



SYLLABUS

Introduction to Philosophy

Rutgers University

Department of Philosophy

Dr. B C Hutchens

EMAIL: hcb24@newark.rutgers.edu

REQUIREMENTS

There are a number of scholarly and personal virtues necessary for success in this or any other course:

Fidelity, or constancy of purpose in devotion to learning;

Industriousness, or always working when work is called for;

Diligence, or always working well, both as the task requires and as your abilities permit;

Perspicacity, or always learning the details of a matter instead of being merely 'vaguely familiar' with it;

Humility, the proper understanding of one's own self-worth without claiming to be entitled to anything beyond that worth;

Gratitude, the acknowledgement that something transcends oneself and provides appreciable natural gifts.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

In this course we will explore the significance of logic, metaphysics, epistemology, and ethics. Special emphasis will be placed on critical thinking skills. More specifically, students will be able to:

- (a) name and identify individuals, events, themes, and issues of major importance in the history of philosophy;
- (b) demonstrate a basic level of competence in differentiating the various philosophies and the significance of historical context;
- (c) recognize the importance of critique and influence in the history of philosophy;
- (d) develop an understanding of the use of philosophical texts and display some familiarity toward different types of argumentation; and
- (e) critically analyze arguments and counter-arguments associated in philosophy.

TEXTBOOK (REQUIRED)

DO NOT BUY ANY DIGITAL FORM OF THIS BOOK, ONLY PRINT COPY: USAGE OF CELL-PHONES AND LAPTOPS IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN DURING CLASS

Introducing Philosophy: A Text with Integrated Readings. Robert C. Solomon et al. editors. Oxford University Press, 2016.

ISBN 978-0-19-0209452 (when searching it may be necessary to remove the hyphens)

POLICIES

These policies are categorically binding. Ignorance is no excuse.

COURTESY

My devotion to your learning should be respected. However, my devotion is conditional upon (a) your being devoted to your own learning and (b) your acknowledgement of my devotion to your learning.

GRADING

You deserve only the grade(s) you earn. There will be NO GRADE INFLATION: extra credit, points added, scores curved. Point-fishing is strongly discouraged. My judgment on grading matters will not be contested unless I have made a factual or calculative error.

GRADING AND ASSESSMENT

There will be four assignments this semester. Your final grade for the course will be the average of these assignments. First, there will be three exams of 100 points each. Second, you will give one presentation worth up to 80 points, with the remaining 20 points being for class participation throughout the semester.

COMPOSITE GRADE

One of your grades this semester will be a composite of two assignments: a presentation and class participation. You will receive up to 80 points for the presentation you offer. You will receive up to 20 points for class participation, mainly questions you ask of other presenters and other disputants.

So, again,

80 points for presentation

20 points for class participation

PRESENTATION

Your presentation must summarize and analyze the reading you are assigned. Your presentation should be 20 minutes or more. If your presentation is less than 20 minutes, you cannot receive a grade of more than 70 of the 80 points.

ATTENDANCE

Here are the rules pertaining to attendance.

First, you may excuse any absence if you show a medical, legal or other official document. It must be dated. Also, if you perform or compete for Rutgers University, necessary absences will be excused.

Second, you may miss class TWICE without excuse, that is to say, you may miss two classes without excuse this semester. There is no penalty for these absences.

Third, when you miss the third class without excuse, I will subtract ten points from the next test.

Fourth, when you miss the fourth class without excuse, I will subtract ten points from your final average.

Fifth, when you miss the fifth class without excuse, you automatically fail the course.

So, again,

2 absences—no penalty

3rd absence—ten points off next test

4th absence—ten points off the final average

5th absence—automatic failure of the course

TARDINESS

You may be tardy for class twice this semester, but I will subtract three points for every tardy arrival after the first two.

You may leave the class twice this semester, without penalty, but I will subtract three points for every temporary absence after the first two.

NO LAPTOPS OR CELL-PHONES DURING CLASS

Although using laptops in the classroom is a wonderful opportunity for contemporary scholars, too many students abuse the privilege by texting and surfing the web during class. So, sadly, I will permit no one to use laptops or cell-phones during class.

