

Fall 2015

PHIL 1000

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University of New Orleans

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PHIL 1000: Introduction to Philosophy (3 credits)

SECTION 476 & 585: Online

Contact Information

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Office: UNO: LA 391
Office Hours: MWF1-2; TTh 10:45-11; 12:15-1 (and by appointment)
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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, 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 understand the historical development of Western Philosophy, from the Pre-Socratics through Plato and Aristotle.

Grades will be based on a 400 point scale distributed as follows:

Requirement		Final grade	
Exam 1	(25%) 100 points	A	360 - 400 points
Exam 2	(25%) 100 points	B	320 - 359 points
Exam 3	(25%) 100 points	C	280 - 319 points
Term Paper	(25%) 100 points	D	240 - 279 points
		F	0 - 239 points

READINGS:

Students will be expected to keep up on the weekly reading assignments for the course, and to formulate relevant questions about, and/or criticisms of, those readings.

EXAMS:

There will be 3 online examinations on material from the reading and class lectures. Each exam will consist of 50 questions each, with each question worth 2 points.

Students will also be requested to pay close attention to current news issues (in order to determine the relevance of philosophy to present-day concerns).

The University of New Orleans partners with Proctor U, a live, proctoring service that allows students to complete exams from any location using a computer, webcam, and reliable internet.

TERM PAPER:

Each student will write a term paper on a philosophical topic of his or her choice. The term paper is expected to be a research paper, including references and citations, with a minimum word length of 2,000 words and complying with the term paper description provided in the course. The paper is due at the end of the semester.

Grading:

Each test will count for 25% of the overall score, and the term paper the remaining 25% – (3 exams X 25% per test = 75%) + (final exam x 25% = 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. Since UNO does not use pluses and minuses, borderline cases will be determined by submission of weekly assignments.

Withdrawal Policy – Undergraduate only

Students are responsible for initiating action to resign from the University (withdraw from all courses) or from a course on or before dates indicated in the current Important dates calendar. Students who fail to resign by the published final date for such action will be retained on the class rolls even though they may be absent for the remainder of the semester and be graded as if they were in attendance. Failure to attend classes does not constitute a resignation. Check the dates on the Registrar's website, <http://www.registrar.uno.edu>. Consult The Bulletin for charges associated w/dropping & adding courses.

Incomplete Policy – Undergraduate only

The grade of I means *incomplete* and is given for work of passing quality but which, because of circumstances beyond the student's control, is not complete. The issuance of the grade of I is at the discretion of the faculty member teaching the course. For all graduate and undergraduate students, a grade of I becomes a grade of F if it is not converted before the deadline for adding courses for credit (as printed in the Important Dates Calendar) of the next regular semester including summer semester.

Repeat Policy

When a student is permitted to repeat a course for credit, the last grade earned shall be the one which determines course acceptability for degree credit. A student who has earned a C or better in a course may not repeat that course unless, (1) the catalog description indicates that the course may be repeated for credit, or (2) the student's Dean gives prior approval for documented extenuating circumstances.

Graduate Policies

Graduate policies often vary from undergraduate policies. To view the applicable policies for graduate students, see the Graduate Student Handbook: <http://www.uno.edu/grad/documents/GraduateStudentHandbook2014.pdf>

Academic Dishonesty Policy

<http://www.uno.edu/student-affairs-enrollment-management/documents/academic-dishonesty-policy-rev2014.pdf>

Safety Awareness Facts and Education

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender is a Civil Rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources here: <http://www.uno.edu/student-affairs-enrollment-management/>

UNO Counseling Services and UNO Cares

UNO offers care and support for students in any type of distress. Counseling Services assist students in addressing mental health concerns through assessment, short-term counseling, and career testing and counseling. Find out more at <http://www.uno.edu/counseling-services/>. First-year students often have unique concerns, and UNO Cares is designed to address those students succeed. Contact UNO Cares through <http://www.uno.edu/fye/uno-cares.aspx>.

Emergency Procedures

Sign up for emergency notifications via text and/or email at E2Campus Notification: <http://www.uno.edu/ehso/emergency-communications/index.aspx>. All emergency and safety procedures are explained at the Emergency Health and Safety Office: <http://www.uno.edu/ehso/>.

Diversity at UNO

As the most diverse public university in the state, UNO maintains a Diversity Affairs division to support the university's efforts towards creating an environment of healthy respect, tolerance, and appreciation for the people from all walks of life, and the expression of intellectual point of view and personal lifestyle. The Office of Diversity Affairs promotes these values through a wide range of programming and activities. <http://diversity.uno.edu/index.cfm>

Learning and Support Services

Help is within reach in the form of learning support services, including tutoring in writing and math and other supplemental instruction. Visit the Learning Resource Center, LA 334 – or: <http://www.uno.edu/lrc/>.

Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity

UNO is an equal opportunity employer. The Human Resource Management department has more information on UNO's compliance with federal and state regulations regarding EEOC in its Policies and Resources website: <http://www.uno.edu/human-resource-management/policies.aspx>

PHIL 1000 – Fall 2015 Timeline
(subject to revision)

DAY	TOPIC/READING
Week 1 8/19-23	Introduction (Syllabus) – Moodle & iTunesU
Week 2 8/24-30	Term Paper Topics, Word to Students & Myth - Read Chapter One (pp. 1-9)
Week 3 8/31-9/6	First Philosophers: Thales – Read Chapter Two (pp. 10-12)
Week 4 9/7-13	First Philosophers: Anaximander – Read Chapter Two (pp. 12-14)
Week 5 9/14-20	First Philosophers: Xenophanes – Read Chapter Two (pp. 14-18)
Week 6 9/21-9/27	Heraclitus & The Pythagoreans – Read Chapter Two (pp. 19-26)
Week 7 9/28-10/4	Parmenides & Zeno – Read Chapter Two (pp. 26-32)
Week 8 10/5-11	The Atomists - Read Chapter Two (pp. 32-38) & Exam 1: Chapters 1 & 2
Week 9 10/12-18	The Sophists – Read Chapter Three (pp. 39-60) & Socrates: Chapter Four (pp. 61-72)
Week 10 10/19-25	Socrates – Read Chapter Five: <i>Euthyphro</i> , <i>The Apology</i> , <i>Crito</i> , <i>Phaedo</i> (pp. 73-118)
Week 11 10/26-11/1	Plato (Knowledge & Opinion, The Forms & Wisdom) – Read Chapter Six (pp.119-142)
Week 12 11/2-8	Plato (Justice & the State) – Chapter Six (pp.142-153) & Exam 2: Chapters 3,4,5,6
Week 13 11/9-15	Aristotle (Knowledge & The Nature of Things) – Read Chapter Seven (pp. 153-185)
Week 14 11/16-22	Aristotle (The Good Life) – Read Chapter Seven (pp. 185-198)
Week 15 11/23-29	The Epicureans – Read Chapter Eight (pp. 199-205)
Week 16 11/30-12-4	The Stoics & The Skeptics – Read Chapter Eight (pp. 205-217)
Finals Week	Term Paper Due & Exam 3: Chapters 7 & 8

Important Dates*

Last day to adjust schedule w/out fee 08/18/2015
 Semester Classes Begin 08/19/2015
 Last day to adjust schedule w/fee,
 or withdraw with 100% refund 08/25/2015
 Last day to apply for December commencement 09/25/2015
 Final day to drop a course or resign 10/14/2015
 Mid-semester examinations 10/05-10/09/2015
 Final examinations 12/07-12/11/2015
 Commencement 12/18/2015

*Note: check Registrar's website for Saturday and A/B sessions, and for items not listed here:
<http://www.registrar.uno.edu>

Fall Semester Holidays

Labor Day 09/07/2015
 Mid-semester break 10/15-10/16/2015
 Thanksgiving 11/26-11/27/2015

