



北京第二外国语学院
BEIJING INTERNATIONAL STUDIES UNIVERSITY

Beijing International Studies University
Summer 2018
PHI 110: Introduction to Philosophy

Term: May 28th – Jul 03rd, 2018

Instructor: Katrina Bell McDonald

Home Institution: The Johns Hopkins University

Email: mcdon@jhu.edu

Office Hours: TBD

Teaching Assistant: Keyu Chen

Credit: 4

Course Description

This course explores such fundamental questions such as, what am I? what do I really know? what freedom do I really have? how do I live a meaningful life as a person and as a member of society? The course will address these questions through a number of prominent works by major philosophers in the Western philosophical tradition.

Course Goals

By the end of this course students will have a better understanding of these questions and a greater appreciation for their endurance over time. Students will also be encouraged to explore— through class discussion and through assigned papers—ways in which the methods of philosophical inquiry can apply to their own lives. Most importantly, the course aims to prepare students to become more critical and reflective of their own views and views of others

Required Text

Introduction to Philosophy: Classical and Contemporary Readings. Sixth Edition. Edited by John Perry, Michael Bratman, and John Fischer. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013.

All assigned readings are in the textbook. Some additional readings will be handed out in class.

Attendance

Students who miss more than six total hours of class may be dropped. **ACADEMIC HONESTY STATEMENT:** The College is committed to academic integrity in all its practices. The faculty value intellectual integrity and a high standard of academic conduct. Activities that violate academic integrity undermine the quality and diminish the value of educational achievement. Cheating on papers, tests or other academic works is a violation of College rules. No student shall engage in behavior that, in the judgment of the instructor of the class, may be construed as cheating. This may include, but is not limited to, plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty such as acquisition without permission of tests or other academic materials and/or distribution of these materials and other academic work. This includes students who aid and abet as well as those who attempt such behavior.



Grading Policy

Your final grade in the course will be calculated in the following way: 20% Paper One 20% Paper Two
20% Class participation and quizzes 20% Midterm Exam 20% Final Exam

Grading Scale

Assignments and examinations will be graded according to the following grade scale:

A	90-100
A-	85-89
B+	82-84
B	78-81
B-	75-77
C+	72-74
C	68-71
C-	64-67
D	60-63
F	below 60

Instructor's Policies for this Course

Students are expected to:

- I Attend all class meetings
- I Complete assigned readings on time
- I Respect other students' input and communicate ethically
- I Make positive contributions and participate in class activities, not engage in side conversations, website browsing, or text messaging

University Policies for this Course

This university has policies for academic conduct, including those regarding plagiarism and cheating. It is your duty to know these policies and not to violate them in any way. Academic misconduct is a serious offense and can be grounds for failing this course and possible expulsion from the university.

Course Schedule

WEEK ONE: (May 28- Jun 02)

The Study of Philosophy

- May 28: Syllabus
- May 29: Overview of the course
- May 30: Perry, et al, "On the Study of Philosophy"
- May 31: Bertrand Russell, "The Value of Philosophy"
- Jun 01: Plato, "The Allegory of the Cave" (handout)
- Jun 02: Discussion Session (Topic: "The Value of Philosophy")

WEEK TWO: (Jun 04-Jun 08)

The Possibility of Knowledge

- Jun 04: Plato, "Apology: Defence of Socrates"
- Jun 05: Rene Descartes, "Meditations on First Philosophy," Meditation 1-3
- Jun 06: Rene Descartes, "Meditations on First Philosophy," Meditation 4-6



Jun 07: Plato, "Theaetetus"

Jun 08: Discussion Session (Topic: "Meditations on First Philosophy")

Midterm exam

WEEK THREE: (Jun 11- Jun 15)

Ethics and Society

Jun 11: Saint Thomas Aquinas, "The Existence of God" Friday,

Jun 12: Bertrand Russell, "Why I am not a Christian,"

Paper one due

Jun 13: Immanuel Kant, "Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals"

Jun 14: John Stuart Mill, "Utilitarianism" Chapter 1-2

Jun 15: Discussion Session (Topic: "Why I am not a Christian")

WEEK FOUR: (Jun 18-Jun 22)

Jun 18: John Stuart Mill, "Utilitarianism" Chapter 3-4

Jun 19: Aristotle, "Nicomachean Ethics"

Jun 20: John Rawls, "A Theory of Justice"

Jun 21: David Hume, "Of Liberty and Necessity"

Paper two due

Jun 22: Discussion Session (Topic: "Nicomachean Ethics")

WEEK FIVE: (Jun 25-Jul 02)

Jun 25: Peter van Inwagen, "The Powers of Rational Beings: Freedom of the Will"

Jun 26: June 28: Albert Camus, "The Myth of Sisyphus"

Jun 27: Susan Wolf, "The Meanings of Lives"

Jun 28: Paradoxes and Puzzles: Achilles and the Tortoise; The Trolley Problem

Jul 01: **Final Exam**

Jul 02 Recap of the course