

PHIL 102: INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY II

Winter 2013, Term 1 (Sect. 004)

Meets: M,W 10:00-10:50am, CHEM D300 (plus one Friday discussion section)

Instructor:

Dr. Christina Hendricks

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Christina's Office Hours:

-- BUCH E375: Wed. 11a-12p

-- IBLC 372: Fri. 2-2:50 (sometimes can stay until 3; depends on the week--ask ahead of time!)

-- by appointment—just ask in class or email me for an appointment time

Office Phone:

-- BUCH E375: 822-2520

-- IBLC 372: 822-8619

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 combines an introduction to philosophy with value theory in the following way: we will be looking at what philosophy is, what philosophers do, and of what kind of value this activity is. What can doing philosophy do for us in our individual and community lives? We will look at such questions by reading some things that philosophers themselves have said about them, though through this students are invited to come to their own views of the nature and value of philosophy, and discuss those as well.

Structure of the course: We meet twice a week in a large group, on Mondays and Wednesdays. During that time there will be some lecturing, but also some small group and individual activities (you won't be just sitting and listening for 50 minutes continuously). On Fridays we will meet in smaller groups of no more than 25 students, which will allow for more interactivity and discussion. You will also be in a small group with about 4 other students throughout the term, in which members will give short presentations to the small group.

Learning Objectives (and their relationship to course activities)

Students who successfully complete the course will be able to:

1. Assess the strength of arguments in assigned texts, in oral or written work by other students, and in their own writing (papers, peer review of other students' papers, group discussion, presentation, exams)
2. Lead a small group discussion on one aspect of an assigned text, or an idea/argument discussed in class (presentations)
3. Complete an essay that discusses and evaluates the arguments of at least two philosophers, with a clear structure and well-supported arguments (essay assignments: these build up to final essay)
4. Discuss and defend one's own view of what philosophy is and what its value might be (short writing assignments at the beginning and end of term)

Required Readings

- * Plato, *The Trial and Death of Socrates*, Hackett Publishing Company, 3rd edition (2000). Available at the UBC Bookstore.
- * Plato, *Gorgias*, Hackett Publishing Company, 1st edition (1987). Available at the UBC Bookstore.
- * Readings available online: some readings for the course will be posted online, at the main course website: <http://blogs.ubc.ca/phil102/> See the “weekly schedule” menu at the top of this site to find the readings for each week.
 - some of these readings have to be posted on the Connect site for this course, but you can find links to those in the above site itself.

The bookstore website has another few books listed as optional for this course—this is a mistake. Those are optional for another course I’m teaching, Arts One, not this one.

Course Website

The main site for this course is here: <http://blogs.ubc.ca/phil102/> On it you can find this syllabus, a weekly schedule that gives you up to date information on what to read/watch/do each week (because specific page numbers to read may change depending on how quickly we get to things in class), announcements, and some links to useful resources.

We also have a site on the UBC course website system called “Connect.” That site will be used only for things that can’t be put up in public, such as readings that are under copyright, your marks, a place to turn in writing assignments digitally and receive them back with comments and marks, and a place to see your marks for each assignment. To access our course Connect site, go to this site and log in with your Campus Wide Login and password: <http://elearning.ubc.ca/connect/>

Evaluation/Assignments

20% Attendance and participation

- Attendance & oral participation in discussion section: 5%
- Participating in peer feedback on essays from your small group (first and second essays only)--marked as completed or not completed: 5%
- Presentations to your small group (2 of these), posting notes on these on class blogs—marked just as (+), (-), or (0-not completed): 10%

25% Final exam

55% Writing assignments

The three essay assignments are designed to build on one another, so for the second one you revise the first and add to it, and for the third one you revise the second and add to it. Specifics on these paper assignments will be given in class, including a final statement of how many pages/words are required.

