PHIL 1101-002
Introduction to Philosophy
Rodger Jackson
MWF 2:10PM – 3:25PM
Fall 2006
(V), (W2)

Course Content: “The unexamined life is not worth living”, Socrates. The purpose of this course will be to examine our own lives through the study of different historical philosophical positions. These positions will be seen both as origins of many of our contemporary views and as representatives of possible views to come; they are our past, they lure our future. But if such examination is performed for the sake of living then, ultimately, this course is intended to enhance your life. There are several ways in which this task is accomplished: by allowing you to see your own lives as historical and yourselves as historical agents, by helping you to see larger philosophical issues in everyday occurrences, by teaching you the critical and analytical skills required to fully understand issues by helping you to learn to express your views clearly in speech and writing and to back those views up with cogent reasons. It is my hope that the development of these abilities will enable you to be a more effective and worthwhile participants in your own lives and, by extension, in (and for) the lives of others.

Prerequisites: My classes are interactive; therefore, every student is expected to attend every class meeting prepared to participate in class discussion. Three unexcused absences will be tolerated after which time unexcused absences will reflect upon the student’s course grade. Students who must miss a class meeting should notify the instructor ahead of time at the telephone number(s) above with an acceptable explanation for the absence. Students are expected to arrive at class on time. Students arriving after class attendance is taken will be counted as absent.

Readings: All reading assignments are to be completed according to the attached reading schedule and students are encouraged to bring questions on the reading assignments to class for discussion. Readings will include:
Plato, The Trial and Death of Socrates
Plato, Republic (Allegory of the Cave)
Augustine, Confessions
Descartes, Meditations on First Philosophy
Hume, An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding
James, Essays in Pragmatism

Projects: Students are required to write two 6-8 page papers. There will be two in-class essay examinations.

Evaluation: The final grade will be calculated as follows: 15% for each paper, 30% for each examination, and 10% for attendance and class participation.
PHIL 2109-001
Ancient Greek Philosophy
Lucio Angelo Privitello
TR 10:30-12:20PM
Fall 2006
(V) (W2)

Course Content: This course will introduce us to several exciting texts and personalities in Ancient Greek philosophy from Thales to Sextus Empiricus. Imagine this course as an intense dialogue among individuals who pick up, exchange, criticize, and build on earlier ideas, systems, and positions. This course will call for your involvement to take on one of the positions unfolded through the readings as an in-class presentation. Think of our course as a theater of the mind-and-body, where the Ancient Greeks, with your help, come back to life.

Prerequisites: Your personality and drive. Previous courses in either Introduction to Philosophy, or Informal Logic would be helpful.

Attendance: Attendance makes up part of the final grade. Regular attendance also creates group cohesion. If you are missing, part of us is not there. Three unexcused absences and three excused absences (with official medical note) will be allowed. Anything over six absences will count as an automatic fail for the course.

Class Format: Lecture/Discussion/Student presentations.


Projects: Short papers, (rewrites), take home exams, in-class presentations.

Evaluation: The final course grade will be based on papers, exams, presentation and class participation and attendance.
PHIL 2201-001  
African American Philosophy  
Anne Pomeroy  
MW 3:35PM – 5:25PM  
Fall 2006  
(I)

Course Content: This course will examine the social impact and influence of African American philosophical thought. We will study both the historical origins of “philosophy born of struggle” and will examine its moral, political, ethical, and feminist dimensions and implications. In particular, the course focuses upon the following issues: What effect and impact historical enslavement of the African peoples has upon the formation of personal, social, cultural, and/or narrative identity. What is meant by race. Whether and/or how race is socially constructed. Whether and/or how the social construction of race affects identity formation and impacts the formation of self-respect, self-esteem, self-worth. Existentialism and race. The philosophical critique of essentialism. The effectiveness and impact of various strategies of combating racism -- social, deconstructive, educational, artistic, feminist, and/or political. We evaluate Afrocentric education and Ebonics. We evaluate separatism and assimilationism. We evaluate violent and non-violent protest. We discuss feminist critiques of knowledge formation and the construction of race. We discuss whether rap music can claim to be a political tool. We discuss narrative identity formation

Prerequisite(s): None.

Attendance: Mandatory

Class Format: Lecture & Discussion


Projects: My classes are interactive, therefore, every student is expected to attend every class meeting prepared to participate in class discussion. Attendance and class participation constitute 10% of your final grade. If you must miss a class meeting you need to notify me ahead of time with an acceptable explanation and appropriate documentation for the absence. Please arrive at class on time. Students arriving after class attendance is taken may be counted as absent.

