

Course Syllabus
PHIL 101: *Introduction to Philosophy*
UW Milwaukee, Fall 2008
LEC 406 (MW 10-10:50; MER 131)
LEC 407 (MW 1-1:50; PHY 137)

Course Description: This course is an introduction to Western philosophy along two different dimensions: history and topic. Most broadly, the course will be structured about three historical periods: Ancient, Modern, and Contemporary. Within each of these periods, we will focus on three main topics: What is the nature of reality? What is knowledge and how can we attain it? And, What is the best way to live? These questions have been asked since the beginning of philosophy, and, as we will see, the answers given to them have depended on the historical situations of the answerers. This raises the question: In what way are our answers to these questions a result of our historical situation? By the end of the term, students will have a good grounding in the basic periods and topics of Western philosophy, as well an appreciation of the work of the philosopher. Students need not have any background in philosophy to do well in this course.

Required Text: The course reader is available at Panther Books (located just East of campus at 3132 N Downer Ave) and sells for \$12.50.

Instructor: Aaron Schiller, schillea@uwm.edu; OH: M 11-12, W 2-3 and by appointment, CRT 623.

Teaching Assistants: Justin Bernstein, bernst24@uwm.edu; Sections: 621, 623, 625, 627; OH: TBA.
J.T. Chipman, jchipman@uwm.edu; Sections: 601, 612, 615, 617; OH: W 9-11, CRT 683.
Jeremy Hankins, hankins@uwm.edu; Sections: 604, 607, 614, 626; OH: M 11-12, R 3-4, CRT 683.
John Mahlan, jmahlan@uwm.edu; Sections: 603, 619, 622, 630; OH: R 11-1, CRT 679.
Mark Wilson, mwilson@uwm.edu; Sections: 602, 613, 618, 620; OH: R 9-10 and 2-3, Location TBA.

Grading: The final course grade will be out of 1000 points and breaks down as follows:

Section Attendance	100 points
First Midterm	200 points
Second Midterm	300 points
Final Exam	400 points

Section Attendance: There will be 13 weeks of discussion sections over the course of the semester. It is expected that all students will regularly attend the sections that they signed up for when they enrolled in the course. In order to receive the full 100 points for section attendance, students must attend section at least 9 times. Each missed section after the fourth will drop one's section grade by 10 points.

Section Participation: There are no formal section participation points. But by its very nature philosophy is a social activity. Students who are on the line between grades will get a bump to the higher grade if their TA can vouch for his or her significant participation in section.

Exams: There will be three short answer exams, each with between 5 and 10 questions. Note that the exams become worth more of your final grade as the semester proceeds.

On Academic Honesty: Please note that cheating or other forms of academic misconduct will not be tolerated in this course and that instances will be reported to the administration as required by the Regents of the University of Wisconsin. It is expected that all students will familiarize themselves with UWM's code of conduct (located online at <http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/OSL/DOS/conduct.html>) and act accordingly.

Course Schedule:

Meeting	Topic
9/3	Intro to Course
9/8	Intro to the Thought of Socrates
9/10	<i>Euthyphro</i> (1-11)
9/15	<i>Euthyphro</i> cont.
9/17	<i>Phaedo</i> (12-43)
9/22	<i>Phaedo</i> cont.
9/24	<i>Phaedo</i> cont.
9/29	Intro to Aristotle
10/1	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> (44-48)
10/6	<i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> cont.
10/8	First Midterm
10/13	Intro to Descartes and Modern Philosophy
10/15	Synopsis and <i>Meditation 1</i> (49-53)
10/20	<i>Meditation 2</i> (53-57)
10/22	<i>Meditation 6</i> (58-64)
10/27	Bishop Berkeley's <i>Treatise</i> (65-75)
10/29	<i>Treatise</i> cont.
11/3	Excerpts from Kant's <i>Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals</i> (76-78)
11/5	<i>Groundwork</i> cont. and excerpts from Mill's <i>Utilitarianism</i> (79-83)
11/10	<i>Utilitarianism</i> cont.
11/12	Second Midterm
11/17	Excerpts from Paul Churchland's <i>Matter and Consciousness</i> (84-91)
11/19	<i>Matter and Consciousness</i> cont.
11/24	Daniel Dennett's <i>Where Am I?</i> (92-100)
11/26	University Holiday (Happy Thanksgiving!)
12/1	<i>Where Am I?</i> cont.
12/3	Judith Jarvis Thomson's <i>The Trolley Problem</i> (101-112)
12/8	<i>The Trolley Problem</i> cont.
12/10	Course Review
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Note that this is subject to change at the instructor's discretion, but that every attempt will be made to stay on schedule.