

**Fall 2019**

**Ethics of Communication**  
**PHI 3693 (04B7), 3 credits**  
**LEI 242, MWF 8**  
**Instructor: Dr. Thomas Auxter**  
**115C Griffin-Floyd**  
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**In this course we will cover themes and topics in philosophical discussions of the ethics of communication. We will read both classical and contemporary texts in the European, African, and Latin American traditions.**

**Topics:**

- **Across cultures, languages, geographies, and histories, what counts as communication? What is the significance of dialogue?**
- **What are the limits of the universe of discourse?**
- **What are the parameters and minimum conditions of meaningful communication?**
- **Do souls communicate with souls across the boundaries of life and death?**
- **Is communication only human to human? Animal to animal?**
- **How do answers to these questions affect choices we make about the possibilities for interaction and the development of relations?**
- **What values are at stake? How are choices defined?**

**Requirements for the course: There will be a midterm essay test and two essays written in a final examination (Exam Group 12E ). Each of the three essays will count as one third of the grade. Class attendance is required and will be recorded.**

**This course counts toward the Humanities (H) general education requirement.**

**Illness policy:** Students are asked **not to attend class if they are ill**: work missed will be made up without penalty at a later time arranged by mutual consent. Students who are ill are asked to **inform the instructor by email, not in person.**

## **Required Texts**

**Plato, *Republic***

**Mill, *On Liberty***

**Tsenay Serequeberhan, ed., *African Philosophy: The Essential Readings***

**Jorge Luis Borges, *Conversations***

## **Readings**

### **August**

**21 Introduction**

**23 Plato, *Republic* 327-336**

**26 “ “ 336-354**

**28 “ “ 357-367**

**30 “ “ 445-455**

### **September**

**2 Labor Day – no class**

**4 Plato, *Republic*, 456-465**

**6 “ “ 466-473**

**9 “ “ 473-487**

**11 “ “ 514-521**

**13 “ “ 588-592**

**16 Thomas Auxter, “Immanuel Kant”**

**18 Immanuel Kant, “What is Enlightenment?” (online, Columbia University)**

**20 J.S. Mill, *On Liberty*, Chapter One**

**23 “ “ “ Chapter Two**

**25 “ “ “ “ “**

**27 “ “ “ Chapter Three**

**30 “ “ “ “ “**

### **October**

**2 “ “ “ Chapter Four**

4 Homecoming – no class

7 “ “ “ Chapter Five (first three paragraphs)

9 Essay Test (midterm)

11 Tsenay Serequeberhan, ed., *African Philosophy*, “African Philosophy: The Point in Question,” pp. xvi-xxii

14 Tsenay Serequeberhan, pp. 3-28

16 Innocent Onyewuenyi, “Is There an African Philosophy?” pp.29-46

18 Henry Odera Oruka, “Sagacity in African Philosophy,” pp.47-62

21 Kwasi Wiredu, “On Defining African Philosophy,” pp. 87-98

23 Kwasi Wiredu, pp. 98-110

25 Steve Biko, “Black Consciousness and the Quest for a True Humanity”  
(online, The InterContinental Cry)

28 Frantz Fanon, “The Lived Experience of the Black Man,” *Black Skin, White Masks*

30 Jorge Luis Borges, *Conversations*, pp. 1-13

## November

1 “ “ “ “ pp. 14-41

6 “ “ “ “ pp. 42-59

8 “ “ “ “ pp. 59-75

11 Veterans Day – no class

13 “ “ “ “ pp. 76-83

15 “ “ “ “ pp. 84-91

18 “ “ “ “ pp. 240-247

20 Leopoldo Zea, “History and the Latin American Mind”

22 Jose Carlos Mariategui, “On the Indigenous Problem”

25 Pablo Neruda, Poems (online)

27 “ “ “

29 Holiday – no class

## December

2 Thomas Auxter, “From Cultural Imperialism to Cultural Pluralism”

4 Conclusion

6 Conclusion

## Final Examination: Exam Group 12E

### References

Plato, *Republic*

*Apology*

J. W. Roberts, *City of Socrates*

C. Kerényi, *Eleusis*

Martin Bernal, *Black Athena*

Walter Burkert, *Greek Religion*

Frank Snowden, *Blacks in Antiquity*

Immanuel Kant, *Dreams of a Spirit-Seer*

*Critique of Pure Reason*

*“The End of All Things”*

John Stuart Mill, *Utilitarianism*

*On Liberty*

*The Subjection of Women*

Richard Sennett, *The Fall of Public Man*

Friedrich Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil*  
 Simone de Beauvoir, *The Ethics of Ambiguity*  
                                   *The Second Sex*  
 Jean-Paul Sartre, *Colonialism and Neocolonialism*  
 Albert Camus, *Resistance, Rebellion, and Death*  
 Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth*  
                                   *Black Skin, White Masks*  
 Steve Biko, *I Write What I Like*  
 Tsenay Serequeberhan, ed., *African Philosophy*  
 Jorge Luis Borges, *A Personal Anthology*  
                                   *Conversations*  
 Jose Carlos Mariategui, *Seven Interpretive Essays on Peruvian Reality*  
 Leopoldo Zea, *The Role of the Americas in History*  
 Ofelia Schutte, *Cultural Identity and Social Liberation in Latin American Thought*

**Note:** The University asks faculty to post information about the grading scale, academic honesty, students with disabilities, classroom policies, and online course evaluation that will be the basis for policies and decisions in the course. That information from the University follows. – T.A.

The following grade scale will be used to assign final letter grades for the course. See UF grading policies for assigning grade points at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

Grade Scale	Grade Value
100-93=A	A=4.0
92-90=A-	A-=3.67
89-86=B+	B+=3.33
85-82=B	B=3.00
81-79=B-	B-=2.67
78-75=C+	C+=2.33
75-72=C	C=2.00
71-69=C-	C-=1.67
68-66=D+	D+=1.33
65-62=D	D=1.00
61-60=D-	D-=0.67
59-0=E	E=0.00

**ACADEMIC HONESTY.** UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge, which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class. Plagiarism on any assignment will automatically result in a grade of "E" for the course. Plagiarism is defined in the University of Florida's Student Honor Code as follows: "A student shall not represent as the student's own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes (but is not limited to): a. Quoting oral or written materials, whether published or unpublished, without proper attribution. b. Submitting a document or assignment which in whole or in part is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment not authored by the student." Students found guilty of academic misconduct will be prosecuted in accordance with the procedures specified in the UF honesty policy.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES.** Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/dsrp/>). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

**ONLINE COURSE EVALUATION.** Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluer.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/>.