

INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY
PHIL 1000 – Fall 2009
Tuesday/Thursday 9:30-10:45

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Office Hours: Wednesday 9:30 – 11:00
or by appointment

Course Description: The aim of this course is introduce students to Western philosophy through a careful reading of select philosophical texts. The general guiding theme for the semester will be the nature of evil and our orientation and solutions regarding it. One of the key questions for the course is: What is the origin of evil? In other words, how do we account for or explain our experience of evil in the world? Another key question is: What is the relationship between evil and human freedom? Should we consider freedom the cause of or the solution to evil? Other themes include the nature of human happiness, the relation between the individual and society, and the role of thinking in preventing evil.

Required Texts:

Plato	<i>Gorgias</i>
Augustine	<i>Confessions</i>
John Stuart Mill	<i>On Liberty</i>
Karl Marx	<i>The German Ideology</i> <i>Communist Manifesto</i>
Friedrich Nietzsche	<i>On the Genealogy of Morals</i>
Hannah Arendt	<i>Eichmann in Jerusalem</i>

The books for this course are available at the UGA Bookstore. You may also be able to find them at the off campus bookstores on Baxter Street. The excerpted Marx texts *may* be available as a course packet through Bel-Jean Copy (163 E. Broad St., 706-548-3648). You may also find the Marx texts online at www.marxists.org.

Course Requirements:

1) Reading of all assigned material, regular attendance and participation in class is mandatory for all students.

*** Students who miss the equivalent of six classes, for whatever reason, will be subject, upon discretion of the instructor, to administrative withdrawal.

*** Attendance, class participation, and improvement will be taken into account to resolve borderline cases regarding the final grade for the course.

2) Reading reflections (20% of final grade, 2% each, graded as Pass or Fail)

Students will be required to produce 10 half-page reflections on the assigned reading due

at the beginning of Thursday lecture sessions. The reflections should be structured in a question and answer format. First, pose a question or raise a problem that arises from your reading—avoid questions and problems that are explicitly posed by the authors themselves. Second, offer a preliminary answer to the question on behalf of the thinker or explain why a successful answer is not likely given the thinkers commitments.

***There are 15 Thursday lectures, but you are required to produce only 10 reflections—make sure you do them for the reading assigned for the day you hand them in or they will not count.

***If a student does not hand in 10 of these, he or she will be subject to fail at the discretion of the instructor.

***The final Thursday's reflection should address the movie we watch in the previous Tuesday's class session.

3) Two 3-5 page, double spaced, typewritten papers (each worth 20% of final grade)

Topics for the papers will be assigned by the instructor. Papers must be handed in on time or they will be subject to a penalty of one grade level deduction (e.g. an A to an A-) for each day they are late. After five days, papers will be graded as F, barring documentable circumstances outside the control of the student.

4) One midterm exam and one final exam (each worth 20% of final grade)

Students are required to bring two blue books for each exam. The midterm will occur in a regular class lecture session, and the final will occur on the final exam date scheduled for the course by the registrar.

***Exams are to be taken on the date and at the time specified in the Course Outline. If circumstances beyond your control (e.g., illness, family emergency) make this impossible, or if you miss an exam for any other reason, you should request a makeup exam *immediately*. Makeup exams must be taken within a week of the original test date, unless documentable circumstances make this an impossibility. If the makeup is not completed on this timeline, the instructor reserves the right to refuse to reschedule the make-up exam you are requesting and to withdraw you from the course.

Grading:

The following general criteria will be used in determining the letter grades on your papers and tests. Other criteria may also enter in, at the discretion of the Instructor. This is just to give you some idea of the sort of things I will be looking for in your written work.

F = Fail

Written work does not exhibit even a minimal grasp of the main ideas and other material presented in the course, and shows virtually no attempt at organization or analysis.

D = Pass

Work shows minimal grasp of main ideas, with considerable inaccuracy in formulating them, and no grasp of the details involved. Organization of ideas seriously inadequate; failure to grasp important connections between main ideas; and analysis minimal or lacking altogether.

C = Satisfactory

Work shows very basic grasp of main ideas, with some inaccuracy in formulating them, but little, if any, detail. Some grasp of important connections between main ideas, but serious organizational flaws in other respects, e.g., paragraph structure. Analysis attempted, but minimal as to both quantity and quality.

B = Good

Main ideas and connections between them clearly and accurately expressed, but lacking in precise detail. Organization good, including good paragraph structure, and presentation of material in logically connected form. Analysis too brief to provide adequate support for positions taken, or qualitatively flawed in some respect, e.g., the quality of support for positions taken.

A = Excellent

Ideas and connections between ideas expressed clearly, accurately and in detail. Overall organization excellent, including paragraph structure. Analysis extensive, detailed and qualitatively excellent, e.g., positions taken are argued for rather than simply shored up with a few unconnected reasons.

Academic Honesty: You are expected to abide by the standards for academic honesty established by the University of Georgia. If you have not already done so, you should familiarize yourself with these standards by reading *A Culture of Honesty*, a manual on the University academic honesty policy. You can find this online, along with a number of other useful documents pertaining to academic honesty at the University of Georgia, at http://www.uga.edu/honesty/ahpd/culture_honesty.htm

Course Outline: This is a tentative plan for the class, *deviations from this schedule may be necessary and will be announced in that event*. All assignments are to be read **prior** to lecture on the assigned date.

8/18	Introduction and Syllabus
8/20	Plato, <i>Gorgias</i> , 447a - 461b
8/25	Plato, <i>Gorgias</i> , 461b - 471d
8/27	Plato, <i>Gorgias</i> , 471d - 481b
9/1	Plato, <i>Gorgias</i> , 481b - 505b
9/3	Plato, <i>Gorgias</i> , 505c - 527e
9/8	Augustine, <i>Confessions</i> , TBA
9/10	Augustine, <i>Confessions</i> , TBA
9/15	Augustine, <i>Confessions</i> , TBA

9/17 Augustine, *Confessions*, TBA

9/22 Augustine, *Confessions*, TBA

9/24 Mill, *On Liberty*, TBA

9/28 **PAPER #1 Due**

9/29 Mill, *On Liberty*, TBA

10/1 Mill, *On Liberty*, TBA

10/6 Exam Review

10/8 **MID TERM EXAM (bring blue book)**

10/13 Marx, *German Ideology*, TBA

10/15 Marx, *German Ideology*, TBA

10/20 Marx, *Communist Manifesto*, TBA

10/22 Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals*, TBA

10/27 Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals*, TBA

10/29 Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals*, TBA

11/3 Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals*, TBA

11/5 Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals*, TBA

11/10 Arendt, *Eichmann in Jerusalem*, TBA

11/12 Arendt, *Eichmann in Jerusalem*, TBA

11/17 Arendt, *Eichmann in Jerusalem*, TBA

11/19 Arendt, *Eichmann in Jerusalem*, TBA

11/24 Thanksgiving Break

11/26 Thanksgiving Break

11/30 **PAPER #2 Due**

12/1 Film: *Children of Men*

12/3 Film: *Children of Men*

12/8 NO CLASS: Friday Schedule

12/10???? **FINAL EXAM**