

Introduction to Philosophy

Kent State University Course Syllabus:

PHIL 11001/006/16328 Fall 2024
MW: 11:00-12:15 pm Location: Bowman Hall 223
Instructor: Dr. Matthew Coate
Office: Bowman Hall 320 F
Office hours: T 10-11 am; 2-5 pm
 R 2-3 pm (or by appointment)
Contact: mcoate@kent.edu (330) 672-3965

Official Course Description:

In this course, you will be introduced to the diverse methods and subject matters of philosophy. The course will take the form of a historical survey of important philosophical texts, which will begin with works from the start of the 4th Century BCE, and will end with works from the second half of the 20th Century.

Course objectives:

- To learn about the philosophical works that we'll be reading over the course of this semester and demonstrate what you have learned (evaluated in your quizzes and exams);
- To develop the ability to evaluate and creatively respond to these works in speech and in writing (evaluated in your exams and group assignments); and
- To increase your own capacities for questioning the way we understand the world, and if at all possible, to further your own sense of the intrinsic importance of this questioning.

Course requirements:

Required text:

- *Classics of Western Philosophy*, 8th Ed., edited by Steven M. Cahn (Hackett Publishing, ISBN-13: 978-1-60384-743-8).

Grading:

- Exams 2 total @ 20% each 40%
- Quizzes 10 total @ 3% each 30%
- Group Assignments 6 total @ 5% each 30%

Exams:

I will be assigning two exams, a midterm and a final, and each will be worth 20% of your final grade. You will be taking the midterm exam on Tuesday, 10/15, while the final will on Tuesday, 12/10, which is the officially scheduled day for our final exam. Missed exams cannot be made up except in extreme circumstances. If there is any reason that you will be unable to take an exam please let me know as soon as you are possible.

Quizzes:

Beginning with week 2, you'll be assigned one online quiz pretty much every week of the semester, which you'll take on Canvas and which will be due at the end of the Friday of that week. The quizzes will include questions about all of the material that we will cover that week and will be fairly short; there will be only about five to seven questions on each quiz, and they will usually be multiple-choice. You'll have roughly one minute per question to complete these quizzes, and unlike your exams, you can use your book and class notes to complete the quiz, but you will have to use the "LockDown Browser" to take them.

You'll be assigned 12 quizzes over the course of the semester. Missed quizzes can't be made up under any circumstances, but I will drop the lowest two quiz scores for every student. Thus, each of your top ten quizzes will count for your final grade, and since each quiz counts for 3% of the total, 30% of your final grade will come from quizzes.

Group Assignments:

Periodically, I will break our class up into groups and have each group complete a short worksheet assignment. I'll give 8 of these assignments total this semester, and I'll drop the lowest two scores for each student; each of the 6 remaining assignments will count for 5% of your total grade, so like your quizzes, 30% of your total grade will come from these group assignments. Missed group assignments cannot be made up.

University Services and Policies:

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.

Enrollment and registration statement:

The official registration deadline for self-adding this course is 8/25/24. University policy requires all students to be officially registered in each class they are attending. Students who are not officially registered for a course by published deadlines should not be attending classes and will not receive credit or a grade for the course. Each student must confirm enrollment by checking his/her class schedule (using Student Tools in FlashLine) prior to the deadline indicated. Registration errors must be corrected prior to the deadline.

The course withdrawal deadline is 9/1/24. The last day to drop without a "W" being assigned will be 10/27/24.

Student Accessibility Services statement:

Kent State University is committed to inclusive and accessible education experiences for all students. University Policy 3-01.3 requires that students with disabilities be provided reasonable accommodations to ensure equal access to course content. Students with disabilities are encouraged to connect with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as early as possible to establish accommodations. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on a disability (including mental health, chronic medical conditions, or injuries), please let me know immediately.

SAS can be reached at (330) 672-3391. Please visit www.kent.edu/sas for more information.

Academic Coaching Statement:

Academic Coaching is a personalized experience in which you work one-on-one with a peer coach to set goals, improve time management and develop learning skills in a supportive environment. If you are interested in knowing more or scheduling your first coaching session, please visit www.kent.edu/coaching.

Personal responsibility and academic integrity statement:

University policy 3-01.8 deals with the problem of academic dishonesty, cheating, and plagiarism. None of these will be tolerated in this class. The sanctions provided in this policy will be used to deal with any violations. If you have any questions, please read the policy at <http://www2.kent.edu/policyreg/chap3/index.cfm> and/or ask.

Please note that any instances of plagiarism will be reported and dealt with in accordance with the policies stipulated in section 3-01.8. Sanctions for a “traditionally” plagiarized assignment will, at the very least, include receiving a 0% on the plagiarized assignment, but may also include more severe consequences as the situation warrants. Sanctions for assignments plagiarized using AI text-generating apps will be more severe and will result in an automatic grade of “F” for the semester. Text-generating apps may not be used in any way for assignments under any circumstances.

Communication and Safety Policy:

The Flashes Safe Seven Principles have been implemented to protect your health as well as the entire Kent State community. When you are on campus you must follow the Flashes Safe Seven. Please also remember to sign up for FlashAlerts, and check email and Canvas announcements daily.

Intellectual Property and Privacy Statement:

Any intellectual property displayed or distributed to students during this course (including but not limited to PowerPoint presentations, notes, quizzes, examinations) by the instructor remains the intellectual property of the instructor. This means that the student may not distribute, publish, or provide such intellectual property to any other person or entity for any reason, commercial or otherwise, without the express written permission of the instructor. Additionally, students may not distribute or publish recordings and/or links to live classroom presentations, lectures, and/or class discussions.

