**PHIL 1003: Philosophy Introduction: Human Nature**

**Syllabus—Spring 2023**

Class Time and Location: TuTh/ 09:10AM-10:30AM, BEH S 101

Instructor: Joonho Lee

Office: TBA Office Hours: By appointment

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**Course Description**: This course aims to introduce students to some questions provoking philosophers since ancient times, the methods which they have deployed in pursuing answers to those questions, and to their relevant understanding of human nature. We will progress through the following four main units:

1. Knowledge

* How can we gain knowledge? What constitutes knowledge? How is philosophy connected to what we know as science? How are philosophical questions related to scientific questions?

1. Morality and the Good Life

* What is rightness? What different ethical theories have been developed to explain what it is to live a good human life? What are some differing conceptions of the human good?

1. Identity and Rationality

* How can human beings be identified? How can we identify ourselves? What constitutes our identity?
* Are we rational creatures? What kinds of rationality do we have? Can this define us (or human beings in more general)? Is being irrational bad?

1. Technology and Society

* What is technology? Why do we invent it? How can technology change our society/values? How do our values shape technology and our society?

**Pre-requisite**: None.

**Course Objectives:** By the end of the course, students will:

1. Be able to think/talk about “the big questions” noted above.
2. Read and understand, with a critical eye, works by ancient and contemporary philosophers.
3. Understand and critically evaluate different views within each of the four topics listed above.
4. Be able to identify, analyze, construct, and criticize philosophical arguments.

**Texts**: All readings are uploaded on Canvas.

(Note: The instructor will strive to follow diligently the schedule and plan set out in this syllabus, but this syllabus is not a binding legal contract. It may be modified by the instructor at any time, and students will be given reasonable prior notice of any modifications. If/when such modifications are made, a new version of the syllabus will be posted on the course website and will be authoritative over all previous versions of the syllabus.)

**Schedule of Topics and Readings:**

Week 1: Introduction: What is Philosophy?

1/10 (Tue): Introduction, no assigned reading

1/12 (Thu): Philosophical Logic and Argumentation, no assigned reading

Week 2: Knowledge: Plato, *Meno*

1/17 (Tue): Plato, *Meno* Part 1

1/19 (Thu): Plato, *Meno* Part 2

Week 3: Knowledge: Plato, Aristotle, Gettier

1/24 (Tue): Plato, *Republic* (excerpt), Aristotle, Metaphysics (excerpt)

1/26 (Thu): Gettier, “Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?”

**1/29 (Sun): Discussion #1 Due**

Week 4: Morality and the Good Life: Relativism and Absolutism

1/31 (Tue): Hinman, Ch. 2, p. 32–69

2/2 (Thu): Martin Luther King, Jr., *Letter from Birmingham Jail*

Week 5: Morality and the Good Life: Consequentialism and Deontology

2/7 (Tue): Selections from Bentham and Mill

2/9 (Thu): Kant, *Groundwork*, p. 22–33

Week 6: Morality and the Good Life: Virtue Ethics

2/14 (Tue): Anscombe, “Modern Moral Philosophy”

2/16 (Thu): Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* book I, II

Week 7: APA 2023 Central Division Meeting

2/21 – 2/26: Instructor away, no class

**2/26 (Sun): Discussion #2 Due**

Week 8: Morality and the Good Life: Ancient Moral Theories

2/28 (Tue): Slingerland, “Confucius and the *Lun-Yü*”; Loy, “Mozi”

3/2 (Thu): Selections from the *Mencius* and the *Xunzi,* Exam Review

**3/4 (Sat): Midterm Due**

Week 9: Spring Break

3/5 – 3/12: Spring Break—No Class

Week 10: Identity and Rationality: Shoemaker, Descartes

3/14 (Tue): Shoemaker, “Personal Identity: A Materialist Account,” excerpt from p. 338 to the end

3/16 (Thu): Hume, *A Treatise of Human Nature* book 1, Part iv, Section 6

Week 11: Identity and Rationality: Self-Deception and Weakness of Will

3/21 (Tue): Bortolotti and Mameli, “Self-Deception, Delusion and the Boundaries of Folk Psychology”

3/23 (Thu): Holton, *Willing, Wanting, Waiting*

**3/26 (Sun): Discussion #3 Due**

Week 12: Paper Outline Workshop

3/28 (Tue): Outline Workshop (bring a hard copy of your outline)

