

**Missouri State University
College of Humanities and Public Affairs
Department of Philosophy**

**Fall 2015
Syllabus & Tentative Schedule**

Course: Introduction to Philosophy, PHI 110, Section 752 (iCourse)

Credit hours: 3

Time and Location: Tuesday, October 13, 5:30, Strong 002 (the rest of the course—except exams—is on-line and asynchronous)

In-class Exam Dates: October 27, November 17, December 8. (All in Strong 002, starting at 5:30)

Instructor: Patrick Beach, Ph.D.

Email: patrickbeach@missouristate.edu

Office: Strong 329

Telephone 417-836-5720 (I am far more reliably contacted on email)

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 3:30–4:30, Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:00–12:00, and by appointment

Course Website: blackboard.missouristate.edu

Communication Policy: I will respond to emails within 24 hours (but usually sooner). The same is expected of students.

Required Materials

- Aristotle. *The Nicomachean Ethics*. Ed. by Lesley Brown (editor) and David Ross (translator). ISBN-10: 0199213615. Oxford University Press, 2009
- Rene Descartes. *Meditations on First Philosophy*. Ed. by John Cottingham. ISBN-13: 978-0521558181. Cambridge University Press, 1641/1996
- John Locke. *Second Treatise of Government*. Ed. by C.B Macpherson. ISBN-13: 9780915144860. Hackett, 1690/1980
- John Stuart Mill. *Utilitarianism*. Ed. by George Sher. second. ISBN-13: 9780872206052. Hackett, 1863/2001
- Supplemental materials will be posted on or linked from Blackboard.

- Lectures can be accessed either from
 - Youtube playlist: <http://tinyurl.com/nwcdhrhd> or
 - iTunes U: <http://tinyurl.com/qb8oprg> (you must have iTunes installed for this option to work)

Course Description

General Education Course (Focus on Humanities). This course explores various ways of understanding the human self and its relation to the world. Through a consideration of what can be known, what is worth valuing, what reality is, and how human communities should be composed and regulated, the course deals with central themes that arise from the human quest for deeper self-understanding.

Course Goal

General Goal (9): Students will cultivate their intellect, imagination, and creativity as they develop an understanding of how social, cultural, linguistic, artistic, religious, philosophical, and historical contexts have shaped the thoughts and actions of people worldwide.

Student Learning Outcomes

- SLO9.1 Understand how various forms of written, oral, musical, visual, and bodily expression contribute to human knowledge and experience.
- SLO9.2 Utilize knowledge of various critical and theoretical frameworks to analyze and respond to works in humanities and the arts.
- SLO9.4 Interpret texts and other cultural products in ways that reflect informed understanding of relevant contextual factors, including socio-cultural influence and cultural traditions, perspectives, and behavioral patterns.
- SLO9.5 Analytically compare the influences of community, institutions, and other constructions such as class, gender, and race on the ways of thinking, believing, and acting in cultural and historical settings other than one's own.

Course Requirements

Work Load Estimates: This is a second block course, which means that you will be expected to do a full semester's work in half the time. In a typical week, you should expect to devote about 12-20 hours to reading, viewing lectures, additional studying, and writing exams for this course. Sometimes the readings are long and sometimes they are quite difficult. You will need to invest time in preparing for class.

Means of Assessment: Three exams to be taken on specified days. I do not allow make up work except in cases which can be documented for (a) a death in your family, (b) extreme illness, (c) religious observation, and (d) you are representing MSU in some official capacity. Exams are open-book and open-note, but there will be a two-hour time limit. Any materials accessed must be hard-copies (you will not be allowed to be on the internet during the exam).

Extra Credit: I offer no extra credit. Take your grades seriously from day one of this course. At the end of the semester there is *nothing* you can do to improve your grade other than do your best on the remaining exams.

Grading Proportions

Exams: 100% (40% each for the two exams with the student's highest score, 20% for the exam with the student's lowest score).

Grading Scale

93–100%	= A
90–92%	= A-
87–89%	= B+
83–85%	= B
80–82%	= B-
77–79%	= C+
73–76%	= C
70–72%	= C-
67–69%	= D+
60–66%	= D
0–59%	= F

See <http://www.missouristate.edu/registrar/catalog/grades.html> for an explanation of what the grades mean.

Advice

- Read the material carefully and take reading notes as you go along. Mark up the text in meaningful ways as you read. Be prepared to read and re-read the material. Philosophy *cannot* be skimmed.
- Take good lecture notes, rewrite them for clarity, and review them often. This will aid you greatly in understanding the material.

- Write summaries of the readings, and write up what you think are the muddiest points in your understanding of the material. Come see me or email me with questions about those muddy points
- Get help with any writing problems that you know you have. I can help you and the writing center can help you. I expect college-level reading and writing skills.
- Come to office hours and we can talk about the material. I am the most informed person you can talk to about this class.
- Philosophy is a *content-laden* discipline. We will pay attention to a lot of fine-grained details. So while looking at the big picture helps, much of what we will attend to (and you will be responsible for) is at the micro level. The devil is in the details.
- Students may vary in their abilities to read and write at the college level. You can expect to acquire these abilities only if you honor all course policies, complete all assigned work in good faith, and meet all other course expectations of you as a student.

