

Course Code & Section: PHIL101—Section 1
Course Title (Credits): Introduction to Philosophy (3 Credits)
Term & Year: Spring 2016
Course Ref. # (CRN): 10145

Instructor: Dr. Samantha Bankston
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Office Hours: By appointment
Class Meeting Times: M/W 1-2:15pm
Location: Patterson 207

Prerequisites: None
Corequisites: None

Course Description

Examination of the basic questions of philosophy and consideration of some of the answers philosophers have provided from the pre-Socratics to the present. Answers, however, are not the main emphasis of the course, but rather developing of a sense of the importance of philosophy as a continuing quest and as a central human activity. Our guiding question will be: What does it mean to *think*?

Student Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. demonstrate knowledge of the history of Western philosophy
2. read and comprehend complex, conceptual writings
3. discuss the main branches of philosophy: ethics, metaphysics, epistemology, and aesthetics
4. analyze the validity of a philosophical argument
5. skillfully use philosophical language and concepts in speech and writing

Methods of Assessing Student Outcomes

1. Class discussion
2. Exams
3. Presentations
4. Handouts and Papers

Instructional Strategies

This course will be an even mix of seminar-style discussion and lecture. The course focuses on developing skills through close, critical reading and dialogue.

Required Texts

***Civil Disobedience*, Thoreau, 9781619490925**
***Demanding the Impossible*, Zizek, 9780745672298**
***Ethics of Ambiguity*, De Beauvoir, 9781480442801**
***Desert Island & Other Texts, 1953-1974*, Deleuze, 9781584350187**
***A Philosophy of Walking*, Gros, 9781781682708**

Attendance

Students are expected to attend class and actively participate. Each student is allowed three absences; this **includes** being sick, having to pick a family member up from the airport, car trouble, etc. After three absences your attendance and participation grade will be reduced in points. Instances of extreme circumstances will be considered for excusal with proper documentation, including trips by those on the ski/snowboard team. If you plan to be absent, let me know in advance. Additionally, habitual lateness will result in reduced points.

Class Requirements

1. Always come prepared with your textbooks and necessary materials to take notes. Please staple your argumentative essay prior to submission.
2. **No cell phones in class.** Anyone texting or talking in class will be asked to leave. You will not need a laptop for our class, so please keep them closed unless instructed otherwise.
3. There will be no make-up exams, so make sure to be present for the midterm and final. Your essay will be due at the beginning of class, regardless of absence. If you are absent, you will be expected to get your essay to me by the start of class via a classmate, or by leaving it in my mailbox on the 3rd floor of Prim Library.

Honor Code and Plagiarism/Cheating

SNC students and faculty share the responsibility for maintaining an environment of academic honesty. Thus, all are responsible for knowing and abiding by the SNC Faculty/Student Honor Code published in the current SNC Catalog. The faculty is responsible for presenting the honor code and consequences for violating it to students at the start of classes AND for reporting all incidences of academic dishonesty to the Provost. Students are responsible for knowing what constitutes CHEATING, PLAGIARISM, and FABRICATION and refraining from these and other forms of academic dishonesty. Violations of the honor code become part of a student's academic record.

Plagiarism is "passing off a source's information, ideas, or words as one's own by omitting to acknowledge the sources." This refers to all sources of information, including the internet. The following policy regarding cheating and/or plagiarism has been established:

1. First offense: student receives a failing grade for that assignment, and the instructor notifies the advisor and the Vice President of Academic Affairs. Students identified as committing an act of plagiarism will be referred to Student Services.
2. Second offense in the same class or any other class that semester or subsequent semesters: student receives a failing grade for the class where the second offense takes place, and the instructor notifies the advisor and the Vice President of Academic Affairs.
3. Third offense: the student is expelled from Sierra Nevada College. The instructor notifies the advisor and the Vice President of Academic Affairs.

Library Statement

Using the library's resources effectively (not just the internet) contributes to developing each of SNC's core themes by exposing students to high quality academic resources, diverse opinions, new ideas, and a future that includes building on a liberal arts education. In this course, you will be expected to utilize the library's resources (either on-site or remotely) as you complete your assignments.

Prim Library has many resources which are helpful for your research. You may find the following information helpful:

Electronic databases (for peer-reviewed research articles, reviews, newspaper and magazine articles): Electronic databases most likely to include articles related to your research are EBSCO, Academic Search Premier, JSTOR, and ProQuest.

Lib Guides: <http://Libguides.sierranevada.edu> These web pages contain instructions about how to use resources available at Prim Library, how to evaluate the appropriateness of information from the Internet for a research paper, how to cite sources, and other topics related to finding and using information.

