



DAVIS UNIVERSITY

COURSE SYLLABUS

SSC120: INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY I

COURSE SYLLABUS FOR: SSC120 INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY I

CREDIT HOURS: 5 CREDITS

INSTRUCTOR:

INSTRUCTOR EMAIL:

INSTRUCTOR OFFICE HOURS:

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course studies the fundamental philosophical problems and concepts. Speculation about limits of human understanding, value judgments, foundations of morality and speculation about the existence of God in order to present students with the tools for constructing their own philosophy.

TEXT: No Text: All readings can be found online, links and/or copies of the assigned text will be provided.

PLAGIARISM AND COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT POLICY: Work that is found to be plagiarized receives a grade of zero and often causes a student to fail a class. Documentation of plagiarism is added to the student's academic file as a violation of accepted student conduct and is subject to disciplinary action. Plagiarism is the use of another person's exact words, or their ideas written in the student's words without giving the original author credit.

Plagiarism can result from any of the following:

- Quote material directly without using quotation marks.
- Paraphrase the original so that many of the phrases are the same as the original. A good rule is no more than 3 or 4 words in a row should be the same as the original.
- Copy the original sentence pattern, substitution synonyms for key words.
- Neglect to indicate the source of the original material.

ASSESSMENTS:Content

Written reflection (2 x 15pts)	30%
Quizzes (5 x 10pts)	50%
Final Exam (1 x 20pts)	20%
Total	100%

COURSE GRADE:

A+ = 97%–100%	C+ = 77%–79%
A = 93%–96%	C = 73%–76%
A– = 90%–92%	C– = 70%–72%
B+ = 87%–89%	D+ = 67%–69%
B = 83%–86%	D = 63%–66%
B– = 80%–82%	D– = 60%–62%
	F = Below 60%

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE:

(Subject to change)

Module/Units	Content Covered	Assignments & Assessment
Module 1	<p>Plato “The Republic” (Selected Excerpts)</p> <p>Rene’ Descartes “Meditations I and II” (1641)</p> <p>John Locke “An Essay Concerning Human Understanding” (Selected Excerpts) (1689)</p> <p>George Berkeley “Principles of Human Knowledge” (Selected Excerpts)</p>	Quiz 1
Module 2	<p>David Hume “A Treatise of Human Nature” Book I, Part IV, Section VI (1739 - 1740)</p> <p>John Locke “An Essay Concerning Human Understanding” (Selected Excerpts)</p> <p>Marya Schechtman “Personal Identity and the Past” (Selected Excerpts)</p> <p>Ifeanyi Menkiti “African Personhood”</p>	Quiz 2
Module 3	<p>Plato “Crito” & “The Republic” (Selected Excerpts)</p> <p>Aristotle “Nicomachean Ethics”</p> <p>Nietzsche “Genealogy of Morals”</p> <p>Immanuel Kant “Critique of Pure Reason” (Selected Excerpts or an overview) (1781)</p>	Reflection Paper 1
Module 4	<p>Jeremy Bentham “An Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation”</p> <p>John Stuart Mill “Utilitarianism”</p> <p>John Leslie (J.L) Mackie “Problem of Evil”</p> <p>Blaise Pascal “The Wager”</p> <p>James and Stuart Rachels “Critique of Cultural Relativism”</p>	Quiz 3

<p>Module 5</p>	<p>Thomas Hobbes "Leviathan" (Selected Excerpts) (1651) John Locke "An Essay Concerning Human Understanding" (Selected Excerpts) John Rawls "A theory of Justice" (Selected Excerpts)</p>	<p>Reflection Paper 2</p>
<p>Module 6</p>	<p>Garrett Hardin "Lifeboat" (No reading - lecture discussion only) Richard Rorty "Justice as Loyalty" Martin Luther King, Jr., from "Letter from Birmingham Jail" Baron d'holbach "Systems of Nature" W. T. Stace "The Problem of Free Will"</p>	<p>Quiz 4</p>
<p>Module 7</p>	<p>Judith Jarvis on Abortion David Benetar on Anti-natalism Michael Sandel "What's Wrong With Enhancements?" Roger Wertheimer "Are Police Necessary"</p>	<p>Quiz 5</p>
<p>Module 8</p>	<p>Final Exam Review Final Exam Final Semester Paper Due</p>	<p>Final Exam</p>