

Fall 2015

PHIL 1000

Clarence Mark Phillips
University of New Orleans

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Syllabus
The University of New Orleans
Dept. of Philosophy

PHIL 1000: Introduction to Philosophy (3 credits)

SECTION 002: LA 372, TTh, 11 - 12:15 p.m.

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Clarence Mark Phillips
Office: UNO: LA 391
Office Hours: MWF 1-2; TTh 12:15-1 (and by appointment)
Office / Mobile: (504) 280-6659
Email: cmphilli@uno.edu (add 'PHIL 1000' to subject line)
Course Webpages: [Moodle](#) login page

Required Texts

- [1] Melchert, Norman - The Great Conversation: A Historical Introduction to Philosophy (7th ed.), Mayfield, Oxford University Press, ISBN 9780915397611
- [2] (Recommended)
 - Hugo Bedau - Thinking and Writing about Philosophy and/or
 - Zachary Seech - Writing Philosophy Papers (on reserve in UNO Library)

Course Description

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: An introductory study of basic philosophical concepts and problems.

COURSE OVERVIEW: The aim of this course is to survey the history of western philosophy from its inception in ancient Greece. The focus of the course will not be on any one particular philosopher or school of thought. Rather, we will be trying to discern what it is about certain thinkers that makes them “philosophers” (or what renders certain ways of thinking “philosophical”), why other thinkers and types of discourse are not, and whether or not the distinction is justifiable. We will also be trying to figure out what effects past philosophies have on our present ways of thinking, what significance – either good or bad – that may have for contemporary societies, and whether such thinking should be encouraged or abandoned.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successfully completing this course, students will be able to do the following:

- to recognize philosophical issues.
- to know the various subfields of philosophy and the sorts of questions dealt with by philosophers in those areas.
- to know how to form arguments.
- to know the views of the pre-Socratics regarding the problem of explanations.
- to understand the philosophical issues associated with definitions.
- to identify key figures in the history of Western Thought
- to understand the nature of philosophical argumentation.
- to present and to defend your own views regarding the above issues.
- to read philosophical texts.
- to recognize philosophical questions.
- to define key concepts in philosophical thought.
- to write an analytical text-based argumentative essay.
- to understand the historical development of Western Philosophy, from the Pre-Socratics through Plato and Aristotle.

Grades will be based on a 100 point scale distributed as follows:

Requirement		Final grade	
Term Paper	(25%) 25 points	A	100 – 90 points
Exam 1	(25%) 25 points	B	89 – 80 points
Exam 2	(25%) 25 points	C	79 – 70 points
Exam 3	(25%) 25 points	D	69 – 60 points
		F	59 – 0 points

READINGS:

Students will be expected to keep up on the weekly reading assignments for the course, to have read the material *prior to* class, and to come to class with relevant questions about, and/or criticisms of, those readings.

EXAMS:

There will be 3 in-class examinations on material from the reading and class lectures, and there will be no make-up exams.

TERM PAPER:

Each student will also be required to write a term paper of not less than 2,000 words on a philosophical subject of his or her choice. The paper is due on the last day of class, and will not be accepted late.

Students will also be requested to pay close attention to current news issues (both in order to determine the relevance of philosophy to our present concerns, and to generate a variety of possible paper topics).

The term paper must be submitted in both hard copy and digital form (via Moodle).

Grading:

Each test will count for 25% of the overall score, and the term paper the remaining 25% – (3 x 25% per test = 75%) + (1 x paper @ 25%) = 100%. An overall score of 360 = A; 320 = B; 280 = C; 240 = D; anything less = F. Failing all tests will necessarily result in an F. In-class attendance will decide all borderline cases.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS:

UNO is committed to providing for the needs of students who have disabilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Students who qualify for services will receive academic modifications to which they are legally entitled. It is the responsibility of students who may require such services or modifications to register each semester with the Office of Disability Services (UC 260, 280-6222) and follow its procedures for obtaining assistance.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and to evaluating academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the UNO Judicial Code for further information. The Code is available online: http://www.uno.edu/~stlf/Policy%20Manual/judicial_code_pt2.htm

ATTENDANCE:

Regular *attendance* is also required, and will count toward the final grade. Missing more than 4 days of class will result in the loss of one letter grade (e.g. A + 5 days of absence = B). *And use of objects external to the course (e.g. cell phones, novels) equals absence, as does unconsciousness.*

**CLASSROOM CONDUCT/
SEXUAL HARASSMENT:**

Feel free to say anything to me or to your peers, but tailor your remarks so as not to be uncivil, abusive, or inappropriate. Abusive behavior, personal attacks, or name calling will not be tolerated.

