

PHI 2010 Introduction to Philosophy
Garrett Howard

Required Text: Bonevac, Daniel, *Worldly Wisdom: A Multicultural Introduction to Philosophy* (California: Mayfield Publishing Co., 2001.)

Course Description: Philosophy begins with the exploration of many questions that are not obtrusively encountered in the everyday world. Some of these questions, however, are necessarily the background for much of everyday life. They are viewed in this manner because they address the underlying theories of existence, knowledge, and morality that will affect the way in which reality is perceived. This course will present these different theories in a logical manner to challenge students to adopt a worldview that is logically consistent.

Goals and Objectives: This course provides students with a survey of philosophy in the fields of Social and Political Philosophy, Ethics, Metaphysics, Epistemology, and Aesthetics. Special attention will be given to the idea of Community as a philosophically loaded concept that could lead to further questions such as: 'How might our ideas on existence, morality, knowledge and art be affected when the idea of community changes or breaks down?': 'Does there exist a correspondence between the idea of community and our ideas in Metaphysics, Ethics, Epistemology and Aesthetics?' In other words, does there exist a correspondence between our notion of Humanity and our Ideas about the world, right and wrong, truth and Beauty?

Method of Instruction: Outline of Study:

- Introduction
- Truth
- Virtue
- Right and Wrong
- Politics
- Knowledge
- Experience
- Mind
- The World

Grades: Grades will be determined by student's performance in the following areas:

Attendance	20%
Class Participation	20%
Mid-Term Essay	25%
Final Essay	35%

Attendance Grade Criteria: Much of the information contained in this course can only be adequately understood through clarifications and discussions in class. It is expected that all students attend every class session. Attendance grades are ranked with respect to the number of absences each student earns. Students with the lower number of absences receive the higher grade. Being late for class, or leaving class early will count as ½ absence. An absentee rate of 25% will result in an automatic failure.

Class Participation Grade Criteria: Students will be graded on their ability to think and speak critically and reflectively utilizing material covered in the class.

Mid-Term Essay Grade Criteria: The essay will be comprised of a choice of 2 or 3 out of 18 essay questions. Answers must be presented in full essay fashion, complete with introductory paragraph and an adequate conclusion. Students who are not sure of the proper format for writing essays should consult with the instructor or make an appointment with the college writing department.

Final Essay / Research Term Paper Grade Criteria: No less than ten pages in length is required. The intent of the paper is to allow the student to develop research skills and to develop the ability to present ideas in a formal written style.