

PHIL 102: INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY II

Summer 2011, Term 1 (Sect. 921)

Meets: T,TH 10a-12:50p, BUCH D218

Instructor:

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Description

Introduction to Philosophy II is broadly about “value theory,” which includes topics such as ethics, political philosophy, aesthetics, and what is the “good life” for humans. This particular course focuses on happiness: we will discuss what theorists in Western Philosophy have said over the past millennia about what happiness is, how to achieve it, its relationship to morality (Is being moral necessary for being happy? What does making self or others happy have to do with acting morally?), and whether or not communities and governments have a responsibility to promote the happiness of their citizens.

Structure of class meetings: this course meets twice a week for three hours per meeting. That means there is the same amount of time per class meeting as usually occurs in one week during a course in the Winter terms. Missing one day is therefore like missing a week during the Winter term. The class meeting will go from 10a to 11:15, then have a 15 minute break, then meet again from 11:30 to 12:45. The break may occur a little before or after 11:15, and it may be a bit longer than 15 minutes, but we will certainly be finished by 12:50 at the latest.

Learning Objectives (and their relationship to course activities)

Students who successfully complete the course will be able to:

1. Outline a complex argument in an assigned text (argument analyses done in groups)
2. Assess the strength of arguments in assigned texts, in oral or written work by other students, and in their own writing (papers, group discussion, presentation, exams)
3. Write and revise papers that provide clear, coherent, well-organized arguments for a specific thesis (papers)
4. Compare/contrast the views of at least three philosophers on the relationship between happiness and morality, and on the responsibility of governments to promote happiness in their citizens (final exam)
5. Discuss and defend one’s own view on what happiness is and how it can be achieved (short essays at beginning and end of class)

Required Readings

- * Cahn and Vitrano, Eds, *Happiness: Classic and Contemporary Readings in Philosophy*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.—this should be in the UBC bookstore.
- * Readings available online on our Vista course site: some readings for the course will be posted online on our Vista site (in PDF format, so be sure to get the free PDF reader: <http://get.adobe.com/reader/> -- The readings on the course web site may be purchased as hard copies, if you wish. A sign up sheet for this will be given in class. You will need to bring cash to class to pay for the copies.

Course Website

The course website is on the UBC Vista system. Go to www.vista.ubc.ca and log in with your Campus Wide Login ID and password. On the website you will find copies of the syllabus, assignments, and handouts, as well as some of the course readings. There will also be discussion boards available for you to discuss aspects of the course with other students if you wish. You will also be able to check your grades on the website.

Evaluation/Assignments

15%: Attendance and participation

Attendance & oral participation in class, including presentation to small group: 10%
Short papers on happiness (2 pages; 2 of these), marked as satisfactory, unsatisfactory, or not completed: 5%

30%: Paper

Paper on ancient philosophers (approx. 5-7 pp.): 30%
(*Note that this paper may be revised and resubmitted; see the following page*)

55%: Exams

1. In-class argument outlines (2 of these): 25% (10% for first one, 15% for second)
2. Final exam: 30%

Explanations of assignments

- * Attendance and Participation: From the UBC calendar: “Regular attendance is expected of students in all their classes (including lectures, laboratories, tutorials, seminars, etc.). Students who neglect their academic work and assignments may be excluded from final examinations. Students who are unavoidably absent because of illness or disability should report to their instructors on return to classes. Any request for academic concession must be clearly expressed (see *Academic Concession*).” (<http://www.students.ubc.ca/calendar/index.cfm?tree=3,36,0,0>)

Attendance will be taken for each class meeting. You may miss **ONE** class meeting without excuse and without penalty. After that, your absences will lead to penalties on your attendance mark. Beyond your one free absence, *missing one of the days for presentations by other members of your group counts as missing two days* (i.e., you can miss one of these days as your one free absence without penalty, but after that missing a presentation day counts as missing two days), so be sure to be there for the days your fellow group members are giving their presentations.

