

**Introduction to Philosophy – PHIL 6, section 4**

Spring 2024

Location & Meeting Time: Asynchronous Online

Instructor: Professor John Park

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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>
2 Zoom Interview Exams	33% each
Discussion Posts	29%
Syllabus Quiz	5%

Each graded item will be out of 100 points except for the biweekly discussion posts that will be out of 10 points every two weeks and the syllabus/Welcome Letter quiz.

- Two interview exams are required that are about 8 minutes long each. These will be your midterm and final. Students will have to answer philosophical questions posed by the professor in a one-on-one interview. Video must be turned on during the Zoom interview. The move to interview exams is in response to the ease of use of AI on written tests and essay papers. This preserves fairness for students who want to earn their grades and degree.
- Every 2 weeks (there may be exception weeks), students must write a discussion post entry for their Canvas discussion group on a topic of their choosing from the reading assigned for that 2 week period raising your own original objection against an author. This is due by Wednesday 1159PM of the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of the 2 week cycle and will be out of 6 points. Students must also write a separate response entry that objects to a fellow student's comment in the group. This second entry is due by Friday at 11:59PM of that same week and will be out of an additional 4 points. The second post must provide an original objection specifically against a fellow student's idea. Good reasons must be given to justify one's claim. Posts should carry depth and insight.
- One quiz that will cover the content in the syllabus and welcome letter. This will be an open timed exam in which one may look at the syllabus and letter when taking it.
- **Extra credit will be given for Philosophy Symposium attendance. 3% extra credit points will be given on an interview exam for one attendance, with a maximum total of 3% extra credit points given in a semester.**

### 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, only then should you send me another follow up email.
- Discussion posts will be graded within 1 week's time of the Friday 1159PM due date at the end of the relevant week.
- Interview exams will be graded within 2 weeks of the due date.

## **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 absence regarding an illness or family emergency. Any notification of such an absence after or during the class time 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.

## **Sac State Honor Code & Communication Behavior**

As proud members and representatives of the Sacramento State Hornet community, we commit ourselves to actively promoting honesty, integrity, respect, and care for every person, ensuring a welcoming campus environment, and striving to help every member of our Hornet family feel a strong sense of belonging.

As Hornets, we will:

- Promote an inclusive campus and community
- Listen and respect each other's thoughts, interests, and views
- Value diversity and learn from one another
- Engage daily with mutual trust, care, and integrity
- Support a culture of honor and adhere to campus policies for honesty, ethics, and conduct
- Be proud to be Sac State Hornets

There will be discussions with students with different backgrounds and ideas, which is important for philosophical inquiry. An open and engaging classroom environment with academic freedom is needed free of ridicule and bullying, which can silence students' voices. It is fine to disagree, but one must do so respectfully. Students must adhere to the Honor Code and display respect, civility, and integrity towards everyone in class. Any violations of this will be reported to Student Affairs and be pursued to the fullest extent, which can include expulsion from the University. Moreover, I reserve the right at my discretion to provide warnings, expulsions from the class in which a violation has occurred, and demotion of students' grades up to a failing grade for the entire semester when violations or any behavioral problems occur. Also, any discovered violations of a right to privacy as outlined by the University concerning a person's views given in class

that are improperly disclosed, will also be punished along the same or similar guidelines above. What is said in the class, stays in the class.

### **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**

*There generally are 2 readings/videos assignments per week. Ideally readings and the corresponding video lecture should be read/watched one per day two times a week, such as on Monday or Tuesday and then Wednesday or Thursday to correspond with discussion post deadlines. Fridays of a relevant week should be spent on reflection and writing thoughtful comments to your fellow students' ideas who are in your discussion group. All readings are from the textbook unless noted as a PDF. See the table of contents for what pages to read. PDFs are on Canvas in the relevant week's module.*

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

Week of 1-29: Day 1: Syllabus & Logic Primer; Day 2: Anselm of Canterbury, Gaunilo of Marmoutiers; **Syllabus Quiz due by the end of Friday.**

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: Derk Pereboom; Day 2: Robert Kane

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

**Day 2: Midterm Interview Exam over the beginning of the semester through week 7.**

**Human Knowledge: Its Grounds and Limits: Weeks 8-10.5**

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 11.5-13**

Week of 4-8: Day 1: Brie Gertler in **Part IV: Mind and Its Place in Nature**

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

**Final exam over weeks 8-Semester's End: Final Exam Interviews will be scheduled over Tuesday, May 14 to Wednesday, May 15**