



**University of International Business and Economics  
International Summer School**

**PHI 110 Introduction to Philosophy**

**Term: October 26 - November 20, 2020**

**Instructor: Nate Bulthuis**

**Home Institution: St. Joseph's University (Philadelphia, PA)**

**Email: TBD**

**Class Hours: Monday through Friday, 120 minutes each day (2,400 minutes in total)**

**Office Hours: please e-mail for appointment via Zoom**

**Discussion Session: 2 hours each week via Zoom**

**Total Contact Hours: 64 contact hours (45 minutes each, 48 hours in total)**

**Location: WEB**

**Credit: 4 units**

**Course Description:**

This course is intended to be a general introduction to both the substance and methods of western philosophy. Ideally, students should exit this course with both a sense of what sorts of things philosophers spend their time thinking about and an appreciation of how they go about that thought. Because of the breadth and depth of philosophical inquiry (both in regards to its subject matter and its history), we cannot possibly hope to cover everything worthy of investigation, even in a summary and superficial fashion. What we can hope to do however - and what we will do in this course - is cover some particular topics of interest that have been a persistent feature of philosophical discourse throughout the last 2500 years.

**Course Goals:**

The expectation is that students will leave this course with an understanding of and appreciation for philosophical study. Ideally, students will recognize that the methods of inquiry employed in philosophy have application in every area of life, and will leave the course prepared for more active, critical, and reflective approach when assessing the merits of their own beliefs and the beliefs of others.

**Required Text:**

(IP) 2013. *Introduction to Philosophy: Classical and Contemporary Readings*. Seventh Edition. Edited by John Perry, Michael Bratman, and John Fischer. New York: Oxford University Press.

### Required course materials:

No course materials are required beyond the required texts. Any material not in the course textbook will be made available on the course website.

### Online Learning:

For some of you, this may be your first opportunity to participate in an online learning environment. Online learning provides unique opportunities and challenges, because the mode of course delivery won't occur in a traditional classroom environment during a regularly scheduled time. Success in online courses depends on the following four factors:

**Self-Motivation.** Many students are attracted to online courses because of the freedom and flexibility that distance learning offers. With this freedom, however, comes added responsibility to keep up on assignments and class discussion. Realize that online courses traditionally require MORE homework time to compensate for the lack of in-class contact time. Successful students tend to replicate the schedule of face-to-face classes by setting aside a certain time each day to watch the lecture videos, read through the required readings, to respond to discussion on Blackboard, and work on assignments. You are responsible for understanding the material found in the e-text, and related resources, although your classmates and instructor are more than willing to help you with any concepts you find confusing or difficult.

**Establishing your Workflow.** It may help your approach to the course to understand that this course is very systematically laid out. This is a condensed, summer session course, so the activities and deadlines happen at a quicker pace than a longer semester, but in general, I have designed the course in a way to help you replicate the structure of face-to-face courses as well as to incentivize learning through steady and consistent work habits. Please use the course schedule to orient yourself throughout the semester.

This course is deliberately designed to prevent putting off assignments until the end of the session because it is not possible to complete the work of a semester in a few days or even a week. The schedule is also not ideal for students who hope to complete all assignments for the week on the day of the deadlines. It is a reasonable expectation that you may find yourself overwhelmed, stressed out, and likely doing poor work if you try to do everything for a week on the date things are due. The deadlines are designed to give you some flexibility during the week, while still asking you to keep yourself on track to complete the session's work. It is designed with your success in mind!

**Active Participation.** The only way your participation can be felt in this course format is for you to communicate through postings in the Discussion Board on Blackboard. The forums are very much a student-driven activity and the quality of discussion primarily depends upon you! This may be somewhat new for you if you prefer to sit back and listen in traditional classroom situations. There is a minimum of one posting on each Discussion Forum, but I hope you plan on participating even more than that. Credit for

forum postings will be evaluated on when you post and the quantity and quality of your responses. Plan on getting actively involved early on with each discussion, keeping up with the new postings of your classmates each day. You are encouraged to think about the ideas of classmates by offering support or alternative views, or you may choose to start your own thread of new dialogue. Keep your dialogue courteous and civil. Any consistent non-professional dialogue occurring in the forums could result in a warning from the instructor and possible removal from the course roster.

**Persistence Through Technical Difficulties.** In any online course, there are bound to be technical problems that arise—the platform may be down, your computer may get a virus, you may accidentally log off during a test, etc. Realize that you have a variety of options to work through those problems.

It's a good idea to account for technical difficulties particularly in your timeline for important deadlines—complete things in advance so that you aren't relying on technology to work perfectly! If you can't figure a way out of a certain situation, or have any questions regarding course assignments, please contact me, and we'll work it out. I will do my best to respond to you within 24 hours of any e-mail.

**Grading Policy:**

Grading will be determined by a combination of class attendance and participation, a course response paper, quizzes, and the results of your exams.

Participation	20
Quizzes (Cumulative)	50
Final Exam	15
Response Paper (due at the end of week 4)	15

**Grading Scale:**

Assignments and examinations will be graded according to the following grade scale:

<b>A</b>	90-100	<b>C+</b>	72-74
<b>A-</b>	85-89	<b>C</b>	68-71
<b>B+</b>	82-84	<b>C-</b>	64-67
<b>B</b>	78-81	<b>D</b>	60-63
<b>B-</b>	75-77	<b>F</b>	below 60

**Class Rules:**

Students are expected to:

- Understand their personal responsibility for material covered in class and assigned work.
- Complete the day's required reading, and assignments before class.
- Review reading and notes regularly; make notes about questions you have about the

previous class or the day's reading; reach out to instructor about those questions via e-mail or bring them up during a Zoom class session, if applicable to the topic

- Participate in class discussions and complete required written work on time.
- Watch course videos having **read** to material assigned for the day, and to be prepared to **engage in active discussion** on the discussion board of Blackboard about that material.

### **Academic Honesty:**

Students are expected to maintain high standards of academic honesty. Some of this work in the class will be designated "open-book," but the work you produce in this class should be the product of your own time in reading, thinking, and writing. Students who violate academic integrity will receive an "F" for the assignment, quiz, or exam and may receive an "F" for the course.

### **Deadline Policy:**

Summer school is very intense and to best ensure your success in this class, students must be proactive in their work. This means that you should not only be disciplined about completing assigned reading and assignments in a timely way, but also that you reach out to me when you have questions.

All work in the class will have a reasonable "window" of time within which to complete it, and because of the limit of a 4-week semester, we don't have a lot of room

### **Communication:**

Let me know if something is not clear. Let me know if there is a reason you are missing class. Let me know if you need more help—we can schedule some office hours via Zoom. I want you to succeed in learning the material. If something is not working for you, I am not able to do anything about it if I don't know about it.

Please e-mail for an appointment via Zoom if you would like to talk "live." Alternatively, we can also communicate via e-mail, particularly if you just have a quick question. When you e-mail, please be sure to include the class (PHI 110 online) in your e-mail subject and to include your own name in the body of the e-mail message as well as a clear description of the issue you're asking me about.

Please get in the habit of using the more formal environment of e-mail or Zoom! I am usually able to respond to e-mail within 24 hours, however, should 24 hours pass by and you have not received a response from me, please contact me again.

### **Detailed Description of the Course Requirements:**

Quizzes: (on Blackboard)

This course is designed to build knowledge over time. You can help yourself succeed by keeping on top of the reading and reviewing your notes daily...cramming has proven to be an ineffective way to learn the material!

**Discussion:**

The topics are designed to help you stay on track by facilitating your interaction with a peer group with whom you can discuss course materials ranging from information and data to “big picture” issues. Depending on the size and constitution of the class, these discussions will either take place electronically or via Zoom.

**Exams: (on Blackboard)**

There will be a final exam at the end of the semester. It will consist of both the written material we have covered in class.

**Missed Quizzes or Exams:**

In the event that you must miss a quiz or exam, please let me know as much in advance as possible. In the case of illness or emergency, you may be eligible to make-up one quiz or exam. Please see me upon your return to class and be prepared to provide written documentation. No make-ups will be offered for unexcused absences.

**Course Schedule:**

The planned schedule is subject to change as the course progresses.

Video	Notes	Reading
<b>Unit 1: The Mind-Body Problem (Week 1)</b> 1. Introduction 2. Philosophy and Argumentation 3. The Mind-Body Problem 4. Physicalism 5. Objections to Physicalism 6. Philosophical Method 7. Eliminative Materialism	Quiz #1	IP: 1-13  IP: 279-286 IP: 291-294  IP: 287-290
<b>Unit #2: Computational Psychology (Week 1)</b> 8. Computational Theory of Mind 9. Problems for Computational Psychology 10. Responses to Searle	Quiz #2	IP: 308-314 Boden (Blackboard)
<b>Unit #3: Epistemic Norms (Week 2)</b> 11. The Classical View of Knowledge 12. Clifford on Epistemic Obligations 13. James on Epistemic Obligations and Clifford	Quiz #3	Clifford (Blackboard) James (Blackboard)
<b>Unit #4: The Meditations (Week 2)</b> 14. Background on the Meditations 15. Meditation 1 16. Meditation 2 17. Meditation 3 18. Meditation 6	Quiz #4	IP: 157-159 IP: 159-163 IP: 163-169 IP: 174-181
<b>Unit #5: Humean Skepticism (Week 3)</b> 19. Hume’s External World Skepticism 20. The Problem of Induction	Quiz #5	IP: 202-211 IP: 237-244, 250-252, 255-256
<b>Unit #6: The Free Will Problem (Week 3)</b>		

21. Stating the Free Will Problem 22. Incompatibilism 23. Compatibilism 24. Semi-Compatibilism	Quiz #6	IP: 395-397, 400-406 IP: 397-400, 417-423 IP: 424-439
<b>Unit #7: Normative Ethics (Week 3)</b> 25. Cultural Relativism 26. Utilitarianism 27. Deontological Ethics	Quiz #7	Herskovits + Pojman (Blackboard) IP: 480-483 IP: 544-553, 558-560
<b>Unit #8: Platonic Justice (Week 4)</b> 28. Thrasymachean Views of Justice 29. The Kallipolis 30. Platonic Justice	Quiz #8	IP: 708-723 IP: 723-738 IP: 738-744
<b>Unit #9: The Problem of Evil (Week 4)</b> 31. The Logical Problem of Evil 32. Leibniz's Solution 33. The Free Will Defense	Quiz #9	Mackie (Blackboard) IP: 89-90 Plantinga (Blackboard)
<b>Unit #10: Meaning (Week 4)</b> 34. Meaning in Life 35. The Value of Philosophy	Final Exam	IP: 820-836 IP: 17-20