

SPRING 2024

Topic Book
HSS ELECTIVE
Introduction to Philosophical Problems

Course Information

	Instructor:	Professor Robyn Najar
	Office:	Zone 3 Office 320B
Credit hours: 3	Email:	robyn.najar@scupi.cn
	Tel (Main Office):	28-6259-6919
	Office hours:	
		Wednesday 4:30-6:30pm
		Thursday 4:30-6:30pm
		Friday 12:00-2:00pm
		and any other time by appointment.
Room: Zone 4-203	Prerequisites:	ENGCMP200

REFERENCE BOOKS

Grayling, A. C. (2019). The history of philosophy. Penguin Books Ltd. ISBN 978-0-241-30455-6

Perry, J., Bratman, M. & Fischer, J. M. (1993). Introduction to philosophy: Classical and contemporary readings (7th edition). NY: Oxford University Press. ISBN 978-0-19-020023-7

Russell, B. (2021). The problems of philosophy. UK: Timeless Classics Publishing.

Course Description

Introduction to Philosophy is a study of the basic problems and methods of philosophical inquiry, concentrating on the work of such major thinkers as Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Aquinas, Descartes, Hume, Kant, Hegel, Marx, Kierkegaard, and Sartre. Topics of discussion include the nature of philosophy; the nature and limits of human knowledge; the nature and existence of God; the scope and limits of human freedom; the differences between right and wrong conduct; the nature of the good life; and the meaning and value of human existence.

Student Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. identify the major periods and the major figures in the history of Western philosophy;
2. identify and analyze the basic problems of philosophy in the fields of metaphysics, axiology, and epistemology;
3. interpret, summarize, and paraphrase the views of philosophers as expressed in philosophical texts;
4. use the logical and critical thinking methods of philosophy to analyze and evaluate the ways in which philosophers attempt to solve the problems of philosophy
5. locate, evaluate, and use effectively information from a variety of relevant sources;

6. state and support in clear, logical, and concise writing their own views on philosophical issues;
7. participate actively in discussions of philosophical ideas and issues (Propose alternative arguments to claims)
8. Contribute actively and work cooperatively in class

In pursuit of the student learning objectives, the course is based on the reading and discussion of philosophical writings in the fields of metaphysics, axiology, and epistemology; the basic principles and methods of logical reasoning are introduced; the techniques of philosophical research and writing are reviewed; students are given the opportunity and are encouraged to participate actively in class discussions; and students are required to do expository and critical writing in response to the material presented in the course.

Course Assessment

In this course students will complete the following:

Assignment	Outcomes Addressed	Percentage of Final Grade	Week due
1. Participation and routine writing and discussion (class work, HW forums, formal outlines, individual & group presentations; class discussions)	Outcomes 1-8	60%	Continuous assessment 1-16
2. Formal paper with outline	Outcomes 1-8	40%	15

Please note:

Electronic devices such as mobile phones must be on silent and put away during lesson time, unless advised by your instructor.

SYLLABUS/COURSE SCHEDULE
Subject to change at professor's discretion

Remember to ALWAYS bring your laptop/tablet/iPad to class charged and ready to use.

Lesson	Topic for lesson	Pre-reading: before lesson	Assignments due:
1	<p>Introductions</p> <p>Topic requirements</p> <p>Attendance</p> <p>Group work</p> <p>Class Code of Conduct</p> <p>Introduction: The Nature of Philosophy</p> <p>Plato, "Allegory of the Cave"</p> <p>Locate, evaluate, and use effectively, information from a variety of relevant sources</p> <p>Citation style APA 7 style</p>	<p>Read Blackboard (BB) Content LESSON 1 files</p> <p>Topic Book LESSON 1 Using the Forum</p>	
<p>Homework 1 (HW1)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Forum HW 1.1: Self-Introduction (200 words). Post before 6:00pm day BEFORE Lesson 2. 2. Forum HW 1.2: Make one question about Topic Book information. Post by 12noon before Lesson 2. 3. Forum QUESTION 1: Philosophy. Post QUESTION 1, WHY PHILOSOPHY PPT, slide 5 responses. Post by 12noon before Lesson 2. 4. Read Plato's "Allegory of the Cave" 5. Read BB Content LESSON 2 files 			
2	<p>Review HW 1</p> <p>Topic Book Quiz</p> <p>ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY</p> <p>Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle</p>		HW 1

