

## PHI 2010 Introduction to Philosophy Spring 2021

Instructor: Dr. Arina Pismenny

[Office Hours: MW 11:30 AM - 1 PM](#), or by appointment on Zoom only

Email: [arinapismenny@ufl.edu](mailto:arinapismenny@ufl.edu)

MW 1:55 PM - 2:45 PM hybrid face-to-face in Matherly Hall room 0108, and synchronous online lectures via [Zoom](#)

Teaching assistant: Mr. Marcus Davis

[Office Hours: MTh: 9 AM - 10:30 AM](#), or by appointment on Zoom only

Email: [lucydavis@ufl.edu](mailto:lucydavis@ufl.edu)

**Fridays by class number:**

17775 (08HB) & 28186 (08HC) [on Zoom only](#): 10:40 AM - 11:30 AM

17803 (127E) & 28209 (127F) [on Zoom only](#): 12:50 PM - 1:40 PM

17804 (12H0) & 28215 (12H2) [on Zoom only](#): 1:55 PM - 2:45 PM

**All Friday discussion sessions are conducted on Zoom**

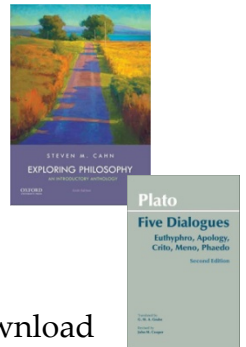
**Communication:** please contact us by email. It is best to send an email to us via Canvas because it tells us which section you are in. In your email, please indicate your name, course and section. Please allow 24 hours for an answer.

**Proper ways to address us:** Please address Dr. Arina Pismenny as Dr. Pismenny only. Please address Mr. Marcus Davis as Mr. Davis or Marcus.

**Required Texts:**

1. *Exploring Philosophy: An Introductory Anthology*. (2017). **6th Edition**. Edited by Steven M. Cahn. ISBN: 0190674334

2. Plato, *Five Dialogues: Euthyphro, Apology, Crito, Meno, Phaedo*. (2002). **2nd edition**. Edited by John M. Cooper. Translated by G.M.A. Grube. ISBN: 0872206335



Additional reading materials are posted on Canvas. It is your responsibility to download them and read them. The readings posted on Canvas are designated by [CN] on the syllabus.

### I. COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

**Course Description:**

This course will introduce you to some of the main topics of philosophy. Philosophy addresses some of the most fundamental questions in life. The main tool by which

Philosophy addresses these questions is the human capacity to reason. You will find that philosophical answers are based on reasoned arguments, which analyze and seek to justify beliefs. Philosophy, therefore, is a sort of self-examination, in which you discover what you think, and then reflect on whether your opinions are really worth holding. To look critically at your own ideas is the essence of the life of reason.

During this course you will examine your views on several core philosophical topics such as what makes a good argument, the nature of morality, and social justice. You will read philosophical texts, analyze their arguments and evaluate their answers to the questions of the course, see how philosophical concepts can help you understand practical dilemmas, and express your ideas through arguments - both verbal and written – which present your reasons for holding your beliefs.

### **Requirements satisfied by successful completion of the course**

Students in this course can earn 6000 words towards the UF Writing Requirement (WR). The Writing Requirement (WR) ensures students both maintain their fluency in writing and use writing as a tool to facilitate learning. Course grades have two components. To receive writing requirement credit, a student must receive a grade of C or higher and a satisfactory completion of the writing component of the course.

PHI 2010 provides 3 credits towards the Philosophy major or minor, and is a General Education – Humanities (H) course as well.

### **General education objectives and learning outcomes**

This course is a Humanities (H) subject area course in the UF General Education Program. Humanities courses provide instruction in the history, key themes, principles, terminology, and theory or methodologies used within a humanities discipline or the humanities in general. Students will learn to identify and to analyze the key elements, biases and influences that shape thought. These courses emphasize clear and effective analysis and approach issues and problems from multiple perspectives. A minimum grade of C is required for general education credit.

PHI 2010 accomplishes these goals by familiarizing students with some key philosophical topics and arguments concerning knowledge, personal identity, and the nature of ethical truths as well as others. Students will become adept at thinking critically, analyzing arguments, and writing clearly and persuasively.

