

# ***SYLLABUS***

PHIL 1060  
Philosophy East and West  
Spring 2019

Tuesday and Thursday  
Haley Center  
Scott Hill

Is human nature good or bad? What are the limits of language? Do people exist? In this course we will discuss puzzles surrounding these questions as they are addressed by confucian, daoist, and buddhist philosophers. We will also learn the basics of logic. 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: 10%
- 6 Quizzes: 30%
- Midterm: 30%
- Final Exam: 30%

*Discussion:* Beginning on 1/22, 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.

Also, if you have extreme social anxiety and absolutely can't talk in class let me know. I'll work with you to find an alternative way for you to get discussion credit.

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](http://www.auburn.edu/student_info/student_policies/) for more information on excused absences([http://www.auburn.edu/student\\_info/student\\_policies/](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/](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/](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: Thursday 1PM - 2PM

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](mailto: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

#### **Is Human Nature Good or Bad?**

**Logic: Arguments, Validity**

No Readings

### Week 2

Hobbes “The Leviathan” (selected passages)

Mencius, “the Mencius” (selected passages)

### Week 3

Xunzi, “the Xunzi” (selected passages)

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

**Quiz 1 on 1/24**

### Week 4

#### **What Are the Limits of Language and Thought?**

**Logic: Finding Argument Forms, Modus Ponens, Modus Tollens**

Zhuangzi, “the Zhaungzi” (selected passages)

Schwitzgebel “Zhuangzi’s Attitude Toward’s Language and His Skepticism”

### Week 5

Hofweber “Are there Ineffable Aspects of Reality?”

Jacobs “The Ineffable, Inconceivable, and Incomprehensible God:

Fundamentality and Apophatic Theology”

Nussbaum “The Professor of Parody”

**Quiz 2 on 2/7**

### Week 6

#### **Do People Exist?**

**Logic: Necessary and Sufficient Conditions**

Dialogues of the Buddha (selected passages)

Week 7

Parfit “Reasons and Persons” (selected passages)  
New Yorker Article on Parfit  
Stone “Parfit and the Buddha: Why There are No People”  
**Quiz 3 on 2/21**

Week 8

**Ethics: Dispassion and Compassion**  
**Logic: Deductive and Inductive Arguments**  
Carey “Dispassion as an Ethical Ideal”

Week 9

Priest “Martial Arts and Buddhism”  
Priest “Compassion and the Net of Indra”  
**Midterm Exam on 3/7**

Week 10

**Spring Break**

Week 11: 3/21, 3/23

**More on Zhuangzi**  
**Logic TBA**  
Zhuangzi “the Zhuangzi” (selected passages)  
Kidd “Daoism, Humanity, and the Way of Heaven” (manuscript)  
Kidd “Following the Way of Heaven: Exemplarism, Emulation, and Daoism”

Week 12

Ames “Zhuangzi and the Happy Fish” (selected passages)  
**Quiz 4 on 3/28**

Week 13

**Famliy**  
Confucius, “The Analects” (selected passages)  
Cline, “Families of Virtue: Confucian and Western Views on Childhood Development” (selected passages)

Week 14

Confucius reading continued

Cline reading continued

**Quiz 5 on 4/11**

Week 15

**The Meaning of Life**

Cooper “Zhuangzi on the Meaning of Life”

Cooper “Daoism, Nature, and Humanity”

Week 16

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

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

**Quiz 6 on 4/25**

Week 17

**Final Exam:**

**In our normal room.**

**Time and day available here:**

**[http://www.auburn.edu/administration/registrar/documents/SpringExam\\_2019\\_COMPLETE%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.auburn.edu/administration/registrar/documents/SpringExam_2019_COMPLETE%20(2).pdf)**