

Introduction to Philosophy
Philosophy 1- 7802
Instructor Frank Waters
M - W, 8:10 - 9:40

Contact Info:

Email-watersfg@lamission.edu

Office Hours – Before and after class

Course Description:

Systematically explore the concepts of knowledge, reality and value through the perspectives of epistemology, metaphysics, ethics, aesthetics, political philosophy and the philosophy of religion. Introduce and explore the concepts of idealism, realism, skepticism, materialism and relativism to name a few.

Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion, one will be able to:

- a) Demonstrate knowledge of the views of some historically significant philosophers.
- b) Analyze, compare and contrast the basic methods of philosophical reasoning.
- c) Differentiate among major schools of philosophical thought.
- d) Articulate an understanding of the philosophical enterprise and employ basic rules of thinking, e.g. logic.
- e) Identify and articulate the central philosophical questions regarding self, reality, knowledge, value, beauty, and religion.
- f) Identify and articulate various responses or perspectives on central philosophical questions in the areas of epistemology, metaphysics, ethics, political philosophy and the philosophy of religion.
- g) Identify and articulate the basic orientations of idealism, skepticism, materialism and relativism as they apply to central philosophical questions.

Required Texts:

Manuel Velasquez, *Philosophy: A text with Readings*, 12th Edition. Cengage.

In addition to the fore mentioned text, I may be handing out shorter photo copied readings.

Course Requirements:

Class Participation: Those students who actively participate in class through intellectual contributions, e.g. good questions, proposing solutions, critical analysis and the formation of quality arguments, may receive up to 5 % extra credit toward their final grade.

Class Preparation: You are expected to have read the reading assignments before class and bring questions and comments, which you would like to have clarified during the lecture. Treat one another with kindness and make any criticisms constructive and as tactfully put as possible. Come to class on time and enter quietly if you are late.

Do not have pagers or phones on in class. If there is some special circumstance see me. Otherwise, turn off phones/pagers and all similar devices. Those whose cell phone/pagers go off in class will have points deducted.

Assignments: There will be 4 multiple choices, true and false, and short answer tests during the semester. The short answers should exhibit a logical understanding of reasoning, ability to analyze and evaluate arguments, and reach a persuasive conclusion.

There will also be a group project and individual assignments if necessary.

Grading:

Quizzes & assignments 200 points (**Quizzes and assignments will be added onto the total points if needed**)

2 Tests - 200 points (100 each)

Mid term- 200 points

Final - 300 points

= 900 possible points

***** Class Participation-10% possible extra credit.**

Grading Scale: 90-100% A, 80 - 89 B, 70 - 79 C, 60- 69 D, 50 & under F.

Tests- Will be a combination of multiple choice and true and false, and short answer questions derived directly from our text, class lecture and films. No one may leave and return during an exam without a doctor's note or prior arrangement with me. Take care of all you business before the exam begins to prevent any desperate moments.

dates for tests- 3/13 and 5/7.

dates for mid term- 4/9.

dates for final- 5/28.

Quizzes- If you take responsibility for your learning, e.g. demonstrate that you are following the reading schedule and actively engaged in the class discussion, you can avoid any quizzes.

Group Project/ Presentations: Toward the middle of the semester, you will all be assigned to groups that will complete an ethics project. Instructions will be given four weeks in advance.

Due dates for the group assignment- 5/12-14

Office hours and contact info: I will be available for discussion before and after class. If you would like to set a specific time, arrange the meeting with me in advance.

Email-frankwaters@att.net

Academic Integrity: I assume you are honest until proven otherwise. Be vigilant about crediting sources, doing your own original work, and using quotations and parenthetical references for anyone else's work or ideas you utilize. Plagiarism, copying, modifying yours or others previous work, buying papers/exams, working with another student in writing a paper will not be tolerated. Please be scrupulously honest. Any questions, I will subject your paper to a plagiarism search. Those guilty of dishonesty are subject to charges being placed with the Academic Integrity Committee and will result in serious penalties to your grade (including being given an "F" if circumstances warrant it).

Attendance Policy: Absences will cause your grade to be lowered. Miss one class = -5 points. Miss two classes (3 hours) = -12 points, Miss three classes course grade is lowered half a grade (A to A-, etc.), Miss 4 classes course grade lowered half a letter grade and an additional -10 points. Miss 5 classes course grade is lowered one letter grade (A to B, etc.) formula continues.

Learning Disabilities: Anyone with a learning disability or special need should see the Learning Center at once and speak with me about any special accommodations that need to be made. The Learning Center will notify me of recommended steps, so please see them and me if you need help in this regard.

Academic Freedom: Both students and faculty have a constitutionally protected right of freedom of expression. It is worth your effort to learn more about that right. For a fuller discussion, see your student handbook or come speak to me personally.

Need Help: See me. I am happy to be a resource for you and to meet with you if you need extra assistance or just want to discuss how our class is going or how you are doing in it. Please come for tutoring if you need extra help.

Phil 1- Introduction to Philosophy

Tentative schedule- Spring 2014

All readings are homework to be completed by the day listed.

2/10 – 3/13 → week one – The Nature of Philosophy Velasquez chapter 1
What is philosophy?

week two – **Socrates**
Allegory of the cave
Euthyphro
Thrasymachus
Crito

week three - Human Nature, Velasquez Chapter 2
What is human nature? Rationalist
Western Religion Darwinism
Existentialism Feminism

week four – Velasquez Chapter 2
Dualism Materialist
Behaviorism Functionalist
Computer view Self sufficiency
enduring self

week five – Review and 1st test 3/13

3/17 – 4/9 → week six – Reality and Being, Velasquez chapter 3
What is reality? Materialism
Idealism Pragmatism
Logical positivism New Idealist

week seven – continuation -3.6 Phenomenology
Existentialism
Philosophy and God, Velasquez chapter 4
What is religion? Atheism
Agnostic problem of evil

week eight – Does god exist? design argument
ontological argument cosmological argument

week nine – Review and Midterms 4/9

SPRING BREAK

4/21 – 5/7 → week ten- Ethics Velasquez chapter 7
relativism absolutism

hedonism	egoism
utilitarianism	deontology
divine command	laws of nature

week eleven – Social Philosophy Velasquez chapter 8

Social Contract	Locke
Rawls	Hobbes
Communitarian	Rousseau

week twelve – Meaning, Velasquez chapter 9

Does Life Have Meaning?
The Theistic Response to Meaning.
Meaning and Human Progress
The Nihilist Rejection of Meaning.
Meaning as a Self-Chosen

Test 2- 5/7

5/12 – 5/28 → week thirteen - Group Project/Presentation

week fourteen - Truth, Velasquez chapter 6

What is truth?	Pragmatism
Correspondence	Coherence
Does science give us truth?	
Can interpretations be true?	

week fifteen - Epistemology, Velasquez chapter 5

What is Knowledge?	Descartes
Rationalism	innate ideas
A priori	Meno
Empiricism	Locke
Berkeley	Hume
a posteriori	Kant

Review and Final 5/28

***I will let you know the specific sections we will be covering in our next meeting. However, the safest and most productive strategy is to complete the entire chapter and review individual sections as required.