
Introduction to Philosophy Syllabus



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2:15PM – 3:30pm TR
Office: Bowman 3rd flr Rm: V
Office Hrs: TR 12:30-2:00pm & 5:00-6:00pm & By Appt.

Amazon: <http://www.amazon.com/Frank-Scalabrino/e/B00Q0CZM82>
Academia: <http://duq.academia.edu/FrankScalabrino>
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/frank-scalabrino-ph-d-7b25165b>

Required Texts and Materials

- 1) Rene Descartes. *Meditations, Objections, and Replies*. (ISBN: 978-0872207981).
 - https://www.amazon.com/Meditations-Objections-Replies-Hackett-Classics/dp/0872207986/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1483574075&sr=1-1&keywords=9780872207981
- 2) Immanuel Kant. *Philosophy of Material Nature*. (ISBN: 978-0915145881).
 - https://www.amazon.com/Philosophy-Material-Nature-Metaphysical-Foundations/dp/091514588X/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1468193968&sr=1-1&keywords=kant+material+nature.
- 3) Hoffman, Y. (Editor). (1998). *Japanese Death Poems: Written by Zen Monks and Haiku Poets on the Verge of Death*. (ISBN-13: 978-0804831796).
 - https://www.amazon.com/Japanese-Death-Poems-Written-Monks/dp/0804831793/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1483573747&sr=1-1&keywords=japanese+death+poems
- 4) *Course Handouts/Blackboard Posted Readings*.

Course Description and Objectives

Students will learn traditional philosophical distinctions with which to critically evaluate claims to knowledge, to reflectively gain philosophical self-awareness, and to think philosophically about others, the world, and life. Students will be introduced to classic philosophical questions and thought from a diverse and historical set of primary readings focusing on at least three major branches of philosophy.

Students will read, discuss, and analyze texts from traditional philosophical areas of study and historical periods, become familiar with contemporary schools of thought, and learn about the application of philosophy to other disciplines and professions. Students will be familiarized with the Western philosophical tradition, but also with schools of thought from non-Western cultures. This course is an introduction to the diverse methods and subject matters of philosophy toward training students in argumentative writing, careful reading, and critical and creative thinking, while also broadening their intellectual, cultural, and personal horizons. Prerequisite: None.

Students are expected to attend every class meeting. Your grade in the course is based on your performance in the following areas: Exams, Writing assignments, Quizzes, and Class Participation/Homework.

Course Attributes: Diversity Course-Global, Kent Core-Humanities, LER-Humanities, TAG - Arts/Humanities, Trnrfr Module-Humanities.

Course Requirements & Methods of Evaluation

1. Read assigned materials
2. Attend Class and Participate in Discussion
3. Complete Exams
4. Complete Write-to-Learn Activities
5. Complete Participation Quizzes

Methods for Presenting Material

1. Lectures
2. Reading passages aloud in class
3. Discussion focused on read passages
4. Open discussion

Classroom Code of Conduct

“Stated below are the minimum standards...

- Students must not engage in conduct that endangers others or is considered disorderly, lewd or indecent.
- Students must speak in a way that is courteous and respectful to both [the] professor and other students.
- Students must be attentive and focused (e.g., no sleeping or side-bar conversations, [no “heckling,” no reading newspapers during class, no traveling in and out of the classroom unless absolutely necessary]).

Electronics policy: Wearing an “ear bud,” texting, and shopping online constitute non-participation. “Cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices must be turned-off before entering the classroom (unless authorized by ADA requirements). If there are extenuating circumstances, the student must request permission from the professor and with permission leave the device on vibrate/silent mode.” (*Kent State University Student Handbook*) ***You may not video or audio record the lectures without prior approval from the professor, and even with prior approval, I retain the copyright to any recordings of the course lectures.***

The use of cell phones and lap tops are prohibited in the classroom, and may constitute non-participation, i.e. a deduction in participation points.