To get high marks for participation, you must actually speak in class. If you do not wish to do so, you may make up for this by contributing your thoughts on the course material to the discussion board on the Vista course web site. You should do so at least five times to get high marks for

participation. Your comments should be at least 150 words long each. You must also speak up in the small group discussions.

* Presentations: Each student will be required to give a short presentation in a small group once during the term (groups will be decided randomly, and you will be notified of your groups at the beginning of the term). You will sign up for dates on which to do this. Basically you will need to give a brief presentation on some issue or question we've been discussing in class, and then provide a few questions for the group to discuss (and you'll be responsible for leading the group discussion on these). There will be numerous groups meeting at the same time during class, so there will be presentations in each group going on at the same time (you'll be speaking only to about 5 students in your small group). You will need to turn in a summary of your presentation, and your mark will be based on this summary only, since I can't hear all the presentations when they are going on at the same time.

* Papers: You will be required to write several papers for this course.

Two short papers on happiness: At the beginning and again at the end of the term you will write two short papers (approx. 2 pages) explaining and supporting your own views on one or both of two questions: what does a happy life mean to you, and how can it be achieved? These papers will receive only a (+) (satisfactory), a (-) (unsatisfactory), or a (0) (not completed).

Paper on ancient philosophers: This paper will be focused on course material, and will be written in response to topics provided (if you feel strongly that you'd like to write on your own topic, this may be possible—talk to Christina). **You may rewrite this paper, but you must meet with Christina discuss the revision first.** In that meeting, we will discuss the specifics of the rewrite assignment. **The revised essay must be submitted on or before the date of the final exam. You must turn in the original paper with comments, along with the rewrite.** The mark on the first version of the paper will count for 25% of the paper mark (including the late penalty, if applicable), and that of the second version will count for 75% (note that it is therefore possible to receive a lower grade on the rewrite—though unlikely!). **This option may only be used if the paper to be rewritten had a passing grade to begin with** (i.e., you may not use this option to make up for a paper you did not turn in, or on which you received a failing mark for what you did turn in). You may use this option to make up for a late penalty on the first paper—though a late penalty on the first version will still count in the 25%, the second version will not have a late penalty in the 75% that it counts for (the second version must be turned in on or before the date of the final exam, or it doesn't count at all and the first version stands).

* Exams:

In-class argument outlines: Twice during the term you will be asked to outline an argument from readings we have already discussed, and to talk about how that argument fits in with the main point(s) of a philosopher's views. We will practice doing an "argument outline" in groups beforehand, so you know what is expected.

The final exam will be made up mostly of essay questions that you will have in advance of the exam, so you can prepare your answers. There may also be a short answer section (you will know in advance if there is such a section on the exam, but you won't see the short answer questions in advance). The final exam will be held during the exam period for Term 1 summer courses, which is Friday evening June 17 or Saturday June 18 (time and place of the exam announced as soon as it's available).

Course Policies

Class Etiquette and rules: Please make every effort to arrive on time, and do not leave class early without letting me know first that you must do so (and sit towards the back of the room in that case). Late arrivals and people getting up to leave (even to go to the washroom) are disruptive for everyone (if you MUST take a washroom break, do so as quietly as possible and don't make it a habit to do so during class very often). Please don't come to class if you are going to spend class time doing something else (e.g., surf the web, read material for other classes, etc.). I'm happy to have free-form discussions in class where people don't raise their hands as long as everyone is respectful of others (i.e., avoid cutting others off, interrupting them when they're in the middle of saying something). Basic rules of respectful dialogue will be enforced, such as avoiding direct attacks on persons (you may criticize ideas/arguments, but avoid criticizing the person who gives those). Disrespectful speech such as name-calling, stereotyping, and derogatory remarks about ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation and sexual/gender identity should be avoided.