**The General Education Student Learning Outcomes (SLO's)** divide into three areas: CONTENT – students demonstrate competence in the terminology, concepts, theories and methodologies used within the discipline; COMMUNICATION – students communicate knowledge, ideas and reasoning clearly and effectively in written and oral forms appropriate to the discipline; and CRITICALTHINKING – students analyze

information carefully and logically from multiple perspectives, using discipline-specific methods, and develop reasoned solutions to problems.

**Students will satisfy the CONTENT SLO** by demonstrating a mastery of some key philosophical concepts as well as central arguments in the discipline. The COMMUNICATION SLO will be achieved by two Short Writing Assignments (500-750 words each), two Argumentative Essays (1500-2000 words each), and regular participation in class. Students will be required to explain and evaluate various philosophical views. Students will also demonstrate achievement of the CRITICAL THINKING SLO through the Short Writing Assignments and Argumentative Essays, which will be on assigned topics designed to test students' critical thinking abilities. Writing assignments and papers will be graded on the bases of a student's comprehension of the relevant issues, development and cogent defense of her or his position, clarity of expression, and mechanics.

In short, at the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Explain some traditional philosophical positions as well as common objections to these.
- Analyze, evaluate, construct, and present persuasive and cogent arguments for particular philosophical positions
- Think critically about difficult and complex topics

**Course Evaluations:** 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.aa.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.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>. In evaluating this course, you should refer to the **Learning Objectives** on the syllabus (pp. 1-2).

### **Teaching Philosophy:**

My goal is not to convince you that any of the authors in our text have all the answers. It is to help you understand their thoughts so that critical reflection on those thoughts can play a meaningful role in forming your own.

## II. DOING YOUR PART

It's your decision whether or not to remain in this course. If you decide to stay, think of your decision as a commitment to participate actively in your own learning, take responsibility for your education, and be an active learner in this course. Philosophy requires a lot of reading, and it is very difficult reading. You will need to devote a significant amount of time to it. You will need to carefully follow the schedule at the end of the syllabus, regularly participate in class discussions, and seriously prepare for the assignments.

## III. HOW YOU AND I WILL MEASURE YOUR PROGRESS

Measuring your progress in points will make it easy for you to determine your own grade and progress at any time. The total possible number of points for the course is 100. Final letter grades will be assigned on the standard point/percentage scale:

**A: 93.0-100; A-: 90.0-92.9; B+: 87.1-89.9; B: 83.0-87.0; B-: 80.0-82.9; C+77.1-79.9; C: 73.0-77.0; C-: 70.0-72.9; D+: 67.1-69.9; D: 63.0-67.0; D-: 60-62.9; E: 0.0-59.9.**

### **What do grades mean at UF?**

A is for excellent work.

B is for very good work.

C is for adequate or average work.

D is for below average, inadequate work.

E is for unacceptable work, i.e., work that is not at the college level.

### **Components of Course Grade**

**Canvas reading quizzes (8): 2.5pts/quiz; 20%**

**Short analytic summaries (2): 30% (15% each)**

**Midterm paper: 20%**

**Final paper: 25%**

**Attendance: 2.5%**

**Participation: 2.5%**

**Total: 100%**

For more information about UF's grading policies please visit [here](#).

#### IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

**Homework:** You have homework due every week. It consists of reading the assigned materials and answering study questions at the end of the readings (where applicable), as well as taking Canvas quizzes based on readings due that week.

**Canvas reading quizzes:** (almost) every week, due Tuesday (available until 11.59 pm the latest), there is a short multiple-choice Canvas quiz based on the readings due that week. You will be tested on the comprehension of what you have read. There are 10 quizzes in total. Two lowest quiz scores will be dropped at the end of semester. This means that only 8 quizzes out of 10 count towards your final grade. Each quiz is worth 2.5 points. The quizzes are worth 20% of the final grade.

**Short analytic summaries:** Each student will write two short analytic summaries (500-750 words) on specific texts covered in class. Each student will be randomly assigned two particular texts to summarize. The summary should identify the main idea(s) expressed in the text, the arguments and examples the author offers to support it. The summary should demonstrate the mastery of a given philosophical text. The summaries are due Sunday nights.

