

## Introduction to Philosophy – PHIL 6, section 3; Hybrid

Spring 2024

Location: Mendocino Hall 3009 & Online Asynchronous

Meeting Time: M 130PM-245PM; W Online

Instructor: Professor John Park

E-mail: john.park@csus.edu

Phone: 916-278-7384

Office: Mendocino 3016

Office Hours: M 415PM-430PM, W 115PM-400PM

An appointment for different times other than listed can be made via email.

Zoom appointments in lieu of face-to-face appointments can be made via email.

### **Course Description**

Representative selection of philosophical problems will be explored in areas such as knowledge, reality, religion, science, politics, art and morals.

### **Learning goals**

- Describe and distinguish key concepts at the introductory level in philosophy.
- Read and comprehend philosophical texts, classical or contemporary.
- Present clear and concise explanations and arguments in philosophy.
- Learn how to critically assess philosophical issues.
- Learn how to clearly articulate one's ideas in writing and orally.

### **Area C2 Learning Outcomes**

The learning objectives associated with C2 should focus on the human condition.

Specifically, students completing C2 requirements should be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the conventions and methods of the study of the humanities.
- B. Investigate, describe, and analyze the roles and effects of human culture and understanding in the development of human societies.
- C. Compare and analyze various conceptions of humankind.
- D. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the historical development of cultures and civilizations, including their animating ideas and values.

### **Summary of Requirements**

	<u>Weighted % of Final Grade</u>
3 Tests	30% each
Reading Quizzes	10%

- Each graded item will be out of 100 points except for reading quizzes which are out of 2 points for each quiz.
- **Informed and Consistent Participation will raise a student's final grade by a third of a letter grade.**

- **Extra credit will be given for Philosophy Symposium attendance. 3% extra credit points will be given on the interview exam for one attendance, with a maximum total of 3% extra credit points given in a semester.**
- Three non-cumulative, closed-book, closed-note, in-class tests will be spread throughout the semester that will test your knowledge of the material, your ability to critically evaluate the readings, and apply philosophies to novel situations. They will be based on the readings, lectures, and group discussions. They will contain essay and multiple-choice questions. You will need to buy a Scantron 882-e form for each test.
- There will be a short in-class quiz before the start of every new assigned reading that we begin discussing in class. This is to test whether you have done the assigned reading. It's also an attendance and tardiness check. Your own loose-leaf paper is required to take these quizzes.

### **Grading Floors**

93=A, 90=A-, 87=B+, 83=B, 80=B-, 77=C+, 73=C, 70=C-, 67=D+, 63=D, 60=D-

### **Textbooks**

- *Reason and Responsibility 16<sup>th</sup> Edition*, by Joel Feinberg and Russ Shafer-Landau
- Pdf Readings on Canvas

### **Academic Integrity**

Violations of the academic integrity policy on any examination or assignment will result in a 0 for the semester grade and will be reported to university officials. Violations will be pursued to the fullest extent. For more information on this policy, go to <http://www.csus.edu/umannual/student/STU-0100.htm>.

### **Instructor Response Times**

- You should expect a reply to your email within 48 hours for business days only (Mon-Fri 9AM-5PM). If you don't hear a response from me within this time, you should send me another follow up email.
- Tests will be graded within two week's time.
- Reading quizzes will be graded within one week.

### **Classroom Policies and Procedures**

1. Read the following email guidelines before sending me your first email: [https://www.csus.edu/college/arts-letters/philosophy/\\_internal/g6-how-to-correspond-with-your-professor.pdf](https://www.csus.edu/college/arts-letters/philosophy/_internal/g6-how-to-correspond-with-your-professor.pdf). These Philosophy Department guidelines primarily are here to cultivate proper etiquette in letter writing for your long-term career benefit in your professional life once you graduate from CSUS. Those who fail to write such emails simply will be referred back to this classroom policy.
2. An excused absence is when you send me an email prior to your class regarding an illness or family emergency. Any notification of such an absence after or during the class or assignment period of the absence will require official

- documentations such as a doctor's note. Continued absences in which you notify me by email before the given time period will require a doctor's note for later absences. If your absence is excused, then you will be able to make up any relevant assignments without penalty for excused days. However, if you have an excused absence, you need to notify me within 48 hours of noon on an assignment due date in order to be able to make up an assignment.
3. If you think a mistake was made in graded material, you have one week to get in touch with me on the matter for a possible correction.
  4. No cellphones or laptops are allowed for use in class unless it's to use an e-book assigned for the class. Those with e-books of the textbook must come see me after the first class. Wearing earphones is not allowed during class. Continued violations of this rule will lead to grade reductions.

### **Services to Students with Disability**

Sacramento State is committed to ensuring an accessible learning environment where course or instructional content are usable by all students and faculty. If you believe that you require disability-related academic adjustments for this class, please immediately contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSWD) to discuss eligibility. A current accommodation letter from SSWD is required before any modifications, above and beyond what is otherwise available for all other students in this class will be provided. If you have a disability and require accommodations, you need to provide disability documentation to SSWD, Lassen Hall 1008, (916)278-6955. Please discuss your accommodation needs with me immediately after the first class. For further information, visit <http://www.csus.edu/sswd/index.html>.