3/30 (Thu): Outline Workshop

**3/31 (Fri): Paper Outline Due**

Week 13: Technology and Society: Design and Technology Ethics

4/4 (Tue): Rosenberg, *Callous Objects,* Introduction, Ch. 1-4

4/6 (Thu): Nguyen, “How Twitter Gamifies Communication”

Week 14: Technology and Society: Design and Technology Ethics

4/11 (Tue): Krueger & Osler, “Engineering Affect: Emotion Regulation, the Internet, and the Techno-Social Niche”

4/13 (Thu): Design Theory Youtube, “How Design Changed in the 1980s & Why It’s Relevant Today,” Bauhaus Movement Youtube, “Bauhaus School of Design”

**4/16 (Sun): Discussion #4 Due**

Week 15: Peer Paper Review Workshop

4/18 (Tue): Peer paper review (bring a hard copy of your paper draft)

4/20 (Thu): Peer paper review

Week 16: Review and Exam

4/25 (Tue): Exam review & Class discussion, Class ends

**4/26 (Wed): Final Exam Due**

Week 17: Final Paper

**5/3 (Wed): Final Paper Due**

**Course Requirements:**

1. Students are expected to finish each assigned reading before the class meeting on that assignment.
2. Participation at class meetings: students are expected to participate in discussion in class. For in-class discussion, raising thoughtful questions, responding insightfully to remarks by other students, answering questions from the instructor, and reading aloud (when asked by the instructor) will all count towards fulfilling this requirement. Students who are absent from class are still responsible for knowing what was said both during lecture *and* discussion, so if you miss class, be sure to get notes from a classmate.
3. Attendance: given the nature of this course, attendance is required and only absences for medical reasons or in accordance with University-sanctioned activities will be excused.

See the following note based on materials from Anne Peterson:

Note: Attendance is immensely important given the nature and content of this course. In addition to adversely affecting one’s participation grade, not attending a class puts one in a far worse spot for answering questions related to that material. Merely doing the readings on one’s own will not prepare one to answer the sorts of questions that will be asked on the exams. There are three reasons for this:

* 1. Being able to *repeat* the contents of the readings will be necessary but not sufficient for doing well in the course; students will be required to *evaluate* the arguments found in the readings in the way we will practice in class, and to develop new ideas of their own in the creatively philosophical way we will practice in class discussions.
  2. Objections and replies to these arguments, as well as clear explanations, which are not found in the readings, will be covered in class, and knowing the objections and replies we discuss in class will be needed for the exams.

* 1. Students will be expected to understand the ways in which a given view solves problems faced by other views we have discussed and introduces new problems not faced by these other views, but these connections and conflicts between the views will often not be discussed in the assigned readings; they will be emphasized in class lectures and discussions.

1. Discussion assignments: the instructor will post four topics for discussion on Canvas at regular periods during the term. Grading will be pass/fail. Further directions will be posted on Canvas.
2. Exams: the instructor will post two online essay exams after Review Sessions. Essays should be submitted by the due date, as designated above. Late submissions will not be allowed unless a student misses the exam because of a serious medical issue or family emergency or the student is participating in an officially sanctioned University activity or the like (see policy [6-100-III-O](http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-100.php) on attendance). Students requesting to take a late submission on such grounds should be prepared to submit documentation of those grounds.
3. Final paper: a final, longer essay should be submitted by the day designated above. The same policy for the late submission applies to the final paper assignment.

**Grading:**

Attendance: 5%

Participation at Class Meetings: 10%

Discussion Assignment: 15%

Exams: 20% each

Final Paper: 30%

(The instructor reserves the right to change this weighting as necessary in order to fulfill the educational mission of the course.)

**Scale for Course Grade:**

• A = 95-100%

• A- = 90-94

• B+ = 87-89

• B = 83-86

• B- = 80-82

• C+ = 77-79

• C = 73-76

• C- = 70-72

• Etc. (E = anything below 60%)

Individual components of the course will be graded on the above scale, multiplied by their percentage of the overall course grade. This scale severely penalizes failure to submit required work, so students who utterly fail to submit required work will jeopardize their overall course grade to a much greater extent than students who submit work that is of poor quality.

The grading scale to be used in this course severely penalizes failure to submit an assignment, so students who utterly fail to submit assignments will jeapordize their overall course grade to a much greater extent than students who submit assignments that are of poor quality.