**Midterm and final papers:** You are asked to write two thesis papers for this course. The midterm paper should be between 1000 and 1500 words long, and the final paper should be between 1500 and 2000 words on any topic we have covered in class. In it, you will need to take a stand on a philosophical issue and defend your point of view with evidence and arguments. You will need to demonstrate the knowledge you have acquired in the course. The midterm paper is worth 20% and the final paper is worth 25% of the final grade.

**\*Late Work** will not be accepted. There will be no make-ups for missed assignments. This policy may be overridden only by extenuating cases. In order to makeup an assignment, the following conditions must be met: (i) the instructor must be notified well in advance, (ii) the student must have a formal written excuse, and (iii) the missed assignment must be made-up within one calendar week.

**Attendance:** Your presence in class is absolutely necessary to ensure the fullest realization of our learning objectives. You are allowed **four** excused absences in the course. This includes both lectures and discussions. Beyond this number, proper documentation will be required to excuse absences (e.g., a doctor's note). You must provide this documentation to your TA within one week of the missed class.

If you are absent from discussion for an excused reason, you will not lose any points and the absence will not exhaust one of your free absences. In most cases you need documentation of the excuse (see below). Excused absences are limited to the following cases:

- *Health.* If your physical or mental health causes you to miss class, a note from your doctor or from the Dean of Students within one week of the absence will count as documentation for this.
- *Personal Reasons.* The Dean of Students will send me a note of excuse if you have personal reasons for needing one, such as a death in the family or an ongoing medical issue. I need your note from the DOS within one week of the absence. Note: I do not get involved in adjudicating good personal reasons from bad ones. I let the DOS handle that.
- *Some UF Activities are excused absences.* You must provide a note for activities absences prior to the day of absence. Notes may come from the activity supervisor, such as a coach. Regular activities absences will lead to make-up assignments.
- *Religious observances.* See your TA at the beginning of the semester about this.

If you think you have an exceptional case, ask your TA, and your TA will pass your request along.

All other absences are typically unexcused, including some very good reasons to miss a class, like career or family events. I support your interest in these things, and understand why you might prioritize them over class, but that does not make them excused absences. Please note that you are responsible for the information presented in your discussion section even if you miss class, whether for excused or unexcused reasons.

Once you have passed the allowed number of absences, 5% will be taken off from your attendance points for each additional absence. Attendance is worth 2.5% of your final grade. Please be on time.

Since we are living in a pandemic, it is likely that everyone is facing unique challenges at home, at school, at work. Our goal as your educators is to help you succeed. For this reason, if you are requiring help or assistance, please contact us. We are all in this together.

For most people this is a new format of attending class and learning. You might be difficult to concentrate. I encourage you to make an effort to make your learning environment as distraction free as possible. Put a timeout on websites like Facebook, so that you have an easier time concentrating during class. Paying attention during lectures and discussions is absolutely necessary in order to do well in the course.

### **Covid-19 Regulations for in-class attendance:**

We will have face-to-face instructional sessions to accomplish the student learning objectives of this course. In response to COVID-19, the following policies and requirements are in place to maintain your learning environment and to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions.

#### **If you are registered to attend class in-person,**

- You are required to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings. Following and enforcing these policies and requirements are all of our responsibility. Failure to do so will lead to a report to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.
- This course has been assigned a physical classroom with enough capacity to maintain physical distancing (6 feet between individuals) requirements. Please utilize designated seats and maintain appropriate spacing between students. Please do not move desks or stations.
- Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.
- Follow your instructor's guidance on how to enter and exit the classroom. Practice physical distancing to the extent possible when entering and exiting the classroom.
- If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms ([Click here for guidance from the CDC on symptoms of coronavirus](#)), please use the UF Health screening system and follow the instructions on whether you are able to attend class. [Click here for UF Health guidance on what to do if you have been exposed to or are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms](#).
  - Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work. [Find more information in the university attendance policies](#).

**Even if you are registered to attend class in-person, you are always welcome to attend class via Zoom.**

**Your discussion sections** are where you get a chance to go over some of the main points of the course in more detail. They are also the place where you get a chance to talk philosophy, to develop arguments of your own. Finally, they are the place where you will receive instruction about how to write philosophy, including specific training to do your written assignments. In grading your work, we will hold you to a standard that assumes your attendance in lecture and discussion. These run on Fridays and are conducted exclusively via Zoom.