Policies

- Students who cheat or plagiarize will fail the course with a grade of XF. Refer to the Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures. It is available at the reserve desk at Meyer Library and at http://www.missouristate.edu/policy/0p3_01_AcademicIntegrityStudents.htm.
- Reasonable accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities. If you have a disability and may need accommodations to fully participate in this class, please visit the Disability Resource Center. <http://www.missouristate.edu/disability/>
- Respectful, professional, and civil conduct and communication is the expected norm for the class.
- You are expected to check your MSU email daily and respond to any email that I send you (seeking a response) within 24 hours. You do not need to respond to informative emails from me. Any emails sent to me should be written to a professional standard (see “How to Email Your Professor” on Blackboard).
- The schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, or to ensure better student learning.

Tentative Schedule

Last Updated: July 17, 2016
 (Subject to Revision)

Note: Readings are posted as PDFs on Blackboard (BB) or in the texts you've purchased (TEXT). The dates for the exams listed. These are in-class exams.

Topics, Readings, & Lectures	Exams
<p>Topic 1: Personhood, Identity, and Responsibility Reading: No reading for Lecture 1 Lecture 1: General Remarks on Personhood and Identity</p> <p>Study Guide: Descartes on Self and Identity (BB) Reading for Lectures 2–3: Rene Descartes, Excerpts from <i>Discourse on the Method, Meditations on First Philosophy</i>, and selected <i>Letters</i> (BB) Lecture 2: Mind and Body Dualism Lecture 3: Mind and Body Dualism II</p> <p>Study Guide: Locke on Persons and Personal Identity (BB) Reading for Lectures 4–5: John Locke, "On Identity and Diversity," from <i>An Essay Concerning Human Understanding</i> (BB) Lecture 4: Self, Consciousness, and Responsibility Lecture 5: Self, Consciousness, and Responsibility II</p> <p>Lecture 6: A Mentalist Myth? Study Guide: Gilbert Ryle, "Descartes' Myth" (BB) Reading for Lecture 7: Gilbert Ryle, "Descartes' Myth" (BB) Lecture 7: A Mentalist Myth? II</p> <p>Study Guide: Skinner (BB) Reading for Lectures 8–9: B.F. Skinner, Excerpts from <i>Beyond Freedom and Dignity</i> (BB) Lecture 8: A New Science of Man Lecture 9: A New Science of Man II</p>	<p>Exam 1: Oct 27</p>
<p>Topic 2: Theory of Knowledge Reading: No reading for Lecture 10 Lecture 10: General Remarks on Knowledge</p> <p>Study Guide: Epistemology Introduction and Empiricism (BB) Reading for Lectures 11–12: John Locke, Excerpts from <i>An Essay Concerning Human Understanding</i> (Parts A and B) (BB) Lecture 11: Empiricism Lecture 12: Empiricism II</p>	

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Topics, Readings, & Lectures	Exams
<p>Study Guide: Skepticism and the Appearance/Reality Gap (BB) Reading for Lectures 13–15: Rene Descartes, Meditations One and Two, from <i>Meditations on First Philosophy</i> (TEXT) Lecture 13: Skepticism and the Appearance/Reality Gap Lecture 14: Skepticism and the Appearance/Reality Gap II Lecture 15: Skepticism and the Appearance/Reality Gap III</p> <p>Study Guide: Hume and Reid (BB) Readings for Lectures 16–17: Excerpts from David Hume, <i>An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding</i> (BB) AND Excerpts from Thomas Reid, <i>An Inquiry into the Human Mind on the Principles of Common Sense</i> (BB) Lecture 16: The Limits of Reason and the Philosophy of Common Sense Lecture 17: The Limits of Reason and the Philosophy of Common Sense II</p> <p>Study Guide: Ryle, “Knowing How and Knowing That” (BB) Reading for Lectures 18–19: Gilbert Ryle, “Knowing How and Knowing That” Lecture 18: Is Knowledge a State of Mind? Lecture 19: Is Knowledge a State of Mind? II</p>	<p>Exam 2: Nov 17</p>
<p>Topic 3: Ethics and Politics Reading: No readings for Lectures 20 or 21 Lecture 20: General Remarks on Ethics and Politics Lecture 21: General Remarks on Ethics and Politics</p> <p>Study Guide: Aristotle’s Ethics (BB) Reading for Lectures 22–24: Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i>, Books 1, 2, and 6 (TEXT) Lecture 22: Aristotle on Virtue and the Human Good Lecture 23: Aristotle on Virtue and the Human Good II Lecture 24: Aristotle on Virtue and the Human Good III</p> <p>Study Guide: Aristotle’s Politics (BB) Reading for Lecture 25: Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i>, Book 10 (TEXT) AND Aristotle, <i>Politics</i>, Books 1 and 2 (BB) Lecture 25: The Foundations of Ancient Greek Politics</p> <p>Study Guide: Utilitarianism (BB) Reading for Lecture 26-27: Mill, <i>Utilitarianism</i>, Chapters 1–4 (TEXT) Lecture 26: Utilitarianism</p>	
<p>continued on next page</p>	

Topics, Readings, & Lectures	Exams
<p>Lecture 27: Utilitarianism II</p> <p>Study Guide: Kantian Ethics (BB)</p> <p>Reading for Lecture 28-29: Immanuel Kant, Excerpts from <i>Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals</i> (BB)</p> <p>Lecture 28: Kantian Ethics</p> <p>Lecture 29: Kantian Ethics II</p> <p>Study Guide: Foundations of Modern Liberal Politics (BB)</p> <p>Reading for Lecture 30-31: John Locke, <i>Second Treatise of Government</i>, Chapters 2, 3, 5, 7 (TEXT)</p> <p>Lecture 30: Foundations of Modern Liberal Politics</p> <p>Lecture 31: Foundations of Modern Liberal Politics II</p>	<p>Exam 3: Dec 8</p>