COMPUTERS/PADS:

You may use a computer or tablet with to take notes or access an e-version of the textbook. But you may NOT go online during class – including to check email (Facebook, Twitter, etc.).

INCOMPLETES:

Incompletes are STRONGLY discouraged. Should you need to take an incomplete, arrangements must be made with me well before the last class meeting.

MAKE-UPS:

There are no make-up exams.

PHONES:

Phone calls and texting interrupt class (for both you and your fellow students). So, all phones should be turned off before class begins. And NO texting during class.

WITHDRAWALS:

You may withdraw from this course for any reason. Withdrawal is strictly up to you and none of my business. Look in the course listings for the last day to withdraw without a penalty — a 'W' appearing on your transcript.

PHIL 1000 – Fall 2015 Timeline
(subject to revision)

DAY	TOPIC/READING
(1) Thu Aug. 20	Introduction (Syllabus)
(2) Tue Aug. 25	Term Paper Topics
Thu Aug. 27	Word to Students
(3) Tue Sep. 01	Myth - Read Chapter One (pp.1-9)
Thu Sep. 03	The First Philosophers: Thales & Anaximander – Read Chapter Two (pp.10-14)
(4) Tue Sep. 08	Xenophanes – Read Chapter Two (pp.14-18)
Thu Sep. 10	Heraclitus & The Pythagoreans – Read Chapter Two (pp.19-26)
(5) Tue Sep. 15	Parmenides & Zeno – Read Chapter Two (pp.26-32)
Thu Sep. 17	The Atomists - Read Chapter Two (pp.32-38)
(6) Tue Sep. 22	Exam 1: Chapters 1 & 2
Thu Sep. 24	The Sophists – Read Chapter Three (pp.39-60)
(7) Tue Sep. 29	Socrates – Read Chapter Four (pp.61-72)
Thu Oct. 01	Socrates – Read Chapter Five: Euthyphro (pp.73-87)
(8) Tue Oct. 06	Socrates' Trial & Death – Read Chapter Five: The Apology, Crito, Phaedo (pp.87-118)
Thu Oct. 08	Plato (Knowledge & Opinion) – Read Chapter Six (pp.119-128)
(9) Tue Oct. 13	Plato (The Forms & Wisdom) – Read Chapter Six (pp.128-142)
Thu Oct. 15	NO CLASS: MID-SEMESTER BREAK
(10) Tue Oct. 20	Reading & Term Paper Work
Thu Oct. 22	Plato (Justice & the State) – Read Chapter Six (pp.142-153)
(11) Tue Oct. 27	Review
Thu Oct. 29	Exam 2: Chapters 3,4,5
(12) Tue Nov. 03	Aristotle (Knowledge) – Read Chapter Seven (pp.153-168)
Thu Nov. 05	“
(13) Tue Nov. 10	Aristotle (The Nature of Things) – Read Chapter Seven (pp.169-185)
Thu Nov. 12	“
(14) Tue Nov. 17	Aristotle (The Good Life) – Read Chapter Seven (pp.185-198)
Thu Nov. 19	“
(15) Tue Nov. 24	The Epicureans – Read Chapter Eight (pp.199-205)
Thu Nov. 26	The Stoics – Read Chapter Eight (pp.205-210)
(16) Tue Dec. 01	The Skeptics – Read Chapter Eight (pp.210-217)
Thu Dec. 03	Term Paper Due
Tue Dec. 8	Exam 3: Chapters 7 & 8 (10 am)