Classroom Policies:

Attendance Policy:

Attendance is mandatory. Any student missing a class will receive an unexcused absence, unless they inform the professor of the absence and provide legitimate reason for it, including any relevant documentation. After 3 unexcused absences, a student will lose a half letter-grade from his or her final grade for each additional absence.

Given H.B. 353, which took effect this past Spring 2023 Semester, students need to be reasonably accommodated in regard to academic requirements, including exams and academic absences, for sincerely held religious beliefs and practices. Under this bill, it is required that students be permitted up to three days of absence per semester, without penalty, for religious holidays or to participate in organized activities conducted under the auspices of any religious or spiritual organization. To ensure compliance with H.B. 353, Kent State University adopted a new administrative policy regarding accommodations for student religious and spiritual beliefs (3-01.14). Under current guidance, students need to submit a request in writing to the instructor within 14 days after the first day of instruction. To review the current policy, see [the relevant webpage for the Office for the Provost](#).

Electronic device policy:

Cel phones and smart phone devices may not be used in class at any time. Laptops or tablets are also prohibited, except if a student has received prior permission from me for their use in class (for note-taking or other academic purposes only, of course).

Grade scale:

A =	92-100%	4.0 per credit hour
A- =	90-92%	3.7 per credit hour
B+ =	88-90%	3.3 per credit hour
B =	82-88%	3.0 per credit hour
B- =	80-82%	2.7 per credit hour
C+ =	78-80%	2.3 per credit hour
C =	72-78%	2.0 per credit hour
C- =	70-72%	1.7 per credit hour
D =	68-70%	1.3 per credit hour
D+ =	60-68%	1.0 per credit hour
F =	0 - 60%	0.0 per credit hour

Course schedule:

Please note that this schedule is subject to change, and that readings are due on the day listed. (All readings are from the required textbook, unless otherwise noted.)

□ week 1:			
Tuesday 8/20	Class Introduction		
Thursday 8/22	Introductory Lecture		
□ week 2:			
Tuesday 8/27	Plato: <i>The Euthyphro</i>	read: p. 1-2 and 18-22, up to “IO” in the margin	
Thursday 8/29		continue: p. 1-2 and 18-22	Quiz #1: due Friday, 8/30
□ week 3:			
Tuesday 9/3		read: p. 22-26	Group Assignment #1
Thursday 9/5	<i>The Republic</i>	read: p. 145 (Book II) - 158 (start of Book IV)	Quiz #2: due Friday, 9/6
□ week 4:			
Tuesday 9/10		read: p. 158-169 (to Book V)	Group Assignment #2
Thursday 9/12		continue: p. 158-169	Quiz #3: due Friday, 9/13

□ week 5:			
Tuesday 9/17		read: p. 178-192	
Thursday 9/19		read: p. 169-179 (to Book IX)	Quiz #4: due Friday, 9/20
□ week 6:			
Tuesday 9/24		continue: p. 169-179 (to Book IX)	Group Assignment #3
Thursday 9/26	Aristotle: <i>On the Soul</i>	read: p. 229-233 (to start of Ch. 3)	Quiz #5: due Friday, 9/27
□ week 7:			
Tuesday 10/1		continue: p. 229-233	Group Assignment #4
Thursday 10/3	No Class: Fall Break!		
□ week 8:			
Tuesday 10/8		read: p. 233-242	
Thursday 10/10		continue: p. 233-242	Group Assignment #5 Quiz #6: due Friday, 10/11
□ week 9:			
Tuesday 10/15	Class Meeting: Midterm Exam!		
Thursday 10/17	No Class: Study Day!		
□ week 10:			
Tuesday 10/22	Descartes: <i>Meditations</i>	read: p. 499-500 and 533-539 (to 3rd Med.)	
Thursday 10/24		continue: p. 533-539 (to 3rd Med.)	Group Assignment #6 Quiz #7: due Friday, 10/25
□ week 11:			
Tuesday 10/29		read: p. 539-549 (to 5th Meditation)	
Thursday 10/31		read: p. 549-559	Quiz #8: due Friday, 11/1
□ week 12:			
Tuesday 11/5	Hume <i>Enquiry</i>	read: p. 832-847	
Thursday 11/7		read: p. 847-854	Group Assignment #7 Quiz #9: due Friday, 11/8
□ week 13:			
Tuesday 11/12		read: p. 854-862 and 873- 875 (Section IX)	
Thursday 11/14	Kant: <i>Critique of Pure Reason</i>	read: "Critique" (on Canvas) p. 16-31	
□ week 14:			
Tuesday 11/19		read: "Critique" (on Canvas) p. 32-44	
Thursday 11/21		continue: "Critique" (on Canvas) p. 32-44	Quiz #10: due Friday, 11/22

□ week 15:			
Tuesday 11/26	De Beauvoir: <i>The Ethics of Ambiguity</i>	read: "Ethics..." p. 35-40 (on Canvas)	
Thursday 11/28	No Class: Thanksgiving!		Quiz #11: due Friday, 11/29
□ week 16:			
Tuesday 12/3		read: "Ethics..." p. 40-57 (on Canvas)	Group Assignment #8
Thursday 12/5		read: "Ethics..." p. 57-73 (on Canvas)	Quiz #12: due Friday, 12/6
□ Finals week:			
Tuesday 12/10	Final Exam: 12:45-3:00 pm!		