MAKE-UP TESTS

Many students choose to miss an exam because they have not prepared for it and imagine that extra time to prepare will be to their advantage. If you are absent and provide an excuse for the absence when an exam takes place, you will take a make-up AFTER THE WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE. This make-up test will not resemble the exam taken by everyone else. For example, if everyone else takes a matching, fill-in-the-blank or multiple-choice exam, your exam will consist of short-essay questions.

OFFICE HOURS

Office hours are by appointment only. I will certainly be available on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 to 10 and from 1 to 2 in the afternoon. At any rate, all office hours need to be arranged by appointment, preferably with email verification.

SCHEDULE

Week One

T Introduction to Subject and Course Policies, presentation of Solomon pages 1-23

Th Solomon on Deductive Logic (23-28)

Week Two

T Solomon on Inductive Logic (28-40)

Th Lecture on Abductive Reasoning

Week Three

T Solomon on 'Reality' (43-48)-- PRESENTATIONS

Th Solomon on 'Reality' (48-52)-- PRESENTATIONS

Week Four

T Solomon on 'Reality' (52-55)-- PRESENTATIONS

Th Solomon on 'Reality' (65-87) --PRESENTATIONS

Week Five

T Solomon on Phil of Religion (128-138)-- PRESENTATIONS

Th Solomon on Phil of Religion (138-148)-- PRESENTATIONS

Week Six

T TEST

Th Solomon on Knowledge (191-210)-- PRESENTATIONS

Week Seven

T Solomon on Knowledge (210-227)--PRESENTATIONS

Th Solomon on Knowledge (234-250)--PRESENTATIONS

Week Eight

T Solomon on Truth and Relativism (255-266) --PRESENTATIONS

Th Solomon on Truth and Relativism (268-277, 293-297)--PRESENTATIONS

Week Nine

T TEST

Th Solomon on Ethics (497-509) --PRESENTATIONS

Week Ten

T Solomon on Ethics (509-522)--PRESENTATIONS

Th Solomon on Ethics (542-556)--PRESENTATIONS

Week Eleven

T Solomon on Ethics (556-568)--PRESENTATIONS

Th Solomon on Ethics (568-602, 585-590)--PRESENTATIONS

Week Twelve

T Solomon on Justice (595-602)--PRESENTATIONS

Th Solomon on Justice (602-620)--PRESENTATIONS

Week Thirteen

T Solomon on Justice (621-628)--PRESENTATIONS

Th Solomon on Justice (628-635 and 635-642)—PRESENTATIONS

Week Fourteen

T Continued if necessary

Th TEST

Academic Integrity Violations

The Rutgers University Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as the representation of the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic work. Intentionally committing plagiarism is a serious offense with severe consequences. Instructors are required to report students who intentionally violate this policy to the department chairperson and to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs. The most common forms of plagiarism are:

Quoting directly or paraphrasing without acknowledging the source (this includes copying or paraphrasing material from a web site without providing a proper citation for the site)

Presenting the work of another as one's own

Plagiarizing major portions of a written assignment

Submitting purchased materials such as term papers

The Rutgers University Academic Integrity Policy establishes levels of violations and recommends sanctions. Depending upon the severity of the case and the level of the violation, the sanctions for these violations include: a failing grade for the assignment, failure in the course, mandatory participation in a series of noncredit academic integrity workshops, academic probation, and/or suspension. (If you are in doubt as to what constitutes plagiarism or are concerned that you are misappropriating someone's words or ideas, speak immediately with your instructor. For more

information, you can also consult the University Code of Student Conduct or the Student Judicial Affairs website <http://judicialaffairs.rutgers.edu>.)

Policy concerning Disabilities

Rutgers abides by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments (ADAA) of 2008, and Sections 504 and 508 which mandate reasonable accommodations be provided for qualified students with disabilities and the accessibility of online information. If you have a disability and may require some type of instructional and/or examination accommodation, please contact me early in the semester so that I can provide or facilitate in providing accommodations you may need. If you have not already done so, you will need to register with the Office of Disability Services, the designated office on campus to provide services and administer exams with accommodations for students with disabilities. The Office of Disability Services is located in the Robeson Student Center. For more information on disability services at Rutgers, go to <http://disabilityservices-uw.rutgers.edu/>