

Seminar on Truth

PHI 4930 Fall 2024

Prof. Ray

PHI 4930 - Syllabus

In this course we will explore several strands of the philosophical discourse on truth. What is truth and why does it matter? What philosophical problems concern truth, and what do philosophers say about them?

Course Work:

The work of this course consists in the careful reading and analysis of difficult philosophical texts, attendance and participation, some short research reports, two exams, and a medium-length term paper (see proviso below). Weighting: 25% participation, 55% exams, 15% paper, 5% foobar.

Proviso: Students whose overall percentage in the course is less than 85% prior to the term paper assignment will be judged not to have acquired an adequate basis for writing a paper. They will not be allowed to write a paper and their pre-paper course percentage will become their class score (before participation). Students whose pre-paper percentage is 85% or better will have the choice of writing the term paper or having their class percentage capped at 85% (before participation). *Nota bene*: It follows that students who do not write a paper cannot make a superlative grade in the class (but could almost achieve a B).

Be not fooled, attendance will be essential to your success in this class.

Course Materials:

Course materials will be made available through this class web site. Local documents will typically be in PDF format (<http://get.adobe.com/reader/>). These course materials may be password protected. In order to view and print them you need to know a password—which will be given to you in class...

Rules of Engagement:

1) The materials on the Canvas site or companion site (as applicable) do not belong to you. You may not give access to or share them with anyone outside the class. 2) The use of recording devices in the classroom is circumscribed by law (<https://aa.ufl.edu/policies/in->

class-recording/), and permitted under three particular auspices. Students may not share, transmit, circulate, distribute to any person any such recording, nor upload such to any media platform. 3) The use in class of any digital device for any unsanctioned or non-class-related purpose (e.g. messaging, surfing, social media, searching the internet for info) is strictly prohibited. All digital devices are unsanctioned by default. Thank you.

Nota bene:

Students who do not get assignments in on time are subject to the Devilish Lateness Policy™

The use of AI assistance (e.g. ChatGPT) for the production of any work for (or engagement in) this class is generally contrary to the central pedagogical aims of the course. All uses of such AI assistance are unauthorized, unless expressly permitted by the instructor. Violations of this policy will be treated as with any other academic honesty violation.

Plagiarism or other academic honesty violations are not tolerated and will result in i) immediate failure in the course and ii) referral to the Dean of Students for further action. Plagiarism is the presentation of words or ideas that are not your own as if they were your own. All assignments are to be completed on your own. It is your responsibility to know and understand the [UF Student Honor Code](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/honorcode.php) (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/honorcode.php>).

Note for Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

UF General Policy:

Course Evaluation:

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing [online evaluations](https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/) (<https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>). Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester. UF emails students with specific times when they are open. Summary results (<https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>) of these assessments are made available to students. UF has [specific guidance](https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/) (<https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>) on how to give professional (and respectful) feedback.

Conformality:

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with prevailing [university policy](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx) (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>).

Grade Points:

Information on how UF calculates grade points from grades can be found [here](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx) (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>).

Minimum Requirement:

Please note that a minimum course grade of C is required to get general education credit for taking it (if this course is a listed Gen Ed class).

Useful Disclaimer:

Our schedule of topics/readings/assignments are subject to change. So, stay informed as we go along.

Personnel & Contact

- Prof. Greg Ray, 300 FLO
Class Professor
gregray.ufl.edu 352-392-2084

Office Hours

- Wed 3:00-5:00
- And by appt