1. Informal, short writing assignments on class blogs about nature and value of philosophy (one at beginning, one at end of term)—marked just as (+), (-), or (0-not completed): 5%
2. First short essay: (approx. 1-2 pages), 5%
3. Second essay, which includes revision of #1: (approx. 3-4 pages), 15%
4. Final essay, which includes a revision of #2: (approx. 4-6 pages), 30%

Explanations of assignments

These are general explanations only; specific instructions for presentations, essays, and in-class assignments and exams will be provided later on handouts, available on the course website:

<http://blogs.ubc.ca/phil102>

- * 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 discussion class meeting on Fridays, but not for the M,W classes. For most of these meetings, there will be presentations in your small group, and if anyone is missing this can negatively affect how the group functions. You may miss **ONE** discussion class meeting without excuse and without penalty. After that, your absences will lead to penalties on your attendance mark. Your attendance mark will be out of 12 marks, (13 weeks minus one free absence), and each unexcused absence past your one free one will be one mark off your 12.
 - To get high marks for participation in discussion section, you must actually speak in class, or, if you do not wish to do so, you may make up for this by contributing extra blog posts to your discussion sections’ blog. You should do so at least five times to get high marks for participation. Your blog posts should be 200 words at minimum, and you should **keep a list of the URLs for your posts** to give to your discussion leader at the end of the term, so s/he can easily see what you’ve done.
- * Peer feedback on essays in your small group: The first and second essays will be given to 1-2 other people in your small group for peer feedback—comments only, no marks. You will need to fill out a feedback form for each paper you read, and discuss your comments with the papers’ author in class. You will receive marks in the form of either “completed” or “not completed” for filling out these forms and talking with the paper’s author in class about your comments.
- * Presentations: Each student will be required to give **TWO** short presentations in their small group in discussion sections (groups will be decided randomly, and you will be notified of your groups near 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 4 other students in your small group).
 - You will also need to post to your discussion sections’ blog, summaries of your two presentations and the questions you asked your group. Be sure these summaries could make sense to people who didn’t hear the presentation! So in other words, just giving bullet points may not be enough. This must be done **no later than midnight the Monday after you’ve given your presentation.**
 - Keep a list of the URLs of your posts, to give to your discussion leader when you’ve finished both sets of them.
 - Presentations will be marked as (+) satisfactory, (-) not satisfactory, or (0) not completed.

* 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, which is Dec. 4-18, 2013. We won't know the exact date and time of the exam until sometime in October.

* Writing assignments:

- There will be two informal, short writing assignments, one at the beginning and one at the end of term, in which you give your own views on the nature and value of philosophy. These will be marked as just (+) satisfactory, (-) not satisfactory, or (0) not completed.
- You will be required to write three longer essays for this course, but the second builds upon the first, and the third upon the second, so that by the end you will have built up to (hopefully) a strong final essay.
 - The first essay will be a very short one, a summary of one philosopher's views, just to get you practice in writing for philosophy.
 - The second essay will build upon the first—you'll revise the first and either add your own commentary to the philosopher's arguments, or compare/contrast those arguments with those of another philosopher
 - The third essay will require you to add one more philosopher's views to a revision of your second essay, as well as give your comments/questions/criticisms to one or more of the arguments given by one or more of the philosophers discussed.

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 the M,W class if you are going to spend class time doing something else (e.g., surf the web, read material for other classes, etc.). Attendance will not be taken at the M, W class meetings, so there's no need to attend if you're not going to be paying attention.
 - It's pretty easy to tell just by looking at faces and mannerisms who is using their computer in a way that allows them to still engage with the course, and who has lost attention and is doing something else.
 - Looking things up online related to the course is great—and please raise your hand and share what you've found with the rest of us!
 - But using your computer to do other things is often very distracting for students behind you, and I have had numerous such complaints from students in the past who are annoyed that someone in front of them watches videos, keeps flipping web pages unrelated to the course, and the like.
- Often it's best to raise your hand if you want to speak, but I'm also 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, and may constitute harassing speech—see below.

- 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.
 - Please see <http://equity.ubc.ca/discrimination/#harassment> for examples of harassment, which include “Repeated derogatory comments or jokes based on one of the prohibited grounds,” and “Discussing the culture of other classmates, co-workers, or colleagues in a disrespectful or ridiculing manner.”

