



PHIL 1110: Introduction to Philosophy

2021 Winter Session	
Total Class Sessions: 25 Class Sessions Per Week: 6 Total Weeks: 4 Class Session Length (Minutes): 145 Credit Hours: 4	Instructor: Staff Classroom: TBA Office Hours: TBA Language: English

Course Description:

This course examines the basic problems of philosophy and introduces methods of philosophical thinking. Topics include conceptions of human nature and the good life, happiness, knowledge, and God's existence. How is knowledge acquired? What reasons are there for supposing that God exists? Problems introduced by science, morality, religion, politics, and art will also be discussed.

Course Materials:

Course Pack

The course pack is the only mandatory course materials. Students are not required to buy textbooks. All required readings will be covered in the course pack.

Course Assignments:

Papers:

There will be three paper assignments. Each paper should be between 1370 and 1500 words long. The papers together will count for 75% of your grade for the course. Each paper will count equally to 25%.

Topics will be made available two weeks before papers are due. All papers must be double spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font, with 1" margins all around.

Final Exam:

The final will be and close-book, including short-answer and essay questions, covering material from the entire term. Note that the final will not be taken during the normal class times. Exact time and location for final will be announced later.

Attendance:

Attendance is mandatory. More than three unexcused absences will result in an automatic reduction in your participation grade, for instance from A- to B+. Your active participation in the class is expected and constitutes part of your grade.

Course Assessment:



Paper 1	25%
Paper 2	25%
Paper 3	25%
Final Exam	25%
Total	100%

Grading Scale (percentage):

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	F
98-	93-	90-	88-	83-	80-	78-	73-	70-	68-	63-	60-	<60
100	97	92	89	87	82	79	77	72	69	67	62	

Academic Integrity:

Students are encouraged to study together, and to discuss lecture topics with one another, but all other work should be completed independently.

Students are expected to adhere to the standards of academic honesty and integrity that are described in the Chengdu University of Technology's *Academic Conduct Code*. Any work suspected of violating the standards of the *Academic Conduct Code* will be reported to the Dean's Office. Penalties for violating the *Academic Conduct Code* may include dismissal from the program. All students have an individual responsibility to know and understand the provisions of the *Academic Conduct Code*.

Special Needs or Assistance:

Please contact the Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material. Our goal is to help you learn, not to penalize you for issues which mask your learning.

Course Schedule:

Class 1:

Introduction

Overview of the Course

Socrates

The Need for Philosophy

Class 2:

Readings: Heraclitus (Fragments)

Readings: Plato (Timaeus)

Introduction on Essay 1



Class 3:

Readings: Plato (Timaeus) (Cont.)
Readings: Aristotle (On the Senses)
Philosophy of Religion
Groundwork, Questions, and Distinctions

Class 4:

Readings: Plato, Apology
Readings: Anselm, Proslogium, or Discourse on the Existence of God

Class 5:

Readings: Anselm, Proslogium, or Discourse on the Existence of God (Cont.)
Readings: Paley, Natural Theology

Class 6:

Philosophy of Religion:
Arguments for the Existence of God
Readings: Hume, Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion
In-class Discussion on Essay 1
Comments and feedback

Class 7:

Philosophy of Religion:
The Problem of Evil, and Pascal's Wager
Reading: Mackie, Free Will and the Problem of Evil

Class 8:

Essay 1 Due
Philosophy of Religion:
The Problem of Evil, and Pascal's Wager (Cont.)
Epistemic Arguments
Reading: Pascal, Notes on Natural Religion and Other Subjects

Class 9:

Reading: Pascal, Notes on Natural Religion and Other Subjects (Cont.)
Epistemology: The External World
Reading: James, The Will to Believe

Class 10:

Reading: Plantinga, An Interview with Alvin Plantinga
Reading: Descartes, Meditations on First Philosophy

Introduction on Essay 2

Class 11:



Epistemology: The External World (Cont.)

Reading: Locke, An Essay Concerning Human Understanding

Epistemology: The Problem of Induction

Hume, An Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding

Class 12:

The Mind-Body Problem:

Dualism and Reductive Materialism

Readings: Descartes, Meditations on First Philosophy

Class 13:

The Mind-Body Problem:

Alternatives to Dualism

Readings: Lycan, The Mind-Body Problem

Class 14:

Readings: Fodor, The Mind-Body Problem

In-class Discussion on Essay 2

Comments and feedback

Class 15:

The Mind-Body Problem:

The Limits of Materialism

Readings: Searle, Minds, Brains, and Programs

Class 16:

Readings: Nagel, What is it Like to be a Bat?

Free Will, Responsibility, and Determinism:

Compatibilism and Libertarianism

Class 17:

Essay 2 Due

Readings: Timpe, Free Will

Readings: Holmstrom, Firming Up Soft Determinism;

Readings: James, The Dilemma of Determinism

Class 18:

Kant, Frye, and Freire:

Education and Freedom

Readings: Kant, An Answer to the Question: 'What Is Enlightenment?'

Class 19:

Kant, Frye, and Freire:

Education and Freedom (Cont.)

Frye: Sexism



Freire: from Pedagogy of the Oppressed

Introduction on Essay 3

Class 20:

Personal Identity:

Selves and Souls

Memories and Brains

Readings: Perry, A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality

Readings: Locke, Of Identity and Diversity

Class 21:

The Meaning of Morality

Readings: Plato, Euthyphro

Readings: Rachels, Does Morality Depend on Religion?

Reading: Rachel, Subjectivism in Ethics

Class 22:

The Meaning of Morality (Cont.)

Reading: Rachel, The Challenge of Cultural Relativism

In-class Discussion on Essay 3

Comments and feedback

Class 23:

The Meaning of Morality (Cont.)

Readings: Rachel, The Challenge of Cultural Relativism (Cont.)

Class 24:

Normative Ethics

Utilitarianism

Readings: Mill, Utilitarianism

Class 25:

Essay 3 Due

Review for final

Final Exam (Cumulative): TBA