

# INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY PHILOSOPHY 101

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Office Hours: TR 2:00-5:00 P.M. Or by Appointment

Class Time: TR 9:30-10:45 A.M.  
Class Location: Langdon Engineering Center 107

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## Course Description

This course satisfies Area C3 of the General Education course requirements. The primary aim of this class is to hone students' reasoning and critical thinking skills. This will involve, first and foremost, trying to *understand* difficult texts, and secondly (though in no way less importantly), to think critically about the philosophical views and arguments presented by the texts. Most of us find ourselves critically assessing the views of another person every now and again. But in order to be a *good* critical 'assessor', you need to be able to *understand* what you're criticizing. Hence, the ability to understand is absolutely important. The class is not a memorize-and-repeat course. That is, the course is *not* one where you will be expected to memorize what was said in lecture and the readings, but rather *understand* what was said in lecture and what you read in the texts.

## Required Texts

- Plato. *The Republic*. trans. Cornford.
- Thomas Nagel. *What does it all mean? A Very Short Introduction to Philosophy*. Oxford University Press.
- Any other material assigned during lecture. This material will be made available through the course website.

## Grading

Your course grade will be based on a total of 200 points:

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|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Quizzes (5/6):  | 100 points (each is 20 points) |
| 2. Midterm (1):    | 40 points                      |
| 3. Final Exam (1): | 60 points                      |

The grade distribution is as follows (note that this is not a normal distribution):

181-200 points : A	171-180 points : A-	161-170 points : B+
151-160 points : B	141-150 points : B-	131-140 points : C+
121-130 points : C	111-120 points : C-	101-110 points : D
100 and below : F		

*Attendance:* I will not be taking attendance. You may come and go as you please. But be very careful not to miss too many classes or assignment deadlines. Missing lecture days could affect your grade indirectly.

Participation can bump you up a third of a grade (e.g. from a B+ to an A-). Note that people who have not attended regularly to class have typically done very poorly in the class. It is in your interest to attend regularly. In all previous courses, those who received below a C- in the course hardly ever showed up to class. So, clearly, there is a correlation between how well you do in the class and how often you show up.

*Quizzes:* Quizzes are designed primarily to test that you read the material. Hence, they will not require that you have comprehensive understanding of the material. So, typically (though not necessarily) you could read an article, not understand it, and still do fairly well on the quiz. There will be six quizzes given, and the one on which you received your lowest score will be dropped

*Policy on Missed/Late Quizzes and Assignments:* If you need an extension, you need to tell me at least one day before the deadline to make arrangements. *You must provide good reason(s) for the extension.* Otherwise, for every day that you are late, your paper will be deducted one point. *Assignments that are late a week or more will not be accepted.* Quizzes cannot be made up unless 1. you have made prior arrangements with me (at least 24 hours in advance) to reschedule the quiz; or 2. you have an official note (e.g. from your doctor) showing sufficient proof for your inability to be present on the day of the quiz.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

Don't cheat - cheating will not be tolerated in this class. No crib sheets, no submissions of papers written for other classes, no using other people's work, no copying other people's work, etc. You may study together and collaborate together on assignments. But be sure that you are not crossing the line into academic dishonesty. Using on-line paper essay services or taking from Wikipedia is unacceptable. You may *quote* or *reference* on-line sources; but do *not* use those sources to speak *entirely* for you.

Some may fall into cheating because they're stressed out, or because they've got a lot on their plate. Whatever the reason, it is neither worth the risk, nor is it ever the right thing to do. If you find yourself in a difficult situation, come talk to me and we can try to work something yet. Better yet, if you find yourself tempted to cheat, tell me that you're tempted to cheat and that'll help you from not cheating. ;) For more information on issues regarding academic integrity and dishonesty, visit the following sites:

- Cheating: <http://www.csuchico.edu/sjd/integrity/cheating.pdf>
- Plagiarism: <http://www.csuchico.edu/sjd/integrity/Avoiding%20Plagiarism.pdf>
- Collaboration and studying together: <http://www.csuchico.edu/sjd/integrity/Unauthorized%20Collaboration.pdf>

Seriously, do not cheat.

### **Student Disabilities**

If you have any disabilities of any kind that may affect your learning in the classroom, you can contact student services and they will be able to accommodate your needs. I will be happy to work with you and them. You can visit them here: <http://www.csuchico.edu/dss/index.shtml>