

**PHIL 110 - Philosophical Texts that Changed the World: An Introduction to Philosophy  
through Great Works**  
Fall 2019

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:00 am - 8:50, Dey Hall (DE) 307  
Instructor     Martina Orlandi  
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Office hours   M & W 9:00 -10:00 in 207E (Parr Center)

“Look at the world hard enough, and even the most mundane things are revealed as mysterious and wonderful” (T. Sider, “Time”, 44). This, in a nutshell, is what philosophy is about. In this course you will be introduced to some of the main philosophical issues and their most pressing questions. We will start by looking at the three main ethical theories (consequentialism, deontology, and virtue ethics) and examine what constitutes a morally right action. We will then examine questions about the mind and whether there are good reasons to think consciousness is physical. From there we will transition to metaphysics and ask how it is that we maintain our identity through time. Does changing our haircut also change who we are? Are we the same person when we revise some of our dearest beliefs? These questions will lead us to epistemology and the ethics of belief. We will investigate whether we can control our beliefs similarly as to how we control our actions and, assuming it is possible, whether it is permissible to do so. The last two sections of the course will be devoted to politics and gender studies. We will look at the debate about freedom of speech and ask whether hate speech justifies regulations. We will end by examining questions about the difference between gender and sex and the kind of consequences that arise when gender is artificially restricted.

### Readings

I will make the selected readings available; you are not required to purchase anything for this course.

### Assignments:

Workload for this course involves

1)	Group discussion’s Leader on Fridays (one-page notes)	10% of the final grade (5% each)	to be done <b>twice</b> in the semester (starting on <b>September 13<sup>th</sup></b> )
2)	Attendance and participation in class	10% of the final grade	---
3)	One-page critical analysis	10% of the final grade (5% each)	due on <b>September 27<sup>th</sup></b> and <b>November 15<sup>th</sup></b>
4)	One-page midterm paper prospectus	10% of the final grade	due on <b>October 11<sup>th</sup></b>
5)	Midterm paper (5 pages long)	25% of the final grade	due on <b>October 25<sup>th</sup></b>
6)	Final exam	35% of the final grade	<b>December 6<sup>th</sup> at 8am</b>

- 1) **Group discussion's Leader on Fridays:** Fridays will be mostly devoted to discussing the topics that we looked at on Monday and Wednesday and to presentations. **Attendance on Fridays is particularly encouraged.** You will be expected to actively and regularly participate in the discussion.

I will break the classroom in groups of 4-5 people. Each group will have an assigned "leader". I will give a few questions to discuss in groups and the leader will take notes both during group discussions and class-wide discussions.

The weekly discussion leader will post their notes to their group's **Sakai forum** by **Monday at Noon**. Each person in the class will serve as a group leader **twice** during the term.

The write up of the notes is pass/fail. I expect most people to receive full marks.

**Note: if you fail to submit your notes or you submit them late you will not receive the 5%.** If you miss your assigned Discussion Leader session you will receive a mark of 0. No exception will be made. You must work on your notes individually.

**Note:** submissions for this course are electronic, thus it is your responsibility to ensure you have submitted your assignment properly.

- 2) **Attendance and participation in class:** philosophy is one of those topics that is meant to be discussed. Thus, attendance and participation in class are **mandatory** and a crucial component of this course. I will be taking attendance each time. You have two free absences, if you should need or want them. Beyond those free absences, if you have a justified reason for missing class you must let me know **before** the class.

- 3) **One-page critical analysis:** You will submit two one-page critical analyses throughout the semester on **September 27<sup>th</sup>** and **November 15<sup>th</sup>** by **11pm**. The analysis must be maximum one page, double spaced. You will be asked to summarize the reading (which will be announced one week ahead), identify a problematic claim and briefly provide an argument for why the claim is problematic.

Please submit your analyses on Sakai in either DOCx, DOC or PDF.