### **Student Health and Counseling Services**

Your physical and mental health are important to your success as a college student. Student Health and Counseling Services (SHCS) in The WELL offers medical, counseling, and wellness services to help you get and stay healthy during your time at Sac State. SHCS offers: Primary Care medical services, including sexual and reproductive healthcare, transgender care, and immunizations; urgent care for acute illness, injuries, and urgent counseling needs; pharmacy for prescriptions and over-the-counter products; mental health counseling, including individual sessions, group counseling, support groups, mindfulness training, and peer counseling; athletic training for sports injury rehabilitation; wellness services, including nutrition counseling, peer-led health education and wellness workshops, and free safer sex supplies; violence and sexual assault support services. Most services are covered by the Health Services fee and available at no additional cost.

Additionally, if you are experiencing any COVID-like symptoms (fever, cough, sore throat, muscle aches, loss of smell or taste, nausea, diarrhea, or headache) or have had exposure to someone who has tested positive for COVID contact **Student Health & Counseling Services (SHCS) at 916-278-6461** to receive guidance and/or medical care. You are asked to report any possible COVID-related illnesses or exposures to SHCS via this link [COVID-19 Illness/Exposure Report Form](#). You should expect a call from SHCS within 24 hours.

As an FYI, the Sac State Mobile App also has a self-assessment tool, in case you would like to screen yourself for symptoms of COVID-19. Feel free to utilize it, especially if you plan on going somewhere where others may be exposed (such as going to campus). The app will also have information on the University's latest on-campus protocols.

### **Crisis Assistance & Resource Education Support (CARES)**

If you are experiencing challenges with food, housing, financial or other unique circumstances that are impacting your education, help is just a phone call or email away. The CARES office provides case management support for any enrolled student. They can be contacted via their website at: <https://www.csus.edu/student-affairs/crisis-assistance-resource-education-support/>.

### **Computer Related Problems**

If you perceive there are problems with how I've set up the course page, such as that I put up the wrong pdf reading, send me an email. If there are technical computer problems, you should contact CSUS Information Resources & Technology (IRT). Their web address is [www.csus.edu/irt/](http://www.csus.edu/irt/). Their email address is [servicedesk@csus.edu](mailto:servicedesk@csus.edu), and their phone number is (916) 278-7337.

### **Title IX**

The University requires faculty and staff to report any personal disclosures of sexual misconduct including rape, dating/domestic violence and stalking to the Title IX Coordinator. Students who do not wish to report their experience to me or the Title IX Coordinator may speak to someone confidentially by contacting Student Health and Counseling Services.

### **Reading Schedule – Subject to revision in which case an email notification will be sent**

*Day 1 contains assignments for the in-person class on Monday. Day 2 contains assignments that have online video lectures for Wednesday and won't be lectured on in the in-person class.*

### **Reason and Religious Belief: Week 1-5**

Week of 1-29: Day 1: Syllabus & Logic Primer; Day 2: Anselm of Canterbury, Gaunilo of Marmoutiers

Week of 2-5: Day 1: Saint Thomas Aquinas; Day 2: William Paley

Week of 2-12: Day 1: David Hume – Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion, Part II-Part V; Day 2: David Hume – Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion, Part VI-Part XI

Week of 2-19: Day 1: J. L. Mackie; Day 2: Peter Van Inwagen

Week of 2-26: Day 1: Blaise Pascal; Day 2: Roderick Chishom, PDF A.J. Ayer

**Determinism, Free Will, and Responsibility: Weeks 6-7**

Week of 3-4: Day 1: **Exam 1 over weeks 1-5 excluding Roderick Chishom and A.J. Ayer**; Day 2: Derk Pereboom

Week of 3-11: Day 1: Robert Kane; Day 2: PDF Eddy Nahmias “Scientific Challenges to Free Will”

**Human Knowledge: Its Grounds and Limits: Weeks 8-10**

Week of 3-18: **SPRING BREAK**

Week of 3-25: Day 1: Rene Descartes – Read Meditations I and II only;  
Day 2: John Locke – The Causal Theory of Perception, Thomas Reid

Week of 4-1: Day 1: **Cesar Chavez Day – No Class**; Day 2: George Berkeley, G. E. Moore

**Morality and Its Critics: Weeks 11-13**

Week of 4-8: Day 1: **Exam 2 over weeks 6-10 on Monday including Chisolm and Ayer**; Day 2: PDF Confucius – Read books I-II, IV-V only.

Week of 4-15: Day 1: PDF Mozi – Read only sections 16.1, 17.1-17.3, 25.1, 25.4-25.7, 32.1, 39.5-39.6, 39.8; Day 2: Immanuel Kant

Week of 4-22: Day 1: PDF Martha Nussbaum; Day 2: PDF Martin Luther King Jr.

**Morality and Its Critics: The Meaning of Life: Weeks 14-15**

Week of 4-29: Day 1: PDF Chuang Tzu – Read chapters I-V only; Day 2: Richard Taylor

Week of 5-6: Day 1: Epicurus, Leo Tolstoy; Day 2: Susan Wolf

**Exam 3 over weeks 11-Semester’s End: Monday, May 13 at 130PM in our normal classroom. The official CSUS Final Exam Schedule says to meet at 1245PM. However, we will meet at our normal class time in our normal classroom.**