Grading Policy (see attendance policy):

200	Attendance and Participation
200	Take-home midterm exam
100	In-class, oral explication of assigned reading
100	One page, single-spaced analysis of one assigned reading
100	Zizek Assignment
300	Take-home final exam

1000	Total points

930-1000 = A	900-929 = A-	870-899 = B+	830-869 = B	800-829 = B-	770-799 = C+
730-769 = C	700-729 = C-	670-699 = D+	630-669 = D	600-629 = D-	0-599 = F

Mandatory Special Accommodations (ADA) Statement

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, students with a documented disability are eligible for support services and accommodations. If a student wishes to request an accommodation, please contact the Director of Academic Support Services, Henry Conover, at (775) 831-7534, hconover@sierranevada.edu, on the 3rd floor of Prim Library #303, within the first week of the semester.

The SNC Email System

The SNC email system is the official communication vehicle among students, faculty members and administrative staff and is designed to protect the confidentiality of student information as required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA). Students should check their college email accounts daily during the school year.

Students have the right to forward their SNC email to another email account (for example, @gmail, @yahoo). However, confidentiality of student information protected by FERPA cannot be guaranteed for SNC email forwarded to an outside vendor. Having email redirected does not absolve a student from the responsibilities associated with official communication sent to his or her SNC email account.

The Mission Statement:

Sierra Nevada College graduates will be educated to be scholars of and contributors to a sustainable world. Sierra Nevada College combines the liberal arts and professional preparedness through an interdisciplinary curriculum that emphasizes entrepreneurial thinking and environmental, social, economic and educational sustainability.

The Core Themes:

Liberal Arts

Professional Preparedness

Entrepreneurial Thinking

Sustainability

Class Schedule

All reading and homework assignments must be done prior to assigned date. **Always bring your texts into class.**

Date	Topic	Homework Due
W 1/20	Intro	What Is Philosophy? “The Subversive Use of Theory”, by Žižek
M 1/25	Heraclitus	Read: pp. 3-10 http://community.middlebury.edu/~harris/Philosophy/heraclitus.pdf
W 1/27	Heraclitus	Read: pp. 10-14 http://community.middlebury.edu/~harris/Philosophy/heraclitus.pdf
M 2/1	Plato & Aristotle	Read: https://web.stanford.edu/class/ihum40/cave.pdf
W 2/3	Walking and Philosophy	Read: <i>A Philosophy of Walking</i> , Chapters 1 and 2
M 2/8	Leibniz	http://www.webdeleuze.com/php/texte.php?cle=50&groupe=Leibniz&langue=2
W 2/10	Leibniz	http://www.webdeleuze.com/php/texte.php?cle=50&groupe=Leibniz&langue=2
M 2/15	Presidents’ Day	No Class
W 2/17	Thoreau	Read: <i>A Philosophy of Walking</i> , Ch. 11 (“Conquest of the Wilderness – Thoreau”)
M 2/22	Thoreau	Read: <i>Civil Disobedience</i> (1-16)
W 2/24	Thoreau	Read: <i>Civil Disobedience</i> (16-End)
M 2/29	Žižek/Fiennes	Assignment: Handout on <i>The Pervert’s Guide to Ideology</i>
W 3/2	Žižek/Fiennes	Assignment Due: Handout on <i>The Pervert’s Guide to Ideology</i>
M 3/7	Žižek	Read: <i>Demanding the Impossible</i> : Chapters 7, 8, 9
W 3/9	Žižek	Read: <i>Demanding the Impossible</i> : Chapters 16, 21, 34 Take-Home Midterm Due
M 3/14	Spring Break	Spring Break
W 3/16	Spring Break	Spring Break
M 3/21	Kant	Read: <i>A Philosophy of Walking</i> , Ch. 18 (“A Daily Outing – Kant”)
W 3/23	Kant	
M 3/28	Nietzsche	Read: <i>A Philosophy of Walking</i> , Ch. 3 (“Why I Am Such A Good Walker – Nietzsche”)
W 3/30	Nietzsche	Handout from <i>The Gay Science</i>
M 4/4	Nietzsche	Read: <i>Desert Islands</i> , “Nietzsche on the Image of Thought”; “On the Will to Power and the Eternal Return”
W 4/6	Marcuse “Repressive Tolerance”	Read: http://ada.evergreen.edu/~arunc/texts/frankfurt/marcuse/tolerance.pdf
M 4/11	Deleuze	Read: <i>Desert Islands</i> , “The Method of Dramatization”
W 4/13	Deleuze/ Foucault	Read: <i>Desert Islands</i> , “Intellectuals and Power”
M 4/18	Deleuze/ Žižek	Read: http://zizekstudies.org/index.php/ijzs/article/view/498/562
W 4/20	Beauvoir	Read: <i>The Ethics of Ambiguity</i> , pp. 7-19
M 4/25	Beauvoir	Read: <i>The Ethics of Ambiguity</i> , pp. 19-34
W 4/27	Beauvoir	Read Handout: “Becoming-Ambiguous: Beauvoir, Deleuze, and the Future of the Humanities”
M 5/2	Walking and Philosophy	Read: <i>A Philosophy of Walking</i> , Chapters 4 & 5 Walk outside!
W 5/4	Reading Day	No Class
TBD	Final Class	Take-Home Final Due