Lesson	Topic for lesson	Pre-reading: before lesson	Assignments due:
	Identify the major periods and the major figures in the history of Western philosophy.		
Homework 2 1. Read BB Content LESSON 3 files			
3	Review HW 2 ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY Identify the major periods and the major figures in the history of Western philosophy.		HW 2
Homework 3 1. Read BB Content LESSON 4 files			
4	Review HW3 ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY AFTER ARISTOTLE Cynics and Sceptics; The Epicureans; Stoicism; The Roman Empire in Relation to Culture; Plotinus Identify the major periods and the major figures in the history of Western philosophy.		HW 3
Homework 4 1. Read Blackboard (BB) Content LESSON 5 files			

Lesson	Topic for lesson	Pre-reading: before lesson	Assignments due:
5	Review HW 4 ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY AFTER ARISTOTLE GROUP PRESENTATIONS		HW 4
Homework 5 1. Read Blackboard (BB) Content LESSON 6 files			
6	Review HW 5 CATHOLIC PHILOSOPHY The Fathers; The Schoolmen GROUP PRESENTATIONS	Read Blackboard (BB) Content LESSON 6 files	HW 5
Homework 6 1. Read Blackboard (BB) Content LESSON 7 files			
7	Review HW 6 MODERN PHILOSOPHY Renaissance to Hume Outlines GROUP PRESENTATIONS	Read Blackboard (BB) Content LESSON 7 files	
Homework 7 1. Read Blackboard (BB) Content LESSON 8 files			
8	Review HW 7 MODERN PHILOSOPHY Renaissance to Hume GROUP PRESENTATIONS	Read Blackboard (BB) Content LESSON 8 files	HW 7
Homework 8			

Lesson	Topic for lesson	Pre-reading: before lesson	Assignments due:
1. Read Blackboard (BB) Content LESSON 9 files			
9	Review HW 8 MODERN PHILOSOPHY From Rousseau to the Present Day INDIVIDUAL POSTER PRESENTATIONS GROUP PRESENTATIONS	Read Blackboard (BB) Content LESSON 9 files	HW 8 POSTER PRESENTATION DUE
Homework 9 1. Read Blackboard (BB) Content LESSON 10 files			
10	Review HW 9 MODERN PHILOSOPHY From Rousseau to the Present Day Introduce ASSIGNMENT 2: FINAL PAPER INDIVIDUAL POSTER PRESENTATIONS GROUP PRESENTATIONS	Read Blackboard (BB) Content LESSON 10 files	HW 9 POSTER PRESENTATION DUE
Homework 10 1. Read Blackboard (BB) Content LESSON 11 files			
11	Review HW 10 INDIVIDUAL POSTER PRESENTATIONS	Read Blackboard (BB) Content LESSON 11 files	POSTER PRESENTATION DUE

Lesson	Topic for lesson	Pre-reading: before lesson	Assignments due:
	GROUP PRESENTATIONS		OUTLINE FOR FINAL PAPER DUE
Homework 11 1. Read Blackboard (BB) Content LESSON 12 files			
12	Review HW 11 INDIVIDUAL POSTER PRESENTATIONS GROUP PRESENTATIONS		POSTER PRESENTATION DUE
Homework 10 1. Read Blackboard (BB) Content LESSON 13 files			
13	Review HW 12 INDIVIDUAL POSTER PRESENTATIONS GROUP PRESENTATIONS		POSTER PRESENTATION DUE
Homework 13 1. Read Blackboard (BB) Content LESSON 14 files			
14	Review HW 13 INDIVIDUAL POSTER PRESENTATIONS GROUP PRESENTATIONS		POSTER PRESENTATION DUE

