



## PHIL 011: Introduction to Philosophy

Term: 2020 Winter Session

Instructor: Staff

Language of Instruction: English

Classroom: TBA

Class Sessions Per Week: 6

Total Weeks: 4

Total Class Sessions: 25

Class Session Length (minutes): 145

Credit Hours: 4

### Course Description:

This course is designed to help students examine the basic philosophy problems. A series of philosophy questions will be explored, for example: How is knowledge acquired? What is moral? The course also gives introduction to conceptions of human nature and topics of the good life, happiness, knowledge, and God's existence. Problems introduced by science, morality, religion, politics, and art will also be under discussion. After the completion of this course, students should be able to apply philosophical-thinking methods to issues of the real world.

### Course Materials:

#### **Course Pack**

The course pack is the only mandatory course materials. Students are not required to buy textbooks. All required readings will be covered in the course pack.

### Course Format and Requirements:

This course has 25 class sessions in total. Each class session is 145 minutes in length. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in class discussion. Please do not use electronic devices such as phones, iPads, computers, etc. during the lectures.

#### **Attendance**



Attendance is mandatory. More than three unexcused absences will result in an automatic reduction in your participation grade, for instance from A- to B+. Your active participation in the class is expected and constitutes part of your grade.

### Grading Scale:

**A+: 98%-100%**

**A: 93%-97%**

**A-: 90%-92%**

**B+: 88%-89%**

**B: 83%-87%**

**B-: 80%-82%**

**C+: 78%-79%**

**C: 73%-77%**

**C-: 70%-72%**

**D+: 68%-69%**

**D: 63%-67%**

**D-: 60%-62%**

**F: Below 60%**

### Course Assignments:

#### **Papers**

There will be three paper assignments. Each paper should be between 1370 and 1500 words long. The papers together will count for 75% of your grade for the course. Each paper will count equally to 25%.

Topics will be made available two weeks before papers are due. All papers must be double spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font, with 1" margins all around.

#### **Final Exam**

The final will be and close-book, including short-answer and essay questions, covering material from the entire term. Note that the final will not be taken during the normal class times. Exact time and location for final will be announced later.

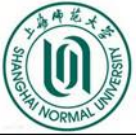
### Course Assessment:



Paper 1	25%
Paper 2	25%
Paper 3	25%
Final Exam	25%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Course Schedule:**

Week 1- Class 1	Week 1- Class 2
Introduction Overview of the Course Socrates The Need for Philosophy	Readings: Heraclitus ( <i>Fragments</i> ) Readings: Plato ( <i>Timaeus</i> ) Introduction on Essay 1 Accounting Cycle; Investing and Financing Transactions
Week 1- Class 3	Week 1- Class 4
Readings: Plato ( <i>Timaeus</i> ) Readings: Aristotle ( <i>On the Senses</i> )	Philosophy of Religion Groundwork, Questions, and Distinctions Readings: Plato, <i>Apology</i>
Week 1- Class 5	Week 1- Class 6
Philosophy of Religion: Arguments for the Existence of God Readings: Anselm, <i>Proslogium, Or Discourse on the Existence of God</i> Readings: Paley, <i>Natural Theology</i>	Philosophy of Religion: Arguments for the Existence of God Readings: Hume, <i>Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion</i> In-class Discussion on Essay 1 Comments and feedback
Week 2- Class 7	Week 2- Class 8
Philosophy of Religion: The Problem of Evil, and Pascal's Wager Reading: Mackie, <i>Free Will and the Problem of Evil</i>	<b><u>Essay 1 Due</u></b> Philosophy of Religion: The Problem of Evil, and Pascal's Wager (Cont.) Reading: Pascal, <i>Notes on Natural Religion and Other Subjects</i>
Week 2- Class 9	Week 2- Class 10



<p>Philosophy of Religion: Epistemic Arguments Reading: James, <i>The Will to Believe</i> Reading: Plantinga, <i>An Interview with Alvin Plantinga</i></p>	<p>Epistemology: The External World Reading: Descartes, <i>Meditations on First Philosophy</i> Introduction on Essay 2</p>
<p>Week 2- Class 11</p>	<p>Week 2- Class 12</p>
<p>Epistemology: The External World (Cont.) Reading: Locke, <i>An Essay Concerning Human Understanding</i> Epistemology: The Problem of Induction Hume, <i>An Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding</i></p>	<p>The Mind-Body Problem: Dualism and Reductive Materialism Readings: Descartes, <i>Meditations on First Philosophy</i></p>
<p>Week 3- Class 13</p>	<p>Week 3- Class 14</p>
<p>The Mind-Body Problem: Alternatives to Dualism Readings: Lycan, <i>The Mind-Body Problem</i> Readings: Fodor, <i>The Mind-Body Problem</i></p>	<p>The Mind-Body Problem: The Limits of Materialism Readings: Searle, <i>Minds, Brains, and Programs</i> Readings: Nagel, <i>What is it Like to be a Bat?</i> In-class Discussion on Essay 2 Comments and feedback</p>
<p>Week 3- Class 15</p>	<p>Week 3- Class 16</p>
<p>Free Will, Responsibility, and Determinism: Compatibilism and Libertarianism Readings: Timpe, <i>Free Will</i> Readings: Holmstrom, <i>Firming Up Soft Determinism</i>;</p>	<p><b><u>Essay 2 Due</u></b> Free Will, Responsibility, and Determinism: Compatibilism and Libertarianism (Cont.) Readings: James, <i>The Dilemma of Determinism</i></p>
<p>Week 3- Class 17</p>	<p>Week 3- Class 18</p>
<p>Kant, Frye, and Freire: Education and Freedom Readings: Kant, <i>An Answer to the Question: 'What Is Enlightenment?'</i></p>	<p>Kant, Frye, and Freire: Education and Freedom (Cont.) Frye: Sexism Freire: from Pedagogy of the Oppressed Introduction on Essay 3</p>
<p>Week 4- Class 19</p>	<p>Week 4- Class 20</p>
<p>Personal Identity: Selves and Souls</p>	<p>Personal Identity: Memories and Brains</p>



Memories and Brains Readings: Perry, <i>A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality</i> Readings: Locke, <i>Of Identity and Diversity</i>	Readings: Perry, <i>A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality</i>
Week 4- Class 21	Week 4- Class 22
The Meaning of Morality Readings: Plato, <i>Euthyphro</i> Readings: Rachels, <i>Does Morality Depend on Religion?</i>	The Meaning of Morality Reading: Rachel, <i>Subjectivism in Ethics</i> Reading: Rachel, <i>The Challenge of Cultural Relativism</i>
Week 4- Class 23	Week 4- Class 24
The Meaning of Morality Readings: Rachel, <i>The Challenge of Cultural Relativism</i> In-class Discussion on Essay 3 Comments and feedback	Normative Ethics Utilitarianism Readings: Mill, <i>Utilitarianism</i>
Week 4- Class 25	<b><u>Final Exam (Cumulative): TBA</u></b>
<b><u>Essay 3 Due</u></b> Review for final	



### Academic Integrity:

Students are encouraged to study together, and to discuss lecture topics with one another, but all other work should be completed independently.

Students are expected to adhere to the standards of academic honesty and integrity that are described in the Shanghai Normal University's *Academic Conduct Code*. Any work suspected of violating the standards of the *Academic Conduct Code* will be reported to the Dean's Office.

Penalties for violating the *Academic Conduct Code* may include dismissal from the program. All students have an individual responsibility to know and understand the provisions of the *Academic Conduct Code*.

### Special Needs or Assistance:

Please contact the Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material. Our goal is to help you learn, not to penalize you for issues which mask your learning.