



National Taiwan University of Science and Technology

2018 Summer Program

PHIL 101 Introduction to Philosophy

- From Plato to Fanon

Course Outline

Course Code: PHIL 101

Instructor: Professor Ross Hamilton

Home Institution: Barnard College, Columbia University, New York

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday, 12-1.

Email: rhamilto@barnard.edu

Credits: 4

Class Hours: According to the regulations of Minister of Education, R.O.C, 18 class hours could be counted as 1 academic credit in all universities in Taiwan. This course will have 72 class hours, including 40 lecture hours, 10 lecturer office hours, 10-hour TA discussion sessions, 2-hour review sessions, 10-hour extra classes.

Course Description:

This course will survey the history of philosophy from Plato to Heidegger by means of central categories in our understanding of the world. Lectures and discussion will be supplemented by exercises in philosophical speculation.

Course Objectives:

- To provide students with a general introduction to and understanding of philosophical



views, issues, and arguments. It should also help students to appreciate what philosophy is and the way in which it is relevant to practical issues.

- To understand the general thoughts of major philosophers, as well as prominent contemporary philosophers.
- To help students develop critical think, critical reading, and writing skills. It is important to understand the difference between good and bad arguments, and to have the ability to critically and carefully analyze the arguments of others. This course should help students to write more sharply organized, focused and effective argumentative essays.

Required Textbooks:

Modern Philosophy: An Anthology of Primary Sources, 2nd ed. Roger Ariew and Eric Watkins (Hackett)

We will also supply you with a reader containing additional materials, essays, etc.

Course Requirements:

Final Grade Percentages

- Class Participation 10%: regular attendance and participation is requested.
- 2 Reaction Papers (20% each): you will be asked to write two reaction papers (4 pages) on key readings throughout the course. Reaction papers summarize the article or primary source assigned, identify the main arguments made by authors and briefly discuss them.
- Midterm 20%
- Final Exam 30%: overall evaluation at end of semester



Grading:

Midterm	20%
Final	30%
Essay One	20%
Essay Two	20%
Attendance	10%

Course Schedule:

Week 1:

Introduction

Plato, Republic, the Allegory of the Cave

Aristotle, from Metaphysics, "Substance"

Montaigne, from "Apology for Raymond Sebond." 4-16

Week 2:

Bacon, from "New Organon" 16-21

Descartes, from Discourse on Method (25-33) and Meditations on First Philosophy (40-47)

Pascal, "The Wager" 106-110

Hobbes, from the "Leviathan" 114-136

Screening: **The Matrix**.

Essay One Assigned: Using at least two philosophers we have studied, what is the philosophy of the Matrix?

Week 3:

Monday 18th July Midterm Exam

Part One: Quote Identifications

Part Two: Essay

Spinoza, from "The Ethics" 144-196



Leibnitz, from Discourse on Metaphysics 224-247 and Primary Truths 265-268

Leibnitz, from A New System of Nature (269-274) and Monadology 275-283

Newton, Princiipai, “Scholium” “General Scholium” 284-293

Essay Two assigned: Take an experience you have had today – for example, an event, a desire, an object, yourself – and describe it using at least three of the philosophers we have discussed in first three weeks.

Due on the following Wednesday.

Week 4:

Boyle, Of the Excellency and Grounds of the Corpuscular or Mechanical Philosophy (308-314)

Locke, from Essay Concerning Human Understanding (316-421)

Berkeley, from Principles of Human Knowledge and On Motion

Hume, from Treatise on Human Nature and Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion

Kant, from Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics

Week 5:

Kant, Critique of Pure Reason

Hegel, Philosophy of History

Nietzsche, from Genealogy of Morals

Wittgenstein, from Philosophical Investigations

Final Exam Wednesday August 1st

Part One: Quote Identifications from ENTIRE COURSE

Part Two: Essay