Attendance Policy

I assume you want to attend class. If you don’t want to attend class, please let me know so that we may have a conversation about it.

In accordance with the established Kent State University Policy 3342-3-06, “Regular attendance in class is expected of all students at all levels at the university. While classes are conducted on the premise that regular attendance is expected, the university recognizes certain activities and events as legitimate reasons for absence from class.” Authorization to miss class due to an official university activity is acceptable with a “Class Absence Authorization Form” provided by the sponsor of the university activity. “In the event the absence was due to illness or injury, verification from the health center or other medical officer should be presented to the instructor. Students shall be responsible for all material covered in class during their absence. Students are responsible for completing any makeup work resulting from their absence. In no case is an excuse from class to be interpreted as a release from class responsibility.” Students who ‘stop attending’ prior to the course withdrawal deadline will receive a grade of ‘SF’ (Stopped attending, F). The SF grade will count as an F (zero quality points) in computing the grade point average.

Exams (& Make-up Policy)

Exams consist of primarily essay questions, but may include short answer or multiple choice questions. The final exam is comprehensive. In other words, questions may appear on the final exam concerning any of the material presented in the course.

Exam dates and times are announced in class at least one week in advance. The dates listed on the syllabus are just guidelines and therefore should NOT be considered the definitive source for exam dates. If it is not possible to avoid missing an exam, or if an emergency arises, the student is expected to notify the professor as soon as possible before the scheduled exam (or immediately afterwards- in no case more than 24 hours after the scheduled time of the exam – if prior notification is impossible because of true emergency or accident). This notification should be in person, via an e-mail to the professor, by a phone call to the professor, and/or by a voice-mail message to the professor. Failure to provide proper notice will result in an unexcused absence. A legitimate and verifiable written proof, stating the reason for missing the exam, must be submitted in a timely manner. In the case of an excused absence the absentee will be expected to make up the exam in a timely fashion, usually within a few days. If this is not possible, then entirely at the instructor's discretion the exam may be made up by using a special make-up exam given in any format the instructor finds to be both feasible and fair, or by using the percentage grade on the final exam to make up for the weight of the missed exam. **An unexcused absence from an exam cannot be made up and will be recorded as a score of zero points.** This policy is non-negotiable and there will be no exceptions to this policy.

Excused Absences – The following general principles apply:

- a) Absence due to illness, accident, or death in the family will be excused if proper advance notice is given and after strict verification. Authorization to miss an exam due to an official university activity must be requested in writing by the department sponsoring the activity at least one week in advance. This is consistent with official university policy 3342-3-06.
- b) Missing a class or an exam because of the consequences of personal behavior will not be excused. This includes (but is not limited to) relationship problems, self-induced incapacitation, court summons, incarceration, etc. Similarly, students who work are expected to make arrangements to be free at times when classes and exams are scheduled. A student's work schedule is a personal matter between the student and her/his employer. A work conflict is not a valid excuse for missing a class or an exam.
- c) The only holidays recognized for purposes of this course are those which are officially observed by the university.
- d) Situations not covered above may be evaluated, at the request of the student, on a case by case basis. An absence will not be excused if, in the opinion of the professor, reasonable and responsible behavior on the part of the student could have prevented it.

Kent Core Course

This course may be used to satisfy a Kent Core requirement. The Kent Core as a whole is intended to broaden intellectual perspectives, foster ethical and humanitarian values, and prepare students for responsible citizenship and productive careers.

Diversity Course

This course may be used to satisfy the University Diversity requirement. Diversity courses provide opportunities for students to learn about such matters as the history, culture, values and notable achievements of people other than those of their own national origin, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, age, gender, physical and mental ability, and social class. Diversity courses also provide opportunities to examine problems and issues that may arise from differences, and opportunities to learn how to deal constructively with them.

