



## Shanghai Lixin University of Accounting and Finance Summer 2018

### PHI 110: Introduction to Philosophy

**Term: July 02nd – Aug 04th, 2018**

**Instructor: Michelle Kowalski**

**Home Institution: The Ohio State University**

**Email: kowalski.68@osu.edu**

**Office Hour: By appointment**

**Teaching Assistant: Qiner Li**

**Total Contact Hours: 72 hours (45 minutes each)**

**Discussion Session: 2 hours each week**

**Credit: 4 units**

#### **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**

All assigned readings are from the packet 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:

40% Class participation/Questions and Weekly Quizzes 30% Midterm Exam  
30% 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:

- Attend all class meetings
- Complete assigned readings on time  
Respect other students' input and communicate ethically
- 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: (Jul 2- Jul 7)

#### The Study of Philosophy

- Jul 2: Syllabus
- Jul 3: Overview of the course
- Jul 4: Bertrand Russell, "The Value of Philosophy"
- Jul 5: Jul 6: Plato, "The Allegory of the Cave"
- Jul 7: Discussion Session (Topic: "The Value of Philosophy") **Quiz over this weeks readings**

### WEEK TWO: (Jul 9-Jul 13)

#### The Possibility of Knowledge

- Jul 9: Rene Descartes, "Meditations on First Philosophy," Meditation 1-3
- Jul 10: Rene Descartes, "Meditations on First Philosophy," Meditation 4-6
- Jul 11: Roderick M. Chisholm, "Human Freedom and the Self"



Jul 12: Peter van Inwagen, "The Powers of Rational Beings: Freedom of the Will"

Jul 13: Discussion Session (Topic: "Meditations on First Philosophy") **Quiz over this weeks readings**

### **WEEK THREE: (Jul 16- Jul 20)**

#### **Freedom, Determinism, and Responsibility**

Jul 16: Harry G. Frankfurt, "Alternate Possibilities and Moral Responsibility"

Jul 17: John Martin Fischer, "Responsiveness and Moral Responsibility"

Jul 18: Susan Wolf, "Moral Saints"

Jul 19: Gauthier, David, "Morality and Advantage"

Jul 20: Review session: **Midterm Exam**

### **WEEK FOUR: (Jul 23-Jul 27)**

#### **Ethics and Society**

Jul 23: Jeremy Bentham "The Principle of Utility"

Jul 24: John Stuart Mill, "Utilitarianism" Chapter 1-2

Jul 25: John Stuart Mill, "Utilitarianism" Chapter 3-4

Jul 26: John Rawls, "A Theory of Justice"

Jul 27: Discussion Session (Topic: "The Principle of Utility") **Quiz over this weeks readings**

### **WEEK FIVE: (Jul 30-Aug 4)**

#### **Justice and Equality**

Jul 30: Robert Nozick, "Justice and Entitlement"

Jul 31: G. A. Cohen, "Where the Action Is: On the Site of Distributive Justice"

Aug 1: John Stuart Mill, "The Subjection of Women", Linda Martin Alcoff, "Racism and Visible Race"

Aug 2: Annette Baier, "The Need for More Than Justice"

Aug 3: **Final Exam**

Aug 4: Recap of the course

#### **Academic Integrity:**

When completing an assignment for this course, students are expected to do original work for the assignment and to not reuse work they may have done in previous courses or other settings unless the instructor grants specific prior approval.

Cheating is defined as the giving or receiving of aid (written, oral, or otherwise) in order for a student to receive undeserved credit on class work, homework, tests or any other assignment that is his or her own responsibility. Plagiarism violates the central core of education philosophy. It involves stealing another person's work and claiming it as one's own. It occurs whenever one directly copies another person's intellectual effort and integrates it into his/her class work without giving proper credit to the author.

Paraphrasing is defined as "a restatement of a text or passage giving the meaning in another form" (Webster's New Universal Unabridged Dictionary, 1996). When one paraphrases but intentionally omits authorship of the work, this, too is a serious violation of academic honesty.

All students have an individual responsibility to understand what cheating, plagiarism, and paraphrasing are. The student must also be aware that the consequences for doing the above listed of fences are severe. Whenever you have doubt about what constitutes cheating, plagiarism, or paraphrasing, contact your instructor.

With the advent of the Internet, the potential for cheating by simply cutting and pasting information into a paper is tempting. Be aware that these dishonest activities will not be tolerated and instructors have access to increasingly sophisticated search engines to "test" the validity of student work.