**Participation:** this portion of your grade will depend on your engagement and contribution (quality, not quantity) in Friday discussion section. Quality participation in discussion depends upon being prepared and making a substantial effort to engage the material in class. Participation is worth 2.5% of your final grade.

**Zoom:** our office hours, lectures, and discussion sessions will all be held on Zoom this semester.

To access lectures via Zoom, go to [www.ufl.zoom.us](http://www.ufl.zoom.us) and sign in with your UF credentials. It is recommended that you download the Zoom app on your computer. You can also access it on your smart phone.

When you click on Meetings, you should see all of our lectures scheduled.

You can also access Zoom lectures via Canvas by (1) clicking on Zoom Conferences (left side panel) or by (2) clicking online Canvas Calendar, and clicking on the Zoom class scheduled.

Your TA will inform you of how to access your Friday discussion session.

You can find more information about using Zoom at <https://ufl.zoom.us/>.

If you need assistance, please contact UFIT <https://helpdesk.ufl.edu/>. They are available 24/7 by phone and email: (352) 392-HELP (4357) [helpdesk@ufl.edu](mailto:helpdesk@ufl.edu)

**Recording lectures and discussions:** lectures and discussions will not be recorded. You may **not** record lectures or discussions without first obtaining permission from me or your TA.

**Group work:** part of your attendance and participation grade will be determined by your group work. Each section will be divided into roughly 4 groups, with five people in each one. During a Friday session, a given group will be asked to present key concepts, theories, and arguments covered during the lectures and in the text read for the week. They will also present potential objections to the arguments, and raise questions for clarification about the material. The rest of the session will be spent on discussing the material the group has presented. Each student will be randomly added to a group on Canvas. To find out which group you were assigned to, and who your group mates are, go to Canvas → our course → People (in the column on the left) → Groups.

**Note taking:** [Research shows that note taking significantly improves students' ability to remember and understand the material they have learned](#)

< <https://tinyurl.com/h98vbgr> >. When taking notes, you should write down ideas. *You should **not** be copying the text of the slides, as the slides are available on Canvas, and you are wasting time re-writing them.* Instead, you should be summarizing the material in your own sentences. This is a very good way to learn. You should always take notes in class.



Hand-written notes are superior to typed-up notes because writing notes by hand engages your mind to a much greater extent than typing does. For this reason, I recommend to all of you to write your notes by hand.

**Electronic devices class policy:** Cell phone and smart watch use during class is not allowed for any reason. Please be sure that they are turned off. If you use your cell phone in class, you will be asked to leave, and attendance points will be subtracted.

You may use a laptop or tablet for note-taking *only*.

If you wish to record a lecture, be sure to obtain permission from me first.

**Accommodations and other services:**

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Counseling services: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>; 352-392-1575.

The instructors of this course are committed to supporting all of our students. Please let us know about accommodations that will ensure a welcoming space for you.

**Health and Wellness Resources:**

*U Matter, We Care:* If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu), 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

*Counseling and Wellness Center:* [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

*Student Health Care Center:* Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website](#).

*University Police Department:* [Visit UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

*UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center:* For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).

**Cheating and Plagiarism policy:** If you are cheating on an assignment, you will receive an F on that assignment (no retakes). If you plagiarize an essay, full penalties of the university will be strictly enforced.

Here is **University of Florida's Policy on Academic Honesty**

[https://flexible.dce.ufl.edu/media/flexibleuceufledu/documents/uf\\_policy\\_student\\_conduct.pdf](https://flexible.dce.ufl.edu/media/flexibleuceufledu/documents/uf_policy_student_conduct.pdf)

<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>

**The Honor Pledge:** We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity by abiding by the Student 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."

**A. Cheating.** A Student cannot use unauthorized materials or resources in any academic activity for academic advantage or benefit. Cheating includes but is not limited to:

1. Using any materials or resources prepared by another Student without the other Student's express Consent or without proper attribution to the other Student.
2. Using any materials or resources, through any medium, which the Faculty has not given express permission to use and that may confer an academic benefit to the Student.
3. Using additional time, or failing to stop working when instructed, on any time-bound academic activity.
4. Failing to follow the directions of a proctor of any academic activity, when such conduct could lead to an academic advantage or benefit.
5. Collaborating with another person, through any medium, on any academic activity, when Faculty has expressly prohibited collaboration.

