

Introduction to Philosophy (PHIL 100-012)

Mondays and Wednesdays, 8:00-9:15pm, Michener L0074

Professor Mark Reinholz

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Will meet by appointment

Syllabus subject to change without notice

Required Readings:

James Rachels, *Problems from Philosophy*, 2nd ed.

Course Description:

This course introduces significant human questions and emphasizes understanding the meaning and methods of philosophy. Includes human condition, knowledge, freedom, history, ethics, the future, and religion.

Competencies View:

- I Identify and distinguish the major questions in philosophy.
- II Identify and distinguish some of the major schools of philosophy.
- III Demonstrate an understanding of the methods of philosophical thinking.
- IV Critically evaluate primary philosophical sources.
- V Communicate philosophical questions and positions to others.
- VI Read, analyze and apply written material to new situations.
- VII Write and speak clearly and logically in presentations and essays.
- VIII Demonstrate the ability to select and apply contemporary forms of technology to solve problems or compile information.

This course is a Statewide Guaranteed Transfer Course. GT-AH3

This course is based on educated scholarship and is in no way meant to encourage an ideology or religious world view. All opinions are respected. I reserve the right to challenge your opinions to further your educational experience.

Course Requirements:

1. Attendance is crucial. Please be on time.
2. Assigned readings should be completed before class.
3. Please participate in class discussions. Active engagement of the material is the only way to master it.
4. There will be four tests, worth 100 points each. Tests may not be made up.
5. I do not have an office, but I will keep office hours in the Rec Center on Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:00-5:30pm for anyone who wants to discuss something with me. In addition, I am happy to meet with students by appointment or chat via e-mail: mark.reinholz@unco.edu.
6. Examples of unacceptable behavior include but are not limited to the following:
 - 1 Cell Phone/PDA use (calls, texting, surfing, etc.)
 - 2 MP3 player use (iPods, etc.)
 - 3 Unauthorized laptop or computer usage
 - 4 Making any noise or gesture to the instructor or students that is disruptive
 - 5 Offensive smells (body odor, alcohol or drugs)
 - 6 Sleeping in class
 - 7 Dominating the instructor's time (asking too many questions/talking too much)

- 8 Children or other guests attending class without prior instructor approval
- 9 Attending class under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- 10 Inappropriate dress (offensive/suggestive clothing or lack of clothes)
- 11 Lack of respect for others or the classroom community
- 12 Aggressive or threatening behaviors such as talking loudly or throwing any materials
- 13 Making repeated jokes or offering other detracting and irrelevant information to discussions
- 14 Coming to class late
- 15 Plagiarizing, cheating, or engaging in any other form of academic dishonesty.

Students with disabilities:

Any student requesting disability accommodation for this class must inform the instructor giving appropriate notice. Students are encouraged to contact Disability Support Services at (970) 351-2289 to certify documentation of disability and to ensure appropriate accommodations are implemented in a timely manner.

Grading:

Test 1 – 100 points
Test 2 – 100 points
Test 3 – 100 points
Test 4 – 100 points
Total – 400 points

Readings:

8/24 – Appendix

8/26 – Apology (Blackboard)

9/2 – Crito (Blackboard); Chapter 1

9/7 – Chapter 2

9/9 – Fear and Trembling (Blackboard)

9/14 – Chapter 3

9/16 – Review for Test # 1

9/21 – Test # 1

9/23 – Chapter 11

9/28 – Kant (Blackboard)

9/30 – Mill (Blackboard)

10/5 – Virtue Ethics (Blackboard)

10/7 – Review for Test # 2

10/12 – Test # 2

10/14 – Chapter 4

10/19 – Empiricism and Rationalism (Blackboard)

10/21 – Chapter 11

10/26 – Readings TBA

10/28 – Readings TBA

11/2 – Readings TBA

11/4 – Review for Test # 3

11/9 – Test # 3

11/11 – Tolstoy (Blackboard), Shakespeare (Blackboard), Ecclesiastes (Blackboard)

11/16 – Camus (Blackboard)

11/18 – Chapter 13, Taylor (Blackboard)

11/23 – Review for Test # 4

11/30 – Test # 4

12/2 – Republic (Blackboard)