Note: All assignments submitted for a grade in this course must be the student’s own work. Plagiarism or other forms of academic misconduct may result in a failing grade for the entire course, and the case may be transferred to the University’s Academic Misconduct Committee for further judgment. According to the Student code, “‘Plagiarism’ means the intentional unacknowledged use or incorporation of any other person's work in, or as a basis for, one’s own work offered for academic consideration or credit for public presentation. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, representing as one’s own, without attribution, any individual’s words, phrasing, ideas, sequence of ideas, information or any other mode or content of expression” (<http://www.regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.html>). If you have further questions about what constitutes plagiarism or academic misconduct, ask the instructor and consult the University Code.

**Diversity and Civility in the Classroom:**

The instructor welcomes a diversity of perspectives and views from students. Philosophy, however, is a discipline that also involves subjecting various claims and beliefs to critical scrutiny. We will be discussing and debating a range of ideas over the course of the term, and these debates and discussions may be uncomfortable at times. The instructor will strive to maintain a classroom environment that is civil, respectful, and conducive to learning, but the achievement of such an envrionment *also* depends on how students treat each other. Students are therefore expected to behave respectfully towards their classmates and avoid speaking and acting in ways that demean others. Any student who has concerns about the respectfulness and civility of the classroom environment is invited to discuss them with the instructor, and the instructor will take corrective action if needed. Please see as well the Philosophy department’s statement on diversity and inclusion at <https://philosophy.utah.edu/about/diversitystatement.php>.

**Public Health and Safety Guidance:**

**• Masking and Physical Distancing**

Masks and face coverings are no longer required at most University of Utah facilities (exceptions include University of Utah Health dedicated clinical facilities, and campus buses and shuttles). According to the CDC, wearing a mask remains an effective means of preventing infection for both unvaccinated and vaccinated people. Regardless of what someone chooses (mask or no mask), the university seeks to foster a sense of community and asks everyone on campus to be respectful of individual decisions on mask wearing.

**• Vaccination**

While Utah law prohibits state universities from requiring COVID-19 vaccinations, all members of the University of Utah community are encouraged to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccination is proving highly effective in preventing severe COVID-19 symptoms, hospitalization, and death from coronavirus. Vaccinations are available to everyone 12 years and older. Appointments are open in the U of U Health system for patients as well as additional vaccine providers throughout Utah. For up-to-date campus vaccination information go to: <https://alert.utah.edu/covid/vaccine/>

**• Testing and Exposure**

The university will continue to follow guidance from the CDC for testing, contact tracing and exposure management. When an exposure is reported, the contact tracing team will engage and advise next steps. Please note that vaccination status is part of the contact tracing protocol.

**• University COVID-19 Testing Services**

Voluntary asymptomatic testing will continue to be available weekly for all members of the campus community. To schedule a COVID-19 test go to: <https://alert.utah.edu/covid-19-testing/>

• **Self-Report**

If students test positive for COVID-19 (or, have been exposed or experiencing symptoms), self-report should be madevia this website: <https://coronavirus.utah.edu/>

**College of Humanities Academic Misconduct Policy:**

Academic misconduct includes cheating, plagiarizing, research misconduct, misrepresenting one’s work, and inappropriately collaborating. Definitions can be found in the Student Code at <http://www.regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.html>.

If you are suspected of academic misconduct, the process proceeds according to the rules found in the Student Code, University Policy 6-400(V). According to that policy, after meeting with you, the instructor must determine whether academic misconduct has, in fact, occurred.

—If s/he determines that no academic misconduct has occurred, s/he will document that you are not responsible for any academic misconduct.

—If s/he determines academic misconduct has occurred and this is the **first instance** in which you have been alleged to have committed academic misconduct, s/he will take into account whether the act was intentional or a result of negligence in determining the appropriate sanction, which can be up to failing the course. The sanction will be noted in the resolution of the case and your right of appeal is as specified in Policy 6-400(V).

—If s/he determines academic misconduct has occurred, and you have previously been sanctioned for an act of academic misconduct, and the prior instance of misconduct resulted in a sanction less than failing the course, the department will follow the process to fail you for the course. If the prior sanction was failure of the course, your new act of misconduct will result in failure of the course and the department will also follow the process to seek your dismissal from the program and the University.

**ADA Statement:**

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the instructor and to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 801-581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.

**University Safety Statement:**

The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. To report suspicious activity or to request a courtesy escort, call campus police at 801-585-COPS (801-585-2677). You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via text message. For more information regarding safety and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit safeu.utah.edu.

**Addressing Sexual Misconduct:**

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a civil rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran’s status or genetic information.  If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066.  For support and confidential consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776.  To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677(COPS).

Emergency Assembly Point: If needed, there are two designated Emergency Assembly Points for CTIHB, in the parking lots to the west and east of the building. See the map below:

