



Framingham
State University

PHIL 101 Invitation to Philosophy

Instructor: William J. Healey III

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Course Overview:

This course aims to expose the student to important questions in philosophy, and how abstract philosophical concepts are of value to whatever field of study they are involved in. This course will be divided into five sections.

First we will look at Ancient Greek philosophy, including Plato, and Aristotle. Second, we will explore the philosophy of Avicenna. He was an Islamic philosopher whose work had a huge influence on the Christian philosopher Aquinas. We will examine his work and other Islamic philosophers who bridge the gap between Ancient Greek philosophy and medieval Christian Philosophy. Third, we will then examine the medieval Christian philosophers, St. Augustine and Aquinas. After this we will explore the beginnings of modern philosophy by looking at Descartes. Fourth, in the longest stretch of the course, we will examine Kant, Hegel, Nietzsche, as well as the influence of psychoanalysis on philosophy. Fifth, in the last couple weeks of the course we will examine Eastern philosophy. Last of all, we will examine some contemporary philosophy, including philosophers who are alive (as of the printing of this syllabus that is.)



Catalog Description:

A critical inquiry into meaning, the communication of meaning, how we find truth, and how we share it. Issues such as the nature of reality, knowledge, responsibility, negative space, as well as other perspectives from various different sources.

Grading:

There will be four grades given to assignments in this course, and each will count for 20% of the total grade. The final 20% is made up from your class participation. Class participation is calculated by assessing your discussions on Canvas and your participation in the Zoom classes.

The midterm exam cover the work we will have done up until this point. Two 3-5 page papers will be written and emailed to me by their respective due dates. The exact topics for the papers are attached to this syllabus and will be discussed in full as the due date approaches.

Required Texts: The Great Conversation: A Historical Introduction to Philosophy Eight Edition, Melchert and Morrow

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ATTENDANCE:

Understanding the content from the lectures is a critical component to your success in this course. It is important that you are present for the lectures, and I expect each student to make a commitment to be in class and to be on time. Attendance will be taken at the start of each class session. Each absence or tardiness past the third instance will result in



Framingham

State University

the subtraction of three points from the student's final average. There are 5 Zoom classes to attend, and as of right now they will be held at 8:00 am EST. However, this might change depending on various scheduling issues. But, you are required to be in in the Zoom class with your video and audio ready for participation.

Zoom Link:

William Healey is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: FSU Invitation to Philosophy W.22-23

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84578759156>

Meeting ID: 845 7875 9156

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kpxkEYxUj>

CELL PHONES:

All cell phones are to be shut off and put away during class.

HALFTIME BREAK:

We will take a ten minute break halfway though each lecture. I ask that you refrain from leaving your seats during the lecture. Please wait until the break or until the end of class to leave the classroom.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

Please refer to the Academic Regulations section of the current catalog for expectations concerning academic honesty.



SEMESTER SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

12/22 Greek Pre-Socratics: read pages 10-33, Zoom Class

12/23 Ancient India: read pages 35-53, Canvas Discussion

12/26 Ancient China: read pages 75-88, Canvas Discussion

12/27 Plato: read 148-179, Canvas Discussion

12/28 Paper 1 Due

12/29 Aristotle: read 182-217, Zoom Class

12/30 Ancient China Part 2: read 220-233 ,Canvas Discussion

1/2 Golden Age of Islamic Philosophy: 292-309, Canvas Discussion

1/3 Midterm Exam on Canvas

1/4 Descartes: 360-402, Canvas Discussion

1/5 Hume: 438-462, Zoom Class

1/6 Kant: 467-492, Canvas Discussion

1/9 Hegel: 496-516, Canvas Discussion

1/10 Paper 2 Due, Zoom Class

1/11 Simone de Beauvoir: read 680-691 , Canvas Discussion

1/12 Fish (reading on Canvas), Zoom Class

1/13 Zizek (reading on Canvas), Canvas Discussion

1/16 Final Exam on Canvas

You are expected to read the textbook and pay attention to the questions that the author has embedded in the text. A third to a half of the questions on the mid-term exam and the final exam will be made up of questions that come from the questions in the text.



The remainder of the questions on these exams will address content that comes from the lectures.

Questions that make up the Midterm Exam will be handed out in class prior to the exam. Questions that make up the Final Exam will be handed out in class prior to the exam.

The lectures will cover the answers to some of these questions, but not all of them.

Assignments:

Paper 1 (Expository):

There are three major traditions in ancient philosophy: Greek, Chinese, and Indian. Choose two of those traditions and compare and contrast the ideas present in each. Make sure to acknowledge difference within each respective tradition as well. This paper should be 3-5 pages in length. 3 full pages is the MINIMUM length. If you want to review a rough draft make sure to send me that rough draft by 12/27, and I'll give you the feedback you need to do well on the paper.

Paper 2 (Compare and Contrast): Choose one from these two topics:

1. Pick a philosopher/philosophy from the below list. Briefly explain the philosophy, and then give examples of that philosophy being enacted in the arts (cinema, television, music, visual art, literature, etc...) Along the way, examples will be given in class.(3-5 pages).

-Golden Age of Islamic Philosophy

-Hume

-Kant

-Simone de Beauvoir

-Fish

-Hegel

-Descartes



Framingham

State University

These are not easy assignments. Good papers will require much thought. Don't leave the work until the last minute. For the final drafts: late papers lose a full grade for each day past the due date. Re-writes will not be accepted past the due date.

Framingham State University offers equal opportunities to all qualified students, including those with disabilities and impairments. The University is committed to making reasonable accommodations as are necessary to ensure that its programs and activities do not discriminate, or have the effect of discriminating, on the basis of disability. Academic Support serves students with learning and psychiatric disabilities as well as students with visual, mobility and hearing impairments. For further information about this, please visit the website at <http://www.framingham.edu/center-for-academic-support-and-advising/disability-services/index.html> or contact Ms. LaDonna Bridges, Director of Academic Support/Disability Services, in the Center for Academic Support and Advising (CASA) at 508-626-4906 or lbridges@framingham.edu.

EVALUATION FOR WRITTEN WORK

Central idea: The paper will be rated on the degree to which it is focused on a clear and distinct subject. Is the purpose of the paper clear to the reader?

Support: The paper will be rated on the degree to which its generalization (thesis) is supported. Are there adequate details to support each of the paper's points?

Unity: The paper will be rated on the degree to which it proceeds smoothly and logically from point to point. Are transitions between paragraphs clear? Are paragraphs coherent and logical?

Introduction: The paper will be rated on the degree to which the introduction gets the reader's attention and prepares the reader for what is coming. Is there a hook?

Conclusion: The paper will be rated on the degree to which the conclusion draws a paper to a close, summarizes the main points, and reemphasizes the paper's purpose.

Style: The paper will be rated on the degree to which its sentences reflect a variety of syntactic structures and an appropriate usage of vocabulary. Does the word choice reflect a concern for the audience and the purpose of the paper?

Usage: The paper will be rated on its employment of capitalization, spelling, and grammar.

Punctuation: The paper will be rated on its employment of punctuation.