**B. Complicity in Violating the Student Honor Code.** Attempting, aiding, encouraging, facilitating, abetting, conspiring to commit, hiring someone else to commit, giving or receiving bribes to secure, or being a participant (by act or omission) in any act prohibited by the Student Honor Code.

**C. False or Misleading Information.**

1. A Student must not make a false or misleading statement during the Investigation or resolution of an alleged Student Honor Code violation.
2. A Student must not make a false or misleading statement for the purpose of procuring an improper academic advantage for any Student.

3. A Student must not use or present fabricated information, falsified research, or other findings if the Student knows or reasonably should be aware that the information, research, or other finding is fabricated or falsified.

**D. Interference with an Academic Activity.**

1. A Student must not take any action or take any material for the purpose of interfering with an academic activity, through any means over any medium.
2. A Student must not be disruptive to the testing environment or other academic activity.

**E. Plagiarism.** A Student must not represent as the Student's own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

1. Stealing, misquoting, insufficiently paraphrasing, or patch-writing.
2. Self-plagiarism, which is the reuse of the Student's own submitted work, or the simultaneous submission of the Student's own work, without the full and clear acknowledgment and permission of the Faculty to whom it is submitted.
3. Submitting materials from any source without proper attribution.
4. Submitting a document, assignment, or material that, in whole or in part, is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment the Student did not author.

**F. Submission of Academic Work Purchased or Obtained from an Outside Source.** A Student must not submit as their own work any academic work in any form that the Student purchased or otherwise obtained from an outside source, including but not limited to: academic materials in any form prepared by a commercial or individual vendor of academic materials; a collection of research papers, tests, or academic materials maintained by a Student Organization or other entity or person, or any other sources of academic work.

**G. Unauthorized Recordings.** A Student must not, without express authorization from Faculty, make or receive any Recording, through any means over any medium, of any academic activity, including but not limited to a Recording of any class or of any meeting with Faculty. Students registered with the Disability Resource Center who are provided reasonable accommodations that include allowing such Recordings must inform Faculty before making such Recordings.

**H. Unauthorized Taking or Receipt of Materials or Resources to Gain an Improper Academic Advantage.** A Student, independently or with another person or other people, must not without express authorization take, give, transmit, or receive materials, information, or resources in any manner, through any medium, for the purpose of gaining or providing an improper academic advantage to any Student.

## IV. USEFUL LINKS

### University of Florida

#### Canvas:

<https://ufl.instructure.com/>

**Canvas help:** <http://guides.instructure.com> You will also see more help options by clicking "help" in the upper right corner of the Canvas homepage. I am not qualified to give tech help for Canvas; if you need help, contact UF's Computing Help Desk: <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/>

**Zoom** [www.ufl.zoom.us](http://www.ufl.zoom.us)

#### Disability Resource Center (DRC)

<https://disability.ufl.edu/>

#### Counseling and Wellness Center

<https://counseling.ufl.edu/>, (352)392-1575

#### University Police Department

<https://police.ufl.edu/> (352)392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies

#### Sexual Harassment/Misconduct Resources

<https://titleix.ufl.edu/full-sexual-harassment-and-misconduct-policy/>

#### Writing Studio

<https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

#### Libraries

<https://www.ufl.edu/academics/libraries/>

#### LGBTQ Affairs

<https://lgbtq.multicultural.ufl.edu/>

#### *Philosophy at UF:*

#### Philosophy Department

<https://phil.ufl.edu/>

#### Philosophy Discussions – Food and Talk

<http://www.phil.ufl.edu/ugrad/ugrad-food&talk.html>

**Undergraduate Philosophy Society**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/8317358197/about/>

**Philosophy Major and Minor Requirements**

<http://www.phil.ufl.edu/ugrad/ugrad-major.html>

**Hare Essay Competition**

<http://www.phil.ufl.edu/ugrad.html?page=hare>

*Philosophy Research Sources*

**How to write a good philosophy paper:**

<http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/writing.html>

**Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy**

<http://plato.stanford.edu/index.html>

**The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy**

<http://www.iep.utm.edu>

**Philosophy Bites Podcast**

<http://philosophybites.libsyn.com>

**Philosophy of TED Talks**

<https://www.ted.com/talks?topics%5B%5D=philosophy>

## VI. COURSE SCHEDULE

The source of the reading is indicated by the following abbreviations:

