



University of International Business and Economics International Summer School

PHI 110 Introduction to Philosophy

Term: May 28-June 28, 2018

Instructor: Colin McLarty

Home Institution: Case Western Reserve University

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Class Hours: Monday through Thursday, 120 minutes each day

Office Hours: TBD

Discussion Session: 2 hours each week

Total Contact Hours: 66 contact hours (45 minutes each)

Credit: 4 units

Course Description:

This course explores the key questions of western philosophy: “what is real?” “what can we know?,” “how do we know it?,” “do we act freely?,” “what should we do?” Students will read, analyze, and discuss prominent works on these enduring questions by major philosophers from Plato’s Republic with its famous cave metaphor through Descartes and his method of doubt, to Kant and Hegel the rise of modern science and scientific thinking – and computers. We move back and forth between theories of ethics and theories of knowledge. Classes will include small group discussions, with different groups assigned different topics related to the readings, and with each group reporting a summary of their discussion to the class. Exam questions will be based on the lecture and reading assignments and also the class discussion. So the best answers on exams will be those that also relate the student’s own ideas to other ideas expressed in class.

Course Goals:

A student who satisfactorily completes this course will be able to:

- ✧ recognize the key themes and thinkers of western philosophy;
- ✧ carefully consider viewpoints that look very odd at first---and recognize that different ones do look odd to different people!
- ✧ learn to articulate, criticize, evaluate your own arguments on these issues;
- ✧ use methods and content acquired in the course to analyse practical examples;
- ✧ contribute to, and learn from, careful respectful scholarly dialogue.

Required Textbook:

Readings from the original sources are specified in the course schedule, and will be made available on the course website.

Grading Policy:

Grading will be determined by a combination of class attendance and participation, in-class group and individual writing assignments, and the results of your exams. Attendance and Participation 20%. In class writings (Cumulative) 20% Exam 1, 25%. Final Exam 35%.

Grading Scale:

Assignments and examinations will be graded according to the following grade scale:

A	90-100	C+	72-74
A-	85-89	C	68-71
B+	82-84	C-	64-67
B	78-81	D	60-63
B-	75-77	F	below 60

Class Rules:

Students are expected to come to lecture having read the material assigned for the day, and prepared to engage in active discussion about those ideas. Philosophy is done by dialogue; we progress in philosophy by active exchange of ideas with one another.

Attendance Policy:

Summer school is very intense and to be successful, students need to attend every class. Occasionally, due to illness or other unavoidable circumstance, a student may need to miss a class. UIBE policy requires a medical certificate to be excused. Any unexcused absence may affect the student's grade. Moreover, UIBE policy is that a student who has more than 1/3 (6 times) of the class in unexcused absences will fail the course.

Course Schedule:

WEEK ONE

Mon: Introductions: First description of philosophy

Tues: Plato ethics, *Republic* Book I.

Wed: Plato on reality and education: the "divided line" (*Republic* 509d–511e) and the cave (*Republic* 514a–520a). In class writing on Plato.

Thurs: Aristotle excerpts: *Physics* (184a) on inquiry and nature, *Prior Analytics* (24a) on logic, *Metaphysics* 980 about how "All men by nature desire to know." Lecture on the Greek universe as an example of Aristotle's physics.

WEEK TWO

Mon: Galileo, his discoveries, read his "Letter to the Grand Duchess Christina" on religion and the earth's motion.

Tues: Descartes "Discourse on method" Part I–III on his schooling, work, and doubts.

Weds: Descartes "Discourse on method" Part IV on his philosophical answer. "I think therefore I am" and dualism.

Thurs: review, and Exam 1

WEEK THREE

Mon: Newton's "four rules of natural philosophy" and Hume's project of moral philosophy in excerpts from his *Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*.



Tues: Kant's "Introduction" to the *Critique of Pure Reason* (B ed.) on the existing sciences, metaphysics, and the goal of critique.

Wed: Kant on ethics, lecture and short excerpts.

Thurs: Small group discussions and writing on ethics

WEEK FOUR

Mon: Hegel on freedom, read his *Philosophy of Mind* § 482.

Tues: Mill *Utilitarianism* chapters 1,2.

Weds: Nietzsche "maxims and arrows" and "how the real world at last became a myth."

Thurs: Is philosophy now completed? In class writing

WEEK FIVE

Mon: Searle "Minds, Brains, and Programs" on computer intelligence.

Tues: Special topic to be chosen by the class, during the term.

Weds: Review of the course

Thurs: Review and Final Exam