General information on 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 (see <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,49,0,0#261>). From the UBC calendar, <http://www.students.ubc.ca/calendar/index.cfm?tree=3,41,93,0>: 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](#).

Policies on late or missed assignments

- * If you miss class on the day you are to give a presentation to your small group, without an excused absence, you will get a (0) on your presentation. If you cannot be in class that day, talk to Christina or your TA at least one week in advance to reschedule. If you miss class due to an emergency, contact Christina or your TA as soon as you can to discuss whether and how a make-up will be possible.
- * Putting your presentation summary on the class blog is due by midnight on the Monday after you gave your presentation. If you post it late without an adequate excuse, you will receive a (-) for your presentation (assuming you were in class on that day to give it; if not, you get a (0) for the presentation unless you have a valid excuse for missing class.
- * You must be in class on the day we are doing peer feedback on essays, so you can discuss your comments on others’ essays in person, and talk with others about their comments on your essay. If you are not there and your absence is not excused, you will receive a zero for that peer feedback session.
- * 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>).
- * The two short writing assignments on the nature and value of philosophy must be posted on your discussion group’s blog no later than midnight on the day noted on the schedule below, or you will receive a (-), unless you have an excused reason for them being late.
- * All essays are due in class on the day noted on the schedule below and on the assignment instructions. Papers may be submitted via the course Connect site or in hard copy (with the exception of the two short essays on happiness, which must be submitted on your class blog). Late essays must be accompanied by a “late essay form,” available on the course web site. Late essays are subject to a

5% -per-weekday reduction in points (starting after the beginning 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).

Grading Standards

Specific grading guidelines for essays will be provided later in the course and will be available on the course website: <http://blogs.ubc.ca/phil102> The following provide general guidelines that apply to all courses in the Faculty of Arts.

(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 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>). There are also links on the course website about what plagiarism is and how to avoid it.

Schedule of Readings and Assignments: The following general only; see the course website for specific page numbers for each day/week: <http://blogs.ubc.ca/phil102>

<u>Week/Date</u>	<u>What to read</u>	<u>Assignments due</u>
Wk 1, Sep. 4-6	Introductions to the course, introduction to what philosophy is	
Wk 2, Sep. 9-13	Plato, <i>Euthyphro</i> (in <i>Trial and Death of Socrates</i> book)	First short writing on what philosophy is & its value due Wed, Sept. 11
Wk 3, Sep. 16-20	Plato, <i>Apology</i> (in <i>Trial and Death of Socrates</i> book) No class Wed.. Sept. 18 (Truth & Reconciliation events)	
Wk 4, Sep. 23-27	Plato, <i>Gorgias</i>	
Wk 5, Sep. 30-Oct. 4	Epicurus, various writings (on course website)	First essay due Fri., Oct. 4; give to small group in discussion section
Wk 6, Oct. 7-11	Stoics: Epictetus and Cicero (on course website)	Peer feedback on first essays in discussion sections
Wk 7, Oct. 14-18	Stoics, continued (on course website) No class Mon. Oct. 14 (Thanksgiving)	<i>First essays returned this week</i>
Wk 8, Oct. 21-25	Utilitarianism—J. S. Mill (on course website)	
Wk 9, Oct. 28-Nov. 1	Finish Utilitarianism; Bertrand Russell, writings on the nature and value of philosophy (on course website)	Second essay due Wed. Oct. 30; give to small grp in discussion sections
Wk 10, Nov. 4-8	Peter Singer on affluence and global poverty (course website)	Peer feedback on second essay in discussion sections
Wk 11, Nov. 11-15	Martha Nussbaum on the value of philosophy, and on social justice and the “capabilities approach” (course website) No class Mon., Nov. 11 (Remembrance Day)	<i>Second essays returned this week</i>
Wk 12, Nov. 18-22	Nussbaum, continued; Samantha Vice on philosophers and apartheid in S. Africa	
Wk 13, Nov. 25-29	Vice, continued; return to Truth and Reconciliation in Canada discussion (readings on course website)	- Third essay due Mon., Nov. 25 - Second short writing on nature & value of philosophy due Fri., Nov. 29