All reading assignments are to be completed according to the attached reading schedule and students are encouraged to bring questions and issues raised in the readings to class for discussion.

There will be four tests during the term. The dates for the tests are listed on the attached class schedule. Throughout the term students will work in groups preparing a project for presentation in the final weeks of class. Each student will also hand in a 5-7 page paper
based on the content of this presentation. In addition, each student will conduct, record, and prepare a transcript of an interview for the class.

**Evaluation:** The final grade will be calculated as follows: 10% for each test, 20% for the project presentation, 20% for the paper, 10% for the interview, 10% for class attendance. **If you have more than 6 absences you fail the class automatically!** Trust me, you’ll fail anyway if you miss that many classes - I’m just saving you the trouble.
Course Content: This course entails an in-depth analysis of five influential works in moral theory: Aristotle’s *Nichomachean Ethics*, David Hume’s *Inquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals*, Immanuel Kant’s *Groundwork of the Metaphysic of Morals*, and his *Critique of Practical Reason*, Frederick Nietzsche’s *Genealogy of Morals*, and a selection of readings from John Dewey. Although the course doesn’t include any contemporary ethical theorists, it is not a history of moral theory. Rather, these authors have been chosen because they are still the most persuasive proponents of their respective ethical theories.

Prerequisites: At least one philosophy course or POI

Attendance: Attendance is not mandatory, but regular attendance can be used as a reason to boost a student’s grade if he/she is on the borderline or has shown significant improvement throughout the course of the term.

Class Format: Lecture, discussion.

Readings: See above.

Evaluation: At the ¾ mark of each section there will be an assignment handed out and it will be due ten days later. The teacher will go over the requirements at the time, but the papers should be roughly 7-10 pages in length. Students will write three, and only three papers for the term, and the course grade will be based on the average of these three papers. The papers should have proper citations (if you use outside sources), be grammatically correct, free of spelling errors, not plagiarized, and, of course, respond to the question that have been asked.
PHIL 4600-001
Senior Seminar: Volumes and Edges of Contemporary Philosophy
Lucio Angelo Privitello, Ph.D.
TR 6:00PM-7:50PM
Fall 2006
(V) (W2)

Course Content: This Seminar will introduce us to a few major fields and players in contemporary philosophical theory. The surveyed range will be as exciting as the detailed engagement with the selected texts. Because of the historical complexity of the volumes of philosophical theories, the selected contemporary texts will require a rereading, or first reading, of referenced authors from the history of philosophy. One of the objectives of this seminar is to expose us to the way in which the volumes of philosophical histories have produced the edges upon which contemporary philosophy is presently traveling. As such, we will be introduced to a few contemporary thinkers as they rethink what has counted as vitally important texts of the history of philosophy.

Prerequisites: It is very highly recommended that students would have taken a combination of Ancient Greek Philosophy, History of Modern Philosophy, Social and Political Philosophy, Existentialism and Film, or Moral Theories courses to prepare them for the range, depth, and reading requirements (along with writing skills) for this seminar.

Attendance: I will uphold attendance as a Kantian imperative. Official medical notes will only excuse three absences. Anything over three absences will seriously impact the final grade. Anything over six absences is an automatic fail for the course.

Class Format: Lecture, thoughtful roundtable discussion, student presentations, and student run mini introductory lectures (based on commentaries and questions).

Readings: Selected texts from: Marcuse, Adorno, Feyerabend, Husserl, Heidegger, Gadamer, Merleau-Ponty, Foucault, Blanchot, Levinas, Lacan, Bataille, Derrida, Deleuze, Latour, Irigaray, Rorty, Margolis, and Zizek. Along with selected texts by these authors, readings will be required from the history of philosophy with which these authors are directly in dialogue. Note the prerequisites recommendation.

Projects: Short commentaries/questions on each reading, running bibliographic journal based on referenced authors, several short preparatory papers, one formal presentation, one commentary on colleague’s presentation, a final paper based on your presentation, or what will be mutually discussed and selected as your most promising work from the semester. Final paper must be formatted and presented as a philosophy journal submission. All projects must be handed in on the assigned dates.

Evaluation: The final grade will be calculated based on the above mentioned projects. 10% for short commentaries/questions on each reading, 10% for running bibliographic journal based on referenced authors, 10% for several short preparatory papers, 20% for formal presentation, 10% for one commentary on colleague’s presentation, and 40% for final paper. The Kantian attendance imperative holds as stated above.