

Philosophy 332.01E—History of Philosophy II Spring 2019

Dr. Bill Bolin

Office & Hours: Talbot HL 324, MW 3:30p-5:00p, T 2:00p-4:00p, and by appt.

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will allow you many opportunities to explore important philosophical issues that people have pondered since ancient times through today. These issues include reality, an afterlife, ethics, and consciousness, to name but several. We will read a number of essays from the 17c through the 20c that explore different ideas about where those concepts originate and how our thinking about them might determine our actions, even as we gain an understanding of how such thinking developed through the those historical eras. The course is organized so that conflicting, competing, and even complementary theories will be investigated and can be discussed in interesting and civil ways. Assignments include two essay exams, four short written responses to the reading, and a few short quizzes over the reading. One textbook is required:

- Pojman, Louis P, and Lewis Vaughn. *Classics of Philosophy*. 3rd ed. New York: Oxford UP, 2011. ISBN: 9780199737291.

Use the ISBN to shop around. We'll read much of the second half of the book this semester, covering both Modern and Contemporary philosophy. The same book will be used for Phil 331 in Fall 2019, with the first half of the book covering both Ancient and Medieval philosophy.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Students will write response papers that demonstrate an understanding of important philosophical concepts addressed from the seventeenth century through the twenty-first century and how those concepts might be applied to contemporary issues.
- Students will write two exams that demonstrate understanding of the main schools of thought in Western philosophy from the 17c century through the present day.
- Students will be able to analyze, evaluate, or solve problems when given a set of circumstances, data, texts, or art.
- In written, oral, and/or visual communication, A&M-Commerce students will communicate in a manner appropriate to audience and occasion, with an evident message and organizational structure.
- Students will understand and practice academic honesty.
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of societal and/or civic issues.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To acquire an overview of the history of philosophy from the seventeenth century through the twenty-first century.
- to acquire an overview of the various cultural and social influences on thinking throughout the ages and from different cultures.
- to formulate articulate responses to the reading assignments and ensuing discussions.

ASSIGNMENTS

Exams: You'll have a mid-term and a final, each covering roughly half of the semester. These exams will solicit short answers of 3 or 4 sentences, as well as longer, more richly detailed essay responses. You will need a blue book (or green book) for each exam.

Response papers: In addition, you'll turn in four written responses (300-400 words each) to some of the reading assignments. These responses are not designed to test how well you've read the assigned material. Rather, they serve as opportunities for you to comment on one or two points in the reading, connecting those points to other reading and/or experiences. Each response paper will be evaluated according to the level of detail in your insightful commentary and sensible connections to other reading and/or experiences or observations. Specific assignments are forthcoming in D2L Brightspace, where you will upload your response papers.

Quizzes: You'll take six quizzes to test your comprehension of some of the reading. These open-book quizzes will be in D2L Brightspace and cannot easily be made up. Be attentive to their deadlines when those deadlines are announced throughout the semester.

As a rule I do not accept late assignments.

EVALUATION

Assignment Values	Final Grade Ranges
Midterm Exam 50 pts.	A=180--200
Final Exam 50 pts.	B=160--179
Response Papers 40 pts. (4@ 10 pts. each)	C=140--159
Quizzes 60 pts. (6 @ 10 pts. each)	D=120--139
	F=0--119

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance is important for several reasons, but it is especially important for you to keep up with the assignments in this class. The tentative calendar below offers only the most general description of activities; more detail will be provided in class as the semester goes on. If you will be absent the day an assignment is due, you must contact me and make satisfactory arrangements for turning in the assignment. Failure to make *prior satisfactory* arrangements will result in your forfeiting the right to turn in that assignment. As per university policy, excessive absences (three weeks' worth) may result in your being dropped from the course.

PLAGIARISM/ACADEMIC DISHONESTY STATEMENT

Instructors in the Department of Literature and Languages do not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Instructors uphold and support the highest academic standards, and students are expected to do likewise. Penalties for students guilty of academic dishonesty include disciplinary probation, suspension, and expulsion. (Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 5.b[1,2,3]). Plagiarism on one assignment in this course will result in a failing grade for the course.

TENTATIVE CALENDAR (All reading assignments are from the textbook unless otherwise indicated.)

Jan. 14 Overview: Intro to class; in-class reflective writing

Jan. 16 Overview: Lecture on the meaning(s) of *philosophy*; lecture on reading philosophy

Jan. 21 MLK Holiday

Jan. 23 Chapter 14: Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy*

Jan. 28 Chapter 15: Hobbes, from *Leviathan*

Jan. 30 Chapter 15: Hobbes, from *Leviathan*, continued

Feb. 4 Chapter 19: Locke, from *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*; **RP1 due**

Feb. 6 Chapter 20: Berkeley, *Three Dialogues Between Hylas and Philonous in Opposition to Septics and Atheists*

Feb. 11 Chapter 21: Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*

Feb. 13 Chapter 21: Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, continued

Feb. 18 Chapter 22: Kant, from *Critique of Pure Reason*

Feb. 20 Chapters 23,24: Hegel, “Phenomenology of Spirit”; Schopenhauer, from *The World as Will and Representation*

Feb. 25 Chapter 26: Mill, from *The Subjection of Women*; **RP2 due**

Feb. 27 Chapter 25: Kierkegaard, “Readings”; “Concluding Unscientific Postscript”

Mar. 4 Chapter 27: Nietzsche, “Aphorisms”; “Joyful Wisdom;” and “Beyond Good and Evil”

Mar. 6 **Midterm Exam**

Mar. 11 Chapter 28: Peirce, “The Fixation of Belief”; **RP3 due**

Mar. 13 Chapter 29: James, *The Will to Believe*; from *Pragmatism*

Mar. 18—22 Spring Break

Mar. 25 Chapters 30: Russell, “Chapter XV, The Value of Philosophy” (pp. 1141-44); “A Free Man’s Worship”

Mar. 27 Chapter 31: Moore, “Philosophical Papers”

Apr. 1 Chapter 32: Wittgenstein, from *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus*; from *Philosophical Investigations*

Apr. 3 Chapter 35: Sartre, from *Being and Nothingness*; “Existentialism and Humanism”

Apr. 8 Chapter 36: Ayer, from *Language, Truth, and Logic*

Apr. 10 Chapter 37: Nagel, “What Is It Like to Be a Bat?”

Apr. 15 Chapter 40: Rawls, from *Justice as Fairness*; **RP4 due**
Apr. 17 Chapter 40: Rawls, from *Justice as Fairness*, continued

Apr. 22 Anscombe, “Modern Moral Philosophy” [available online]
Apr. 24 Anscombe, “Modern Moral Philosophy, continued

Apr. 29 Language: Putnam, “Meaning and Reference” [available online]
May 1 Review

May 6 @ 1:15p—3:15p **Final Exam** (see [schedule](#))

Students with Disabilities:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities.

If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library
Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Nondiscrimination notice: A&M–Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry statement: Campus Concealed Carry - Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M- Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to (<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedure/s/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

Tenets of Common Behavior statement: All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct)¹

¹ In other words, don't be a distraction during class.