



上海财经大学

Shanghai University of Finance & Economics

中国上海市国定路777号 邮编200433 777 Guoding Road, Shanghai, 200433, China

## Shanghai University of Finance & Economics

### 2018 Summer Program

### PHI 12 Introduction to Philosophy

#### Course Outline

**Course Code:** PHI 12

**Instructor:** Professor Ross Hamilton, Full Professor, Tenured, Prize Teaching Fellow Yale

**Home Institution:** Barnard College, Columbia University, New York

**Office Hours:** Monday through Friday, 12-1

**Email:** [rh174@columbia.edu](mailto:rh174@columbia.edu)

**Credit:** 4

**Class Hours:** This course will have 72 class hours, including 40 lecture hours, professor 10 office hours, 10-hour TA discussion sessions, 2-hour review sessions, 10-hour extra classes.

#### **Course Description :**

This course will survey the history of philosophy from Plato to Kant by means of central categories in our understanding of the world. Lectures and discussion will be supplemented by exercises in philosophical speculation.

#### **Course Objectives:**

To provide students with a general introduction to and understanding of philosophical views, issues, and arguments. It should also help students to appreciate what philosophy is and the way in which it is relevant to practical issues.

To understand the general thoughts of major philosophers, as well as prominent contemporary philosophers.

To help students develop critical think, critical reading, and writing skills. It is important to understand the difference between good and bad arguments, and to have the ability to critically and



carefully analyze the arguments of others. This course should help students to write more sharply organized, focused and effective argumentative essays.

## **Required Textbooks:**

Modern Philosophy: An Anthology of Primary Sources, 2nd ed. Roger Ariew and Eric Watkins (Hackett)

We will supply you with a reader containing additional materials, essays, etc with brief selections from:

Ackrill, Aristotle the Philosopher

Barnes, The Presocratic Philosophers

Burnet, Early Greek Philosophy

Guthrie, A History of Greek Philosophy

Hussey, The Presocratics

Kirk, Raven, & Schofield, The Presocratic Philosophers (KRS)

McKirrihan, Philosophy Before Socrates

Ring, Beginning with the Presocratics, second edition

Shields, The Blackwell Guide to Ancient Philosophy

Cicero: On Moral Ends. Translated by R. Woolf. Cambridge, 2001. ·

Seneca: Dialogues and Essays. Translated by J. Davie. Oxford, 2007.

## **Course Requirements:**

Final Grade Percentages

Class Participation 10%: regular attendance and participation is requested.

2 Reaction Papers (20% each): you will be asked to write two reaction papers (4 pages) on key readings throughout the course. Reaction papers summarize the article or primary source assigned, identify the main arguments made by authors and briefly discuss them.

Midterm 20%

Final Exam 30%: overall evaluation at end of semester

## **Grading:**

Midterm 20%

Final 30%

Essay One 20%

Essay Two 20%

Attendance 10%



### Grading Policy

Number grade	Letter grade	GPA
90-100	A	4.0
85-89	A-	3.7
80-84	B+	3.3
75-79	B	3.0
70-74	B-	2.7
67-69	C+	2.3
65-66	C	2.0
62-64	C-	1.7
60-61	D	1.0
≤59	F (Failure)	0

### Course Schedule

Please note: the lectures will be wide-ranging and therefore careful note-taking is important. The assigned texts form only the basis for the discussion of the philosophical ideas under consideration in lecture.

READING ASSIGNMENTS (only those in boldface are required; note that the page numbers in **RAGP** are to the third edition):

#### Part One: Greek Philosophy

Introduction: What is philosophy?

Readings from the Pre-Socratics **RAGP** 1-7

Plato: selections from most important works with commentary.

**RAGP**, 89-96 [Introduction to Plato]

**RAGP**: 97-114, 203-281 [Euthyphro, Meno, Phaedo]

**RAGP**: 445-528, 578-581 [Republic (books V-VII, excerpt from book X)]

**RAGP**: 604-613 [Parmenides (127b-135d)]

**RAGP**: 614- 644 [Timaeus (27e-58c)]

Recommended: Apology, Crito [in RAGP]

Guthrie (vol. 3): 325-488; (vol. 4): 236-265, 324-365, 487-521

Shields: 55-99

#### Part Two: Aristotle

Aristotle: selections from the most important works with commentary.



**RAGP**, 645-654 [Introduction to Aristotle]  
**RAGP**: 656-662 [Categories, Chapters 1-5]  
**RAGP**: 694-719 [Physics, Books I and II (excerpts)]  
**RAGP**: 727-735 [On Generation & Corruption, Book I (excerpts)]  
**RAGP**: 749-757 [Parts of Animals, Book I (excerpts)]  
**RAGP**: 758-800 [Metaphysics, Books I, IV, VII, VIII (excerpts)]  
**RAGP**: 809-825 [De Anima, Books I and II (excerpts)]

Lecture: Aristotle, Poetics (selection) and Sophocles, Oedipus Rex

Recommended:

Ackrill, Aristotle the Philosopher: all, esp. 1-54, 116-134

Shields, The Blackwell Guide to Ancient Philosophy: 163-183, 211-227

**Essay One Assigned:** With explicit reference to at least four texts (two from each philosopher) discuss the similarities and differences between Plato and Aristotle's philosophy.

## **Part Two: From the Stoics to Aquinas**

Introduction to Epicureans Reading: pp.3-45 of Hellenistic Philosophy

Epicurean Ethics Reading: Cicero, On Moral Ends

Introduction to Stoics Reading: pp. 110-178 of Hellenistic Philosophy 8.

Stoic Ethics Reading: Cicero, On Moral Ends 3 9.

Pyrhonian Scepticism Reading: Pp.302-324 and 387-398 of Hellenistic Philosophy

Introduction to Seneca Reading: Seneca, On the Happy Life, On Tranquility of Mind, On the Shortness of Life On Anger On Mercy Week 9 25.

Marcus Aurelius, Meditations (selections; handout)

Augustine, Confessions (selections from Books I, II, IV, VIII, XII)

Boethius, selections from Consolation of Philosophy.

Averroes and Avicenna, selections

Porphyry's commentary on the Categories

Aquinas, selections from Summa Theologica

## **Midterm Exam**

Part One: Quote Identifications

Part Two: Essay

## **Part Three: From Montaigne to Hobbes**



### **Introduction: The “Birth” of Modern Philosophy**

Montaigne, from “Apology for Raymond Sebond.” Luther and Calvin, selections from the Council of Trent

Bacon, from “New Organon” selections from Aristotle, Aquinas.

Descartes, from Discourse on Method and Meditations on First Philosophy, Plato, “Analogy of the Cave” from the Republic

Pascal, “The Wager” and other Pensees. Hobbes, from the “Leviathan”

### **Screening: The Matrix.**

**Essay One Assigned:** Apply the philosophy of two of the philosophers we have studied to answer this question: “What is the philosophy of the Matrix?”

### **Four: From Spinoza to Kant**

Spinoza, from The Ethics

Leibnitz, from Discourse on Metaphysics, Primary Truths A New System of Nature and Monadology

Newton, from Principia, “Scholium” “General Scholium” (284-293) and Boyle, Of the Excellency and Grounds of the Corpuscular or Mechanical Philosophy (308-314)

Locke, from Essay Concerning Human Understanding (316-421)

La Mettrie, from Man: A Machine, and Man: A Plant

**Kant, from Critique of Pure Reason**

### **Final Exam**

Part One: Quote Identifications from ENTIRE COURSE

Part Two: Essay from ENTIRE COURSE