

Course Code & Section: PHIL101—Section 1
Course Title (Credits): Introduction to Philosophy (3 Credits)
Term & Year: Spring 2014
Course Ref. # (CRN): 10304

Instructor: Dr. Samantha Bankston
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Office Hours: M/W 2:15-3:15pm PRIM Mezzanine
Class Meeting Times: T/R 11:30-12:45pm
Location: PRIM 214

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.

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/quizzes
3. Presentations/papers
4. Homework

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

- *Women Philosophers of the Early Modern Period*, Margaret Atherton (Hackett: 1994) ISBN 0872202593
- *Twilight of the Idols*, Friedrich Nietzsche (CreateSpace: 2012) ISBN 1479131679
- *Literary Theory: An Anthology* (2nd Edition), Rivkin and Ryan (Wiley-Blackwell: 2010) ISBN 1405106964

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 exam
200	12 random quizzes over the readings
100	In-class explication of one assigned reading (and one-page, single-spaced analysis)
100	Ideology list
200	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.** *Many readings are from marxists.org (print them out and bring them to class) LT= *Literary Theory: An Anthology*

Date	Topic	Homework Due
T 1.21	What is philosophy?	Slavoj Zizek, "Is This Digital Democracy, or a New Tyranny of Cyberspace?" http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2006/dec/30/comment.media
R 1.23	Philosophy: a sexist history	Luce Irigaray, The Power of Discourse and the Subordination of the Feminine LT: 795-799
T 1.28	Ancient Philosophy	Plato: The Cave Allegory (from <i>The Republic</i>) http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_antyMwXCTs/TAkRLERbCvI/AAAAAAAAAy4/gW8S72yrJos/s1600/blue%2Bmustang.jpg
R 1.30	Ancient Philosophy	Plato : The Apology http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/apology.html
T 2.4	Ancient Philosophy	Aristotle: Nicomachean Ethics, Book 1 http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/nicomachaen.1.i.html
R 2.6	Medieval Philosophy	Duns Scotus: Ordinatio 2 d.3 p.1 qq.5–6 http://individual.utoronto.ca/pking/translations/SCOTUS.Ord2d3p2q5-6.trns.pdf
T 2.11	Medieval Philosophy	Duns Scotus: Ordinatio 2 d.3 p.1 qq.5–6 http://individual.utoronto.ca/pking/translations/SCOTUS.Ord2d3p2q5-6.trns.pdf
R 2.13	Modern Philosophy	René Descartes: 6 th Meditation http://marxists.org/reference/archive/descartes/1639/meditations.htm
T 2.18	Modern Philosophy	Elisabeth of Bohemia, correspondence with Descartes <i>Women Philosophers of the Early Modern Period</i> : Chapter 1
R 2.20	Modern Philosophy	Mary Cavendish, from <i>Philosophical Letters</i> <i>Women Philosophers of the Early Modern Period</i> : Chapter 2
T 2.25	Modern Philosophy	Mary Astell, from <i>A Serious Proposal to the Ladies</i> <i>Women Philosophers of the Early Modern Period</i> : Chapter 5
R 2.27	Modern Philosophy	Immanuel Kant, on the <i>Critique of Pure Reason</i> Read sections 2, 3, and 4: http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/kant/#KanProThePurF Take home exam due
T 3.4	Ideology	In-class film (no reading) Zizek: The Pervert's Guide to Ideology
R 3.6	Ideology	In-class film (no reading) Zizek: The Pervert's Guide to Ideology
T 3.11	19 th Century	Friedrich Nietzsche, <i>Twilight of the Idols</i> : Preface to Morality as Anti-Nature
R 3.13	19 th Century	<i>Twilight of the Idols</i> : Morality as Anti-Nature to Skirmishes of an Untimely Man
T 3.18	NO CLASS	SPRING BREAK YES YES YES YES YES YES
R 3.20	NO CLASS	SPRING BREAK IS STILL GOING ON YES YES YES
T 3.25	19 th Century	<i>Twilight of the Idols</i> : Skirmishes of an Untimely Man to What I Owe the Ancients
R 3.27	19 th Century	<i>Twilight of the Idols</i> : What I Owe the Ancients to the end
T 4.1	19 th Century (Political Phil.)	Hegelian Dialectic, Marx's <i>Grundrisse</i> and <i>Capital</i> LT: 647-653, 665-673
R 4.3	20 th Century (Political Phil.)	Antonio Gramsci on Hegemony, Louis Althusser on Ideology LT: 673-674; 693-703
T 4.8	20 th Century (Political Phil.)	Slavoj Zizek, The Sublime Object of Ideology LT: 712-725

R 4.10	20 th Century (Political Phil.)	Antonio Negri, <i>Difference and the Future</i> LT: 725-743
T 4.15	20 th Century Poststructuralism	Jacques Derrida on Différance, Audre Lorde on Race and Feminism LT: 278-280, 854-861 Ideology List Due
R 4.17	20 th Century Poststructuralism	Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari, <i>A Thousand Plateaus</i> LT: 378-389
T 4.22	20 th Century Historicism	Foucault, from <i>Discipline and Punish</i> LT: 549-567
R 4.24	20 th Century Feminism	Luce Irigaray, <i>Women on the Market</i> LT: 799-812
T 4.29	20 th Century Gender	Judith Butler, <i>Performance Acts and Gender Constitution</i> LT: 900-912
R 5.1	20 th Century Gender	Toni Morrison, <i>Playing in the Dark</i> LT: 1005-1017
T 5.6	Revision	Revision
R 5.8	NO CLASS	NO CLASS, READING DAY
TBD	Final Exam (see finals schedule)	Final exam