

## Phil 1000: Introduction to Philosophy

### Instructor AJ Tiarsmith

Office 1 Peabody Hall

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 1:00-2:00 and by appointment.

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**Course Description:** This course is designed to serve as an introduction to philosophy—no familiarity with philosophic thinking will be assumed. This assumption might seem to lead to something of a puzzle: if we don't know what philosophy is how can we talk about it? On the other hand, if we do know what philosophy is, why do we need to be introduced to it? Are these our only options? How are beginnings possible?

In this course, we will primarily focus on the problem of beginnings. We will examine this question through a close reading of philosophic texts in the areas of epistemology, ethics, and political philosophy.

### Required Texts

*Five Dialogues (Euthyphro, Apology, Crito, Meno, Phaedo)*, Plato 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.

*Meditations on First Philosophy*, Rene Descartes (translated by Donald A. Cress) 3<sup>rd</sup> edition.

*Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals*, Immanuel Kant (translated by Lara Denis)

*On Revolution*, Hannah Arendt

### Recommended Text:

*The Book of Genesis* translated by Robert Alter

### Assignments and Grading:

Grades will be assigned on the following scale:

A 100-93    C+ 79-77

A- 92-90    C 76-73

B+ 89-87    C- 72-70

B 86-83    D 69-60

B- 82-80    F 59-0

The final grade in the course will be based upon the following assignments:

Paper 1: 20%

Exam 1: 20%

Paper 2: 24%

Exam 2: 24%

Class Participation: 12%

As part of the participation grade, the student is expected to complete work in a "philosopher's journal." The details of this assignment will be explained on the first day of class. Participation grade also includes occasional reading quizzes.

Regular attendance is required in order to be successful in this course. If a student misses more than **6** classes, the instructor reserves the right to administratively withdraw that student from the course.

Make-Up Exams: If missing an exam is *unavoidable* (family emergency, serious illness), students can schedule a make-up with the instructor.

### **Academic Honesty:**

This course will be conducted in accordance with the University of Georgia's Academic Honesty policy. I *strongly* encourage you to read and familiarize yourself with this policy ([http://www.uga.edu/honesty/ahpd/culture\\_honesty.htm](http://www.uga.edu/honesty/ahpd/culture_honesty.htm)).

*All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty." All students are responsible to inform themselves about those standards before performing any academic work.*

### **Tentative Schedule of Readings**

*The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.*

8/18 Introduction

8/20 Apology

8/25 Apology/Crito

8/27 Crito

9/1 Genesis

9/3 Meno

9/8 Meno **Paper 1 Due**

9/10 Phaedo

9/15 Phaedo

9/17 Phaedo

9/22 Phaedo

9/24 Meditations

9/29 Meditations

10/1 Meditations

10/6 Meditations

10/8 Meditations/Review

10/13 **Exam 1**

10/15 Groundwork

10/20 Groundwork

10/22 Groundwork **Withdrawal Deadline**

10/27 Groundwork

10/29 Groundwork

11/3 Genesis/On Revolution

11/5 On Revolution

11/10 On Revolution

11/12 On Revolution **Paper 2 Due**

11/17 On Revolution

11/19 *On Revolution*  
11/24 Thanksgiving Break  
11/26 Thanksgiving Break  
12/1 *On Revolution*  
12/3 *On Revolution*  
12/8 Review

Final Exam: TBA