**EP** – *Exploring Philosophy* by Steven M. Cahn

**FD** – *Five Dialogues* by Plato

**CN** – Canvas

### **Course Outline\* Subject to Change:**

#### **WEEK 1 1/11, 1/13, & 1/15 WELCOME! What is Philosophy?**

Readings: Part 1: Monroe and Elizabeth Beardsley, "What Is Philosophy?" [EP], Edward Craig, Ch. 1 - Philosophy [CN]

**Recommended:** Rosen et al., "Why Philosophy? Five Views" [CN], Part 1: Bertrand Russell, "The Value of Philosophy" [EP]

### **I. LOGIC**

#### **WEEK 2 1/20 & 1/22 Reasoning**

#### **1/18 NO CLASS – DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY**

Readings: Part 1: Monroe and Elizabeth Beardsley, "What Is Philosophy?" [EP/CN], Edward Craig, Ch. 1 - Philosophy [CN], Part 2: Steven M. Cahn, Patricia Kitcher, and George Sher, "The Elements of Argument" [EP/CN]

**Recommended:** Logic Exercises [CN], Rosen et al., "A Brief Guide to Logic and Argumentation" [CN]

CANVAS QUIZ 1 due Friday, 1/22, at 11.59 pm the latest

#### **WEEK 3 1/25, 1/27, & 1/29 Reasoning**

Readings: Part 2: Steven M. Cahn, Patricia Kitcher, and George Sher, "The Elements of Argument" [EP/CN], Stephen Barker, "Improving Your Thinking" [EP/CN], Part 2: Carl G. Hempel, "Scientific Inquiry" [EP/CN]

**Recommended:** Logic Exercises [CN], Rosen et al., "A Brief Guide to Logic and Argumentation" [CN]

CANVAS QUIZ 2 due Tuesday, 1/26, at 11.59 pm the latest

### **II. METAETHICS**

#### **WEEK 4 2/1, 2/3, & 2/5 Appeal to Authority and Cultural Relativism I**

#### **2/5 Session: how to write a short analytic summary**

Readings: Part 8: Tom Regan, "How Not to Answer Moral Questions" [EP], Part 8: Mary Midgley "Moral Isolationsim" [EP], Wilson, "What's Culture Got To Do With It? Excising the harmful tradition of female circumcision" [CN]

**Recommended:** James Rachels, "Cultural Relativism" [CN], ["Charges dropped in first federal genital mutilation case in US" CNN](#), ["U.S. government backs off case of female genital mutilation"](#), *Reuters*; ["Female Genital Mutilation and the Treaty Power: What Congress Can Do"](#) *Just Security*

CANVAS QUIZ 3 due Tuesday, 2/2, at 11.59 pm the latest

### **WEEK 5 2/8, 2/10 & 2/12 Cultural Relativism II**

Readings: same as last week [CN]

Short Analytic Summaries due 2/7 (for some students only)

**Group 1 presentations 2/12**

### **WEEK 6 2/15, 2/17, & 2/19 Morality and Religion I**

In-class and Friday session discussion: how to write a philosophy essay

Readings: Plato, *Euthyphro* [FD], David Baggett 'The Euthyphro Dilemma' [CN], Part 7: Steven M. Cahn, 'God and Morality' [EP], Burton Leiser, "Is Homosexuality Unnatural?" [CN]

**Recommended:** Louise Antony, "No Good Reason—Exploring the Problem of Evil" [CN]

CANVAS QUIZ 4 due Tuesday, 2/16, at 11.59 pm the latest

Short Analytic Summaries due 2/14 (for some students only)

### **WEEK 7 2/22, 2/24, & 2/26 Morality and Religion II**

Readings: same as last week

**MIDTERM PAPER IS DUE ON CANVAS ON 2/26 AT 11.59 PM THE LATEST**

## **II. MORAL THEORY**

### **WEEK 8 3/1, 3/3, & 3/5 Utilitarianism**

Readings: Part 10: John Stuart Mill, "Utilitarianism" [EP], Robert Nozick, "The Experience Machine" [CN], Part 10: Louis P. Pojman, "Assessing Utilitarianism" [EP]

