

Introduction to Philosophy (Aggie Access)
Fall 2010
8:00-9:15; Bolton Hall 018
Dr. Kristi Sweet

Contact Information:

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Office Hours- T/Th 9:30-10:30; 1:00-2:15; and by appointment

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Course Description:

This course will introduce students to a range of core philosophical issues, and engage with numerous important figures across the history of philosophy. We will read Plato, Aristotle, Epictetus, Descartes, Kant, and Nietzsche. The class will examine such topics as the good life, human knowing, human willing, the nature of reality, and moral goodness. Class time will be a mix of lecture and discussion, and students will be encouraged to investigate philosophical issues in depth through their reading and questions in class.

Course Objectives:

Students should complete the course with knowledge of some key figures in the history of philosophy, and be able to demonstrate acquaintance with various approaches and frameworks for thinking about important aspects of human life. Students should also come away from the course with a sense of the different fields and guiding questions that make up the discipline of philosophy.

Course Requirements:

To foster understanding of philosophical concepts and texts, students will be required to write two papers and complete both mid-term and final examinations. The first paper assigned will require the student to engage directly with one thinker from the first half of the course. The second paper will require the student to offer an in-depth comparison of two of the authors from the semester. Students are expected to come to class having read the assigned materials, and prepared to ask questions and engage in discussion about the text read.

Grading:

Paper One (3 pages)	20%
Midterm Exam	20%
Paper Two (5 pages)	30%
Final Exam (Cumulative)	30%

Appointments and Correspondence:

It is my goal to help you succeed in your academic endeavors, and I am therefore more than willing to meet with you outside of scheduled office hours to accommodate your schedule. To set up an appointment, you may stop by my office, call, or email. If you choose to email me (for any reason), I will expect that your email be professional and courteous in tone and structure, and I will do the same.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy Statement:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Department of Student Life, Services for Students with Disabilities, in Cain Hall or call 845-1637.

Academic Integrity Statements: Aggie Honor Code

“An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal, or tolerate those who do.”

Upon accepting admission to Texas A&M University, a student immediately assumes a commitment to uphold the Honor Code, to accept responsibility for learning, and to follow the philosophy and rules of the Honor System. Students will be required to state their commitment on examinations, research papers, and other academic work. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the TAMU community from the requirements or the processes of the Honor System. For additional information, please visit: <http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor/>

Plagiarism and/or cheating in this class will not be accepted, and will result in failure of the course. This includes plagiarism that is unintentional or results from ignorance regarding proper citation practices. If you are unsure about what constitutes acceptable citation practices, please consult with the writing center or library resources on writing styles.

Course Assignments

These assignments are subject to change as the semester progresses. All changes will be announced in class, and it is your responsibility to take note of them when such announcements are made. All changes and updates will, however, be reflected on the syllabus posted online.

Date	Text	Pages
8/31	Introduction to the course	
9/2	Plato, "Apology"	21-44
9/7	Plato, "Apology"	21-44
9/9	Plato, "Phaedo"	93-154
9/14	Plato, "Phaedo"	93-154
9/16	Plato, "Cave"	Handout
9/21	Plato, <i>Symposium</i> selections	Handout
9/23	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book I	1-18
9/28	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book I	1-18
9/30	<i>Handout paper topics, discuss how to write a philosophy paper</i>	
10/5	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book II	19-30
10/7	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book II, Book III	19-30, 30-40
10/12	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book VIII <i>Paper 1 due</i>	119-130
10/14	<i>Midterm Exam</i>	
10/19	Epictetus, <i>The Handbook</i>	11-29
10/21	Epictetus, <i>The Handbook</i>	11-29
10/26	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> , "Meditation One" and "Meditation Two"	59-69
10/28	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> , "Meditation Three"	69-81
11/2	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> , "Meditation Six"	92-103
11/4	Cultural Introduction to the Library (Meet in Library)	
11/9	Kant, <i>Grounding</i> , "First Section"	7-14
11/11	Kant, <i>Grounding</i> , "Second Section"	30-42
11/16	Kant, <i>Grounding</i> , "Second Section" & "Third Section"	44-50
11/18	Kant, "What is Enlightenment?"	Handout

11/23	Nietzsche, <i>Thus Spoke Zarathustra</i> , “Zarathustra’s Prologue” & “On the Three Metamorphoses”	9-28
11/25	No class- Thanksgiving	
11/30	Nietzsche, <i>Thus Spoke Zarathustra</i> , “On the Teachers of Virtue” <i>through</i> “On Enjoying and Suffering the Passions;” & “On the Thousand and One Goals” <i>through</i> “On the Way of the Creator”	28-37; 58-65
12/2	Nietzsche, <i>Thus Spoke Zarathustra</i> , “On Self-Overcoming,” “On the Vision and the Riddle,” & “On the Spirit of Gravity”	136-139; 155-160; 191-195
12/7	Final paper due, Review for final exam	
12/13	Final Exam 1-3pm	