Harassing speech will not be tolerated. The UBC Equity office defines harassment as follows (<http://equity.ubc.ca/discrimination/#harassment>): "*Harassment, a form of discrimination, is a comment, conduct or behaviour that humiliates, intimidates, excludes and isolates an individual or group based on the BC Human Rights Code's thirteen grounds of prohibited discrimination.*" The thirteen grounds of prohibited discrimination are: age, ancestry, colour, family status, marital status, physical and mental disability, place of origin, political belief, race, religion, sex (including gender and pregnancy), sexual orientation, unrelated criminal conviction.

General info re: assignments: Students should retain a copy of all submitted assignments and should also retain all their marked assignments in case they wish to apply for a Review of Assigned Standing. Students have the right to view their marked (final) examinations with their instructor, providing they apply to do so by Jan 31 for Term 1 courses, by May 20 for Term 2 courses, and by Sept. 15 for summer courses. A final examination becomes the property of the University and must remain in the possession of the University for one year from the date of the examination, after which it should be destroyed or otherwise disposed of in accordance with UBC Policy 117. See the UBC calendar: <http://www.students.ubc.ca/calendar/index.cfm?tree=3,41,93,0>

Policies on late or missed assignments

- * All papers are due in class on the day noted on the schedule below and on the assignment instructions. Papers may be turned in on the course website or in hard copy (with the exception of the two short essays on happiness, which must be submitted on the course website). Late papers must be accompanied by a "late paper form," available on the Vista course web site. Late papers are subject to a 5% -per-weekday reduction in points (starting after the end of class time on the due date), unless due to an excused absence (may require documentation). If you know you are going to miss a due date, the sooner you talk to the Instructor or T.A., the more amenable we will be to grant an exception (providing, of course, that your excuse is a valid one that makes turning work in on time very difficult or impossible).
- * You must turn in the small group presentation summary on the day you've signed up to present to your group. You must be in class on the day you are scheduled to give your presentation to the small group. If you cannot be in class that day, talk to Christina at least one week in advance to reschedule. If you miss class due to an emergency, contact Christina as soon as you can to discuss whether and how a make-up will be possible.
- * In-class argument outlines: These are treated like exams in the sense that you must have an "excused" absence in order to qualify for an opportunity to make one of these up if you miss class that day. This may require documentation.

* Final exam: According to the UBC Calendar, if you miss a final exam during the official examination periods, you must follow the procedures to request “Academic Concession” (see <http://www.students.ubc.ca/calendar/index.cfm?tree=3,48,0,0>).

Grading Standards

(from: <http://www.arts.ubc.ca/faculty-amp-staff/resources/courses-and-grading/grading-guidelines.html>)

The following guidelines offer a broad-brush characterization of the type of work that might be associated with various ranges of grades. The intent here is to encourage general consistency across the faculty [of Arts] rather than to provide precise specifications.

80% to 100% (A- to A+) *Exceptional* performance: strong evidence of original thinking; good organization; capacity to analyze and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter with sound critical evaluations; evidence of extensive knowledge base.

68% to 79% (B- to B+) *Competent* performance: evidence of grasp of subject matter; some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; evidence of familiarity with the literature.

50% to 67% (D to C+) *Adequate* performance: understanding of the subject matter; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material; acceptable but uninspired work, not seriously faulty but lacking style and vigour.

00% to 49% (F) *Inadequate* performance: little or no evidence of understanding of the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited or irrelevant use of the literature.

Scaling of Grades: “Marks in this course may be scaled (see Calendar, under Grading Practices). If scaling is required, it will be carried out after each assignment, so that students will know where they stand going into the final examination. If scaling is done on the final examination, students will be informed if they ask to review their examination according to the usual policy.” From the Calendar: “Faculties, departments and schools reserve the right to scale grades in order to maintain equity among sections and conformity to University, faculty, department, or school norms. Students should therefore note that an unofficial grade given by an instructor might be changed by the faculty, department or school. Grades are not official until they appear on a student's academic record.”

(<http://www.students.ubc.ca/calendar/index.cfm?tree=3,42,96,0>).

