

SYLLABUS

PHIL 1080
Philosophy East and West
Spring 2017

TR 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM
2206 Haley Center
Scott Hill

What am I? What can I know? What would I be like without society? Will my death be bad for me? What is the meaning of life? In this course we will discuss puzzles surrounding these questions as they are addressed by Chinese, Indian, Arabic, Greek, Roman, European, and American philosophers. The main goal of this course is to discover the joy of contemplating philosophical puzzles. Other goals are to understand the doctrines and arguments and to develop the ability to critique and construct an argument effectively.

Required Reading

There is no book for this course. I will put reading assignments on Canvas.

Grading

Your grade will be determined by:

- Discussion: 20%
- Quizzes: 20%
- Midterm: 30% (Thursday, March 9th)
- Final Exam: 30% (Thursday, May 4th in Haley 2206)
- Extra Credit (added to exam scores)

Discussion: Beginning on 1/17, each member of the class will receive three color-coded single-use question cards with his or her name on them. The ranking of the cards will determine who is called on next. The ranking of the cards is as follows:

Red > Yellow > Green > hand with no card

If you want to ask a question or make a comment and would like to use a card, raise that card when attempting to get called on. Once called on, I'll collect your card. In order to get full credit in the participation category in a given two week period, each member of the class needs to use all of their cards. At the beginning of each two-week period, I'll redistribute your cards. No more than two cards can be used on a single day. Cards are

not transferable. If you lose your cards sometime during the two-week period, you won't be able to get full participation credit for that stretch of time. To use a card, the questions and comments need to be relevant and thoughtful. Also, to get credit for discussion over a two-week period, one must avoid use of electronic devices in class during that period. So remember to put away phones, computers, etc.

Exams: The midterm and final will be graded on a scale of 0 to 60 and will count toward 20% of your final grade. They will consist of a combination of true/false, multiple choice, and short answer questions.

Extra Credit: On some days students have the opportunity to get a few points of extra credit on an upcoming exam. I'll give details about these opportunities as they approach. No matter how many extra credit points are earned, it is impossible to score more than 60 points on the midterm or final. So, for example, if you earn 58/60 on the midterm and earn 4 extra credit points, your score for the midterm will be 60/60.

You may withdraw (although with a W on your transcript) until midsemester.

Excused Absences

Students are granted excused absences from class for the following reasons: Illness of the student or serious illness of a member of the student's immediate family, the death of a member of the student's immediate family, trips for student organizations sponsored by an academic unit, trips for University classes, trips for participation in intercollegiate athletic events, subpoena for a court appearance, and religious holidays. Students who wish to have an excused absence from this class for any other reason must contact the instructor in advance of the absence to request permission. The instructor will weigh the merits of the request and render a decision. When feasible, the student must notify the instructor prior to the occurrence of any excused absences, but in no case shall such notification occur more than one week after the absence. Appropriate documentation for all excused absences is required. Please see the [*Student Policy eHandbook*](#) for more information on excused absences(http://www.auburn.edu/student_info/student_policies/).

Make-Up Policy

Arrangement to make up missed major examination (e.g. hour exams, mid-term exams) due to properly authorized excused absences must be initiated by the student within one week from the end of the period of the excused absences. Except in unusual circumstances, such as continued absence of the student or the advent of University holidays, a make-up exam will take place within two weeks from the time that the student initiates arrangements for it. Except in extraordinary circumstances, no make-up exams will be arranged during the last three days before the final exam period begins. The format of the make-up exam will be (*as specified by instructor*).

Disability Accommodations

Students who need accommodations are asked to electronically submit their approved accommodations through AU Access and to arrange a meeting during office hours the first week of classes, or as soon as possible if accommodations are needed immediately. If you have a conflict with my office hours, an alternate time can be arranged. To set up this meeting, please contact me by e-mail. If you have not established accommodations through the Office of Accessibility, but need accommodations, make an appointment with the Office of Accessibility, 1228 Haley Center, 844-2096 (V/TT).

Classroom Behavior

The AU Classroom Behavior Policy is strictly followed in the course; please refer to the Student Policy eHandbook at http://www.auburn.edu/student_info/student_policies/ for details of this policy.

Academic Honesty

All portions of the Auburn University Student Academic Honesty code (Title XII) found in the Student Policy eHandbook at http://www.auburn.edu/student_info/student_policies/ will apply to this class. All academic honesty violations or alleged violations of the SGA Code of Laws will be reported to the Office of the Provost, which will then refer the case to the Academic Honesty Committee.

Emergency Contingency

If normal class and/or lab activities are disrupted due to illness, emergency, or crisis situation (such as an H1N1 flu outbreak), the syllabus and other course plans and assignments may be modified to allow completion of the course. If this occurs, an addendum to your syllabus and/or course assignments will replace the original materials.

Office and Office Hours

Office: Haley Center 2202

Office Hours: Wednesday 11AM - 1PM

If you can't make it to my office hours, we can schedule an appointment. I especially welcome questions through email. My email address is hillscottandrew@gmail.com.

Class Schedule

(Very Tentative: Readings will definitely change. Some things will be added others will be dropped. Quiz dates may change a bit.)

Week 1: 1/12

No Readings

Week 2: 1/17, 1/19

Priest “Martial Arts and Buddhism”
Priest “Compassion and the Net of Indra”

Week 3: 1/24, 1/26

Siderits “Buddhist Reductionism”
Parfit “Reasons and Persons” (selected passages)
Quiz 1

Week 4: 1/31, 2/2

Epicurus “Letter to Menoecus”
Lucretius “On the Nature of Things”
Feldman “Confrontations with the Reaper” (selected passages)

Week 5: 2/7, 2/9

Note: My daughter will probably be born this week. I will probably be at the hospital with my wife on one of these days. Your assignment for that day will be to watch the movie The Matrix.
Feldman reading continued
Quiz 2

Week 6: 2/14, 2/16

al-Ghazâlî, “The Avenues to Sophistry and Skepticism” (selected passages)
Descartes, “Meditations” (selected passages)

Week 7: 2/21, 2/23

Berkeley, “First Dialogue”
Plato, “Theaetetus”
Winkler, “Berkeley, Pyrrhonism, and the Theaetetus”

Week 8: 2/27, 3/2

Huemer, “Phenomenal Conservatism”
Quine, “The Web of Belief” (selected passages)
Quiz 3

Week 9: 3/7, 3/9

Midterm Exam on 3/9

Week 10: 3/14, 3/16

Spring Break

Week 11: 3/21, 3/23

Mencius, “the Mencius” (selected passages)

Xunzi, “the Xunzi” (selected passages)

Hobbes “The Leviathan” (selected passages)

Week 12: 3/28, 3/30

Schwitzgebel, “Human Nature and Moral Education in Mencius, Xunzi, Hobbes, and Rousseau”

Quiz 4

Week 13: 4/4, 4/6

Confucius, “The Analects” (selected passages)

Cline, “Families of Virtue: Confucian and Western Views on Childhood Development” (selected passages)

Week 14: 4/11, 4/13

Confucius reading continued

Cline reading continued

Quiz 5

Week 15: 4/18, 4/20

Nagel, “The Absurd”

Kahane “Cosmic Insignificance”

Week 16: 4/25, 4/27

Brogaard and Smith “On Luck, Responsibility and the Meaning of Life”

Wolf “Happiness and Meaning: Two Aspects of the Good Life”

Quiz 6

Week 17: 5/3

Final Exam on Thursday, May 4th at noon in our normal room