of Personal Counseling in order to receive accommodations. Only those students with appropriate documentation will receive services. Contact the Director of Personal Counseling at (808) 739-4603 or email:

jyasuhar@chaminade.edu.

Technical Support

For technical questions: contact the Chaminade help desk at helpdesk@chaminade.edu

Other issues:

Contact Chaminade University during business hours at (808) 735-4711 or toll free 1-800-735-3733

This syllabus describes all of the requirements for the course and the due dates of all work. If you have any questions about any of the information contained within it, ask the instructor immediately.

PRINT AND SAVE A COPY OF THIS SYLLABUS FOR YOUR REFERENCE

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