Equity and special arrangements

I will work to ensure that all students have a fair and equitable opportunity for participation and success in the course. The University accommodates students with disabilities who have registered with the Disability Resource Centre. The University accommodates students whose religious obligations conflict with attendance, submitting assignments, or completing scheduled tests and examinations. See the university policy on religious holidays at:

<http://www.universitycounsel.ubc.ca/policies/policy65.pdf>. Please let me know in advance, preferably in the first week of class, if you will require any accommodation on these grounds (you must notify your instructor at least two weeks in advance, according to the university policy cited above). Students who plan to be absent for varsity athletics, family obligations, or other similar commitments, cannot assume they will be accommodated, and should discuss their commitments with the instructor before the drop date.

Academic Dishonesty

I take academic dishonesty very seriously, because ensuring that your grades reflect your own work is so crucial to your own learning experience, to fairness to the rest of the students, and to those who expect your transcript to reflect your own efforts. Accordingly, I am vigilant about preventing, detecting, and deterring academic misconduct whenever possible, and to punishing cases of it to the fullest extent allowed by university policy. Please review the UBC Calendar Academic regulations for

the university policy on cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty (See the UBC Calendar, under “Academic Regulations,” and “Student Conduct and Discipline”:
<http://www.students.ubc.ca/calendar/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,0>). Also visit the academic integrity section of the Faculty of Arts website for useful information on avoiding plagiarism and on correct documentation: <http://www.arts.ubc.ca/arts-students/plagiarism-avoided.html>. The course website on Vista also has some links on how to cite sources correctly and avoid plagiarism.

Schedule of Readings and Assignments: Readings should be done before class on the day listed below

Note that the readings on the course web site are labeled as (course website), and the other readings are labeled as (C&V), for Cahn and Vitrano (the *Happiness* textbook).

Week/Date	Readings/Assignments/Class activities
T May 10	Intro to the course and to a research study you can participate in if you wish
Th May 12	Plato, <i>Republic</i> Books II-IV (C&V 3-11; then Plato’s <i>Republic</i> Books II to IV selection on course website, pp. 1-21; then C&V 11-15); first short paper on happiness due May 12 (on course website)
T May 17	Plato, <i>Republic</i> Book V-IX (Plato’s <i>Republic</i> on course website pp. 22-39; then C&V 16-18)
Th May 19	Epicurus, “Letter to Menoecus” and “Leading Doctrines” (C&V pp. 34-40); <i>optional: Cicero, De Finibus Book I only (website, pp. 1-10)</i> ; in-class argument outline on Plato
T May 24	Cicero, <i>De Finibus</i> Book II (website, pp. 11-17); Seneca (C&V pp. 41-51); Epictetus, <i>Enchiridion</i> (course website)
Th May 26	Stoics, cont’d; Mill, <i>Utilitarianism</i> , Chpt. II (C&V 121-133)
T May 31	Mill, <i>Utilitarianism</i> Chpt. IV (C&V 139-143); paper on ancients due T May 31
Th June 2	Mill, selections from <i>On Liberty</i> (course website)
T June 7	Nozick, “The Experience Machine” (C&V 236-237); Cahn and Murphy “Happiness and Immorality” (C&V pp. 261-266, 269-271); in class argument outline on Epicurus through Mill
Th June 9	Kekes, “Attitudinal and Episodic Happiness” (C&V 179-190—note you don’t have to read past Section IV)
T June 14	Nettle, selections from <i>Happiness: The Science Behind your Smile</i> (C&V ix-xi; then read selections from this book on course website; this book is also available as an ebook on the UBC library website—search the author and title and click on the “full text” copy); Annas, “Happiness as Achievement” (C&V 238-244); second short paper on happiness due June 14 (on course website)
Th June 16	Ahmed, Introduction and part of Chpt. 4 from <i>The Promise of Happiness</i> (course website; this book is also available as an ebook from the UBC library website; search author and title at library website and click on the “full text” copy)
	Final exam: either Friday June 17 in evening or Saturday June 18 Date and time will be announced as soon as final exam schedule is released