**Recommended:** Bernard Williams "A Critique of Utilitarianism" [CN], Neera Badhwar, "Why It Is Wrong to be Always Guided by the Best: Consequentialism and Friendship" [CN]

CANVAS QUIZ 5 due Tuesday, 3/2, at 11.59 pm the latest

**Group 2 presentations 3/5**

### **WEEK 9 3/8, 3/10, & 3/12 Kantian Ethics**

Readings: Part 10: Immanuel Kant, "Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals" [EP], Part 8: Onora O'Neil "Kant's Ethics" [EP]

**Recommended:** Christine Korsgaard, "The Right to Lie: Kant on Dealing with Evil" [CN], Onora O'Neill, "Between Consenting Adults" [CN]  
CANVAS QUIZ 6 due Tuesday, 3/9, at 11.59 pm the latest  
Short Analytic Summaries due 3/7 (for some students only)

### III. POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

#### WEEK 10 3/15, 3/17, 3/19 Justice and Society I

Readings: Plato, *Apology* [FD], Plato, *Crito*, [FD], Plato, *Phaedo* (only 115a-118a), Edward Craig, Ch. 2 – What Should I do? [CN].

**Recommended:** Part 8: Julia Driver, "Virtue Ethics" [EP]

CANVAS QUIZ 7 due Tuesday, 3/16, at 11.59 pm the latest

#### Group 3 presentations 3/19

Short Analytic Summaries due 3/14 (for some students only)

### IV. PHILOSOPHY OF RACE

#### WEEK 11 3/22, 3/24, & 3/26

#### MOVIE WEEK – NO CLASSES

Watch one or more of the following movies. Take notes, and come to class next week prepared to discuss them.

1. "[13th](#)" Documentary directed by [Ava DuVernay](#). Available on Netflix and [YouTube](#)
2. "Do the Right Thing" directed by [Spike Lee](#). Available on Amazon Prime Video
3. "Da 5 Bloods" directed by [Spike Lee](#). Available on Netflix
4. "I Am Not Your Negro" directed by [Raoul Peck](#). Available on Netflix

#### WEEK 12 3/29, 3/31, & 4/2 Justice and Society II & Philosophy of Race

Readings: Part 11: Thomas Hobbes, "Leviathan" [EP], Charles Mills, "The Racial Contract" [CN], Part 10: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" [EP]

**Recommended:** Listen to Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Letter" [here](#), Michelle Alexander, "Introduction" from *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*

CANVAS QUIZ 8 due Tuesday, 3/30, at 11.59 pm the latest

#### Group 4 presentations 4/2

Short Analytic Summaries due 3/28 (for some students only)

#### WEEK 13 4/5, 4/7, & 4/9 The Nature of Race and its Role in Racism

Readings: Ibram X. Kendi, Ch. 1 "Human Hierarchy" [CN], and Ch. 2 "Origins of Racist Ideas" [CN] from *Stamped From the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America*, Michele Moody-Adams, "Racism" [CN]



**Recommended:** Watch Wi-Phi videos on Racial Ontology by David Miguel Gray

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GLcg6jyg3zk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wuaSnYtvsdU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sA5MJqlmtZs>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pcuabrV0Cok>

CANVAS QUIZ 9 due Tuesday, 4/6, at 11.59 pm the latest

Short Analytic Summaries due 4/4 (for some students only)

#### **WEEK 14 4/12, 4/14, & 4/16 Kinds of Racism and their Badness**

Readings: Luc Faucher, "Racism" [CN], Peggy McIntosh, "White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack" [CN]

**Recommended:** "[9 Everyday Examples Of White Privilege](#)", Complete an [anti-racist workbook](#) by [Dr. Della Mosley](#), Watch a lecture on [Racial Trauma and Racial Anxiety](#) by [Dr. Carlton E. Green](#), Watch [Peggy McIntosh TEDx Talk](#)

CANVAS QUIZ 10 due Tuesday, 4/13, at 11.59 pm the latest

Short Analytic Summaries due 4/11 (for some students only)

#### **WEEK 15 4/19 & 4/21 Implicit Biases and Moral Responsibility**

Readings: Daniel Kelly and Erica Roedder, "Racial Cognition and the Ethics of Implicit Bias" [CN]

**Implicit Bias Association Test:** Take here:

<https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/takeatest.html>

**FINAL PAPER DUE 4/23**