Homework 14 1. Read Blackboard (BB) Content LESSON 15 files			
15	Review HW 14 The Limits of Philosophical Knowledge INDIVIDUAL POSTER PRESENTATIONS GROUP PRESENTATIONS		POSTER PRESENTATION DUE ASSIGNMENT 2: FINAL PAPER DUE
Homework 15 1. Read Blackboard (BB) Content LESSON 16 files			
16	Review & Discussion The Value of Philosophical Knowledge SETs		
Thank you for your hard work and cooperation 😊			

Attendance

Students who miss more than two classes without a doctor/counselor note will be deducted half of a letter grade for each additional absence (5 points out of a hundred from your final class average). Arriving late, leaving class during the lecture, or leaving the class early without prior permission will be recorded—missing class three times in any of these manners will be counted as one absence. All absences require an official note from the doctor or the office with a red stamp. Please let your professor know ahead of time via WeChat or email.

Student Use of Electronic Technology Policy:

Students must use electronic technology (including cell phones, laptops, tablets, and iPads) in appropriate ways during classes. Out of respect, cell phones should generally be turned off or on silent and stored out of sight. They should not be used during classroom activities unless the instructor has given permission. Electronic devices are forbidden during quizzes, tests or other in-class graded assignments, unless the instructor has given permission.

Technology use in this class is meant to improve the learning environment for all students. Please be respectful of your instructor and classmates and use the technology appropriately. If you have questions about what this means, please talk to your individual instructor.

Recording:

To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas, students may NOT record classroom lectures, discussions, and/or activities without the advance written permission of the instructor, and any such recording properly recorded in advance can be used solely for the student's own private study.

Make-up Policy for Missed Assignments and Tests:

Students are responsible for the assignments in their classes. **You are responsible for making up missed work; your teacher is not responsible for reminding you about missed work.**

Assignments include in-class activities, quizzes, tests, homework, and any other work related to classes. No late work will be accepted without instructor approval.

- If you are absent from class, you should refer to Blackboard (BB) for the LESSON PLAN and relevant files.
- If you are absent from class, you should speak with one of the students in your group/class to find out what work was missed.
- If you cannot find out from another student about what work you have missed, when you return to class you must talk to your teacher about the missed work.
- If you are absent from class on the due date of an assignment, you must still hand in the assignment on the due date.
- If you know you will be absent, talk to your teacher before you leave.
- If you have not been absent from class and you want to hand in an assignment late, you must first discuss the reason with your teacher before or on the due date. Do not assume that your teacher will accept late assignments. You will lose points for late work in this situation.
- If you and your teacher arrange to meet so that you can make up an assignment and you miss that meeting, you will receive a "0" for that assignment.

SCUPI Honor Code:

Students in this course must follow the SCUPI Honor Code. This includes:

- must not get help from anyone to do his/her work without the teacher's permission.
- must not get help from any outside sources to do his/her work without the teacher's permission.
- must not copy the words of another and present those words as his/her own work.

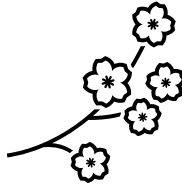
Participating in these activities can result in an F. Turning in work that is not your own can result in an F.

Policy and process for plagiarism: First instance will result in failure in assignment and the option of a re-write; second instance will result in failure of assignment and meeting with the Dean; third instance will result in failure in the course and referral to university officials for Honor Code violation.

Participation:

Active participation is crucial for language learning. Participating makes you an engaged learner of English. In this class participation means:

- cooperation
- arriving to class on time
- staying on task (including appropriate use of technology)
- actively listening to your classmates and teacher when they speak in class
- asking questions
- bringing all class materials
- consideration
- attending class regularly
- completing all homework on time
- actively and constructively participating in class activities
- being prepared to answer questions
- using English in class



Thank you