**Note: if you fail to submit your analysis you will not receive the 5%,** instead you will receive a 0. No exception will be made.

- 4) **One-page midterm paper prospectus:** There are no assigned paper topics for this course. Instead, you'll be able to choose the topic that you want to write on (from the readings that are listed on the syllabus). The prospectus will be a detailed outline of the midterm paper you plan to write. Instructions will be given during the term. You must work on your prospectus individually. The prospectus must be submitted on Sakai by 11pm on **October 11<sup>th</sup>**.

Please submit your prospectus on Sakai in either DOCx, DOC or PDF.

- 5) **Midterm paper:** You will write a paper of no more than 4 pages long, 12pt and double-spaced on the topic on which you wrote your midterm paper prospectus. The paper must be submitted on Sakai by 11pm on **October 25<sup>th</sup>**.

You must work on your paper individually.

- 6) **Final exam:** The exam will consist of 6 short questions and these will be cumulative, involving content covered from beginning to the end of the course. The structure of the exam will be as follows. Each question will consist of a *conceptual* part where you will be asked, for example, to explain an author's claim or a theory; and an *argumentative* part where you may be asked to give your own take on an issue. The exam will take place on **December 6<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 – 11:00am**.

**Note:** The course final exam is given in compliance with UNC final exam regulations and according to the UNC Final Exam calendar. Final exams dates are set by the university.

**Instructors have no control over it.** It is not possible to set up an individual exam nor one on at a different date.

#### Course Grading:

<b>A</b>	100 – 95	You show the highest level of understanding of the course content that can be reasonably expected of a student in first-year and you are able to provide insights that go beyond the text.
<b>A-</b>	94 – 90	
<b>B+</b>	89 – 88	You show a strong performance demonstrating that you have understood the text, even though with some minor errors, and you are able to provide reasonably original insights into the text.
<b>B</b>	87 – 84	
<b>B-</b>	83 – 80	
<b>C+</b>	79 – 78	Your understanding of the text as well as the insights you provide are acceptable despite some considerable errors.
<b>C</b>	77 – 74	
<b>C-</b>	73 – 70	
<b>D+</b>	69 – 65	You show a marginal understanding of the text with some crucial errors demonstrating a minimal passing level.
<b>D</b>	64 – 60	
<b>F</b>	59 – 0	Your performance is unacceptable and shows almost no understanding of the course content.

**Texts:** All texts will be made available on Sakai. You are not required to buy anything for this course.

**Extensions:** Extensions to deadlines on papers will be granted exclusively for medical reasons and must be appropriately documented with a medical note. Assignments submitted after the due date will be penalized at the rate of 1/3 grade per day (including weekends). For example, a paper that is evaluated as a B+, if one day late, will be assigned a B, and if three days late, it will be assigned a C+. **Important note:** Extensions will be granted only on the basis of a medical note. **No exceptions will be made.** Extensions will be applied retroactively if you provide a later medical note pertaining to the date when the paper was due.

**Email policy and etiquette:** when emailing me allow **24 hours** for a reply and **48 hours** during the weekend.

Remember: answering emails is actual *work*. This means that a request for an appointment on Monday sent on Friday after 5pm will not work.

1. *Before* writing the email, **check the syllabus** and other course material. Most questions are already addressed in these resources. **Emails whose answer is included in the syllabus will not be answered.** If you have a substantive philosophical question, please avoid emailing and instead come to see me during office hours.
2. Use your UNC address.
3. Please always **include at the beginning of the email a form of salutation** and avoid referring to me in overly colloquial ways (e.g. “Hey dude”) unless otherwise specified.
4. It is *possible* that I forget to answer some emails. If this happens, you can send a polite reminder after a reasonable delay.

**Electronics and Laptop Policy:** Students may use laptops for academic purposes only. Phones must be turned off during the lectures.

**Note: The recording of lectures is strictly forbidden.**

**Academic Honour:** Work already turned in for other classes is not eligible to be turned in for this