Grading

Grade	Percentage	Comments
A	93-100%	Represents outstanding achievement relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.
A-	90-92%	
B+	87-89%	
B	83-86%	Represents achievement significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.
B-	80-82%	
C+	77-79%	
C	73-76%	Represents achievement necessary to meet course requirements.
C-	70-72%	
D+	67-69%	Represents achievement worthy of credit even though it fails to fully meet course requirements.
D	60-66%	
F	0-59%	

Exam #1 (Plato & Descartes)	150 points
Exam #2 (Modern Philosophy)	100 points
Final Exam (Comprehensive)	200 points
Participation	<u>50 points</u>
Total	500 points

Participation & Quizzes

I reserve the right to add Quizzes as needed. In the event of added quizzes, either the total number of points for the course will be raised or the quiz points will be deducted from the total points available on the Final Exam. 50% of your participation will be attendance and professionalism.

We will be participating in Kent State University's Neurocognitive Research Program for the Advancement of the Humanities (NRPAH) survey. This will constitute 50% of your participation grade. In order to earn the points for your participation you need to fulfill **all** the following conditions:

- 1) **You must complete two surveys; one at the beginning of the semester, and one at the end.**
- 2) You must provide your name on the survey, so that you receive credit; however, your survey answers will be anonymous.
- 3) You must answer every question on both surveys, because incomplete surveys won't be counted (and you won't receive credit).
- 4) You must read and answer each question. The scoring procedure has a way and a filter for "random" answers. Which means randomly answered surveys won't be counted
- 5) You must complete a survey at the end of the semester.

Suggestions for success in this class

Read carefully, *before* the class meeting when the material will be discussed. Take notes and make notes in the margins when you find particularly important or confusing parts. Ask questions in class, or in office hours. In class, take notes on the *topic* or *main claims*, the *arguments* and *supports* for the claims, and the manner in which the *topic fits with the theme* of the course. When planning out papers, go back over your notes and reread relevant parts of the text(s), then plan, write and revise your paper. It often helps to read your paper out loud, or have someone read your paper to you. I also encourage use of the University Writing Center.

Students with Disabilities

University Policy 3342-3-01.3 requires that students with disabilities be provided reasonable accommodations to ensure their equal access to course content. If you have a documented disability and require accommodations, please contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to make arrangements for necessary classroom adjustments. **Please note, you must first verify your eligibility for these through Student Accessibility Services** (contact 330-672-3391 or visit www.kent.edu/sas for more information on registration procedures).

Cheating & Plagiarism

(Excerpted from University Policy Register #3342-3-07)

Cheating and plagiarism constitute fraudulent misrepresentation for which no credit can be given and for which appropriate sanctions are warranted and will be applied.

"Cheat" means intentionally to misrepresent the source, nature, or other conditions of academic work so as to accrue undeserved credit, or to cooperate with someone else in such misrepresentation. Such misrepresentations may, but need not necessarily, involve the work of others. As defined, **cheating includes, but is not limited to:**

- Obtaining or retaining partial or whole copies of examination, tests or quizzes before these are distributed for student use;
- Using notes, textbooks or other information in examinations, tests and quizzes, except as expressly permitted;
- Obtaining confidential information about examinations, tests or quizzes other than that released by the instructor;
- Securing, giving or exchanging information during examinations;
- Presenting data or other material gathered by another person or group as one's own;
- Falsifying experimental data or information;
- Having another person take one's place for any academic performance without the specific knowledge and permission of the instructor;
- Cooperating with another to do one or more of the above; and
- Using a substantial portion of a piece of work previously submitted for another course or program to meet the requirements of the present course or program without notifying the instructor to whom the work is presented.
- Presenting falsified information in order to postpone or avoid examinations, tests, quizzes, or other academic work.

"Plagiarize" means to take and present as one's own a material portion of the ideas or words of another or to present as one's own an idea or work derived from an existing source without full and proper credit to the source of the ideas, words, or works. As defined, plagiarize includes, but is not limited to:

- (a) The copying of words, sentences and paragraphs directly from the work of another without proper credit;
- (b) The copying of illustrations, figures, photographs, drawings, models, or other visual and nonverbal materials, including recordings, of another without proper credit; and
- (c) The presentation of work prepared by another in final or draft form as one's own without citing the source, such as the use of purchased research papers.

Schedule

The reading schedule is tentative and subject to change. Also, in response to unanticipated events, I reserve the right to implement certain changes or procedures not explicitly described herein. Changes in the schedule will, of course, be announced and, as such, are a part of the syllabus. The day on which the reading is listed is the day we will discuss the reading. In other words, you need to have read the pages listed for the day on the day they are listed.

Black Board {**BB**},
 Descartes. *Meditations*. {**M**},
 Kant. *Philosophy of Material Nature*. {**K**} &
 Japanese *Death Poems*. {**JD**}

Tuesday

Thursday

Week 1:	<i>What is "Philosophy"?</i>	
	Introduction to the Course	Introduction to the Course
Jan 17 & 19	Syllabus Review	Syllabus Review
Week 2:	<i>What is the Good life?</i>	
	Plato's "Cave Allegory"	Plato's <i>Phaedo</i> (excerpt)
Jan 24 & 26	BB Reading	BB Reading
Week 3:	<i>Plato</i>	
	Plato's <i>Phaedo</i> (excerpt)	Plato's <i>Phaedrus</i>
Jan 31 & F 2	BB Reading	BB Reading
Week 4:	<i>Early Modern Philosophy</i>	
	Descartes' <i>Meditations I-III</i>	Descartes' <i>Meditations I-III</i>
Feb 7 & 9	M	M
Week 5:	<i>Early Modern Philosophy</i>	
	Descartes' <i>Meditations I-III</i>	Descartes' <i>Meditations IV-VI</i>
Feb 14 & 16	M	M
Week 6:	<i>Early Modern Philosophy & Exam</i>	
	Descartes' <i>Meditations IV-VI</i>	Exam #1
Feb 21 & 23	M	Exam #1
Week 7:	<i>Early Modern Philosophy</i>	
	Hobbes & Locke	Locke & Leibniz
F 28 & Mar 2	BB Reading	BB Reading
Week 8:	<i>Early Modern Philosophy</i>	
	Leibniz	Leibniz & Berkeley
Mar 7 & 9	BB Reading	BB Reading

Week 9:	<i>Modern Skepticism & Nihilism</i>	
	David Hume	David Hume – On Personal Identity
Mar 14 & 16	BB Reading	BB Reading
Week 10:	<i>Kant's Copernican Revolution</i>	
	Exam #2	Kant Conclusion & Review
Mar 21 & 23	Exam #2	K (pp. 91-104)
Week 11:	<i>Spring Break</i>	
	Spring Break	Spring Break
Mar 28 & 30	Spring Break	Spring Break
Week 12:	<i>Kant's Copernican Revolution</i>	
	Preamble & Part I - §§1-12	Part II - §§14-35
Apr 4 & 6	K (pp. 11-29)	K (pp. 38-60)
Week 13:	<i>Kant's Copernican Revolution</i>	
	Part II - §§14-35	Part III - §§40-50
Apr 11 & 13	K (pp. 38-60)	K (pp. 69-79)
Week 14:	<i>Existentialism</i>	
	Nietzsche – The Eternal Return & <i>Amor Fati</i>	Nietzsche – The Eternal Return & <i>Amor Fati</i>
Apr 18 & 20	BB Reading	BB Reading
Week 15:	<i>Existentialism & Eastern Practical Philosophy</i>	
	Kierkegaard – On Integrity & Authenticity	Zen – Beginner's Mind
Apr 25 & 27	BB Reading	JD & BB
Week 16:	<i>Eastern Practical Philosophy</i>	
	Zen – Beginner's Mind	Zen – Beginner's Mind
May 2 & 4	JD & BB	JD & BB

FINAL EXAM WEEK: May 8-12

Exam time: May 12th (Friday) 12:45pm-3:00pm

The exam will be administered in our usual classroom.