

Fall 2015

## PHIL 1000

Chris W. Surprenant  
*University of New Orleans*

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## PHIL 1000: Introduction to Philosophy (3 credits)

### Contact Information

**UNO Instructor:** Dr. Chris W. Surprenant  
**Section Leader:** Mr. Crawford Crews  
**Section Leader:** Mr. Kenny Mathews  
**Office:** UNO: LA 387  
**Office Hours:** Monday (via Skype): 2:00pm – 4:00pm CST  
Tuesday (via Skype): 11:00am – 12:00pm CST  
Thursday (office): 1:00pm – 4:00pm CST  
**Office Phone:** (504) 280-6819  
**Surprenant Email:** csurpren@uno.edu  
**Surprenant Skype:**  
**Crews Email:**  
**Crews Skype:**  
**Mathews Email:**  
**Course Webpages:** Accessed via Moodle.

### Texts

[1] *The Good Life*, edited by C. Guignon, Hackett Publishing, 1999. ISBN: 0872204383

Other readings provided online through Moodle.

### Course Description

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

**COURSE OVERVIEW:** This course is an introduction to the study of philosophy, the nature of philosophical problems, and the central ideas and thinkers in the history of philosophy. The focus of our course is on the characteristics of, and how to live, a good life. Some questions we will consider are: What is a good life? What is the connection between living a good life and getting whatever we want, whenever we want? What would it mean to live in a world where we got whatever we wanted, whenever we wanted? Is such a world possible? Is it desirable? What is required for human flourishing? Why, if at all, it is better to live in the real world than to live in a virtual world or utopia where all of our needs and desires are satisfied? What kind of society provides us the opportunity to live good lives? What is the role of the community or state in this process?

### Student Learning Outcomes

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

- recognize philosophical questions
- know the various subfields of philosophy and the sorts of questions dealt with by philosophers in those areas
- understand theories central to philosophy and how these theories can be applied to contemporary problems
- work with philosophical concepts and methods, and to construct and evaluate arguments
- participate in classroom discussion, developing and displaying an ability and readiness to defend one's own point of view while listening openly but carefully to others
- demonstrate a willingness to entertain criticism, formulate and reply to reasonable objections, and represent opposing views both critically and sympathetically
- read both primary and secondary texts and analyze the arguments contained in them correctly

## Grading

Requirement		Final grade	
<b>First Paper</b>	(15%) 15 points	<b>A</b>	100 – 89.5 points
<b>Second Paper</b>	(15%) 15 points	<b>B</b>	89.4 – 79.5 points
<b>Third Paper</b>	(15%) 15 points	<b>C</b>	79.4 – 69.5 points
<b>Final Paper / Project</b>	(25%) 25 points	<b>D</b>	69.4 – 59.5 points
<b>Class Participation</b>	(30%) 30 points	<b>F</b>	59.4 — 0 points

## Course Requirements

**Attendance and Class Participation:** The University of New Orleans has a strict attendance policy. Attendance and intelligent participation at all class meetings is expected. Attendance will be kept via the response papers due at the beginning of each class. In addition to in-class discussion, all students are expected to participate in course discussion via the online message boards.

**Daily Response Paper:** For each class period, each student should submit a 100-200 word response paper in which you: (1) identifies what you believe to be the most important issue addressed in the reading for the class, and (2) why you believe this issue is the most important. The purpose of the response papers is for us to see what you are getting out of the reading and what you found interesting. While these papers are not graded formally, they will count towards your class participation grade. More often than not, response papers will not be returned

**Papers:** Three papers are due during the course of the semester. Their due dates are listed on the course schedule. The first, second, and third papers should be no longer than 1000 words each, not including references. The final paper should be no longer than 1500 words. Additional information about the papers, including writing prompts, will be provided in class.

**Final Project:** In lieu of the final paper, students may choose to participate in the Tocqueville Project's "Well-Being Project" at UNO. Information about this competitive, entrepreneurial service project can be found on the Tocqueville Project's website, [tocqueville.uno.edu](http://tocqueville.uno.edu).

## Course Policies

**Academic Honesty:** Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and 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 Student Code of Conduct for further information. The Code is available online at <http://www.studentaffairs.uno.edu>. Each student is required to pledge that all completed work will be submitted according to the principles of academic integrity as defined in the statement on Academic Dishonesty in the UNO Student Code of Conduct.

**Attendance:** The University of New Orleans has a strict attendance policy. Attendance and intelligent participation at all class meetings is expected. Attendance will be kept via the response papers due at the beginning of each class.

**Disabilities:** It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services as well as their instructors to discuss their individual needs for accommodations. For more information, please go to <http://www.ods.uno.edu>.

**Dual-Enrollment:** All students enrolled in this course will be dual-enrolled as students in PHIL 1000 at the University of New Orleans. Students must abide by UNO student policies, as well as the policies of their own high school.

**Late Starts:** There are no special dispensations for late-start students.

**Late Work:** For each day an assignment is late, you will be penalized 1/2 of a letter grade.

## Course Schedule

*All page numbers listed are from the course text. Other readings have been provided on Moodle. Additional readings for each week may be provided on Moodle.*

8/16 – 8/22 Course Introduction

8/23 – 8/29 What is the value of philosophy?  
Plato, *Euthyphro*  
Plato, *Apology*

8/30 – 9/1 Can philosophy help us live a good life?  
Plato, *Crito*  
Aristophanes, *Clouds*

*Sunday, September 6, 9:00pm CST - First Paper Due*

9/6 – 9/12 Justice and the Good Life  
selections from Plato, *Republic* (pp.10-21)

9/13 – 9/19 Virtue and the Good Life  
selections from Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* (pp. 22-41) and *Politics*

9/20 – 9/26 The Stoic Way of Life  
selections from Epictetus (pp. 53-72)  
selections from Epicurus, *Letter on Happiness*

9/27 – 10/3 Religious Way of Life  
Buddha, “The Foundation of the Kingdom of Righteousness” (pp. 73-78)  
Augustine, *Confessions* (pp. 79-91)  
Martin Luther, “The Freedom of a Christian” (pp. 92-102)  
Dostoyevsky, “The Russian Monk,” from *Brothers Karamazov* (pp. 103-131)

10/4 – 10/10 Religious Way of Life – Faith and Reason  
Pascal, *Pensees* (pp. 199-203) and other selections  
Anselm, selections from *Proslogion*  
Descartes, selections from *Meditations on First Philosophy*

*Sunday, October 11, 9:00pm CST – Second Paper Due*

10/11 – 10/17 The Self and the World  
Descartes, selections from *Meditations on First Philosophy*  
Hume, selections from *Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*  
Russell, selections from *The Problems of Philosophy*

10/18 – 10/24 Self-Exploration  
Michel de Montaigne, “Of Experience,” from the *Essays* (pp. 183-198)  
Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Emile* (pp. 204-210)

10/25 – 10/31 Self-Realization

Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Gay Science* (pp. 227-240) and selections from *The Genealogy of Morality*

11/1 – 11/7 Law, Community, and the State

Karl Marx, “Alienated Labor” (pp. 271-280) and selections from *The Communist Manifesto*

11/8 – 11/14 Law, Community, and the State (cont.)

Adam Smith, selections from *The Wealth of Nations* and *The Theory of Moral Sentiments*

11/15 – 11/21 Moral Relativism

Jesse Prinz, “Morality is a Culturally Conditioned Response”

James Rachels, “The Challenge of Cultural Relativism”

*Sunday, November 22, 9:00pm CST – Third Paper Due*

11/22 – 11/28 No Class, Thanksgiving

11/15 – 11/21 Moral Relativism

Allan Bloom, *The Closing of the American Mind*, Introduction and Ch. 1

*Saturday, December 12, 9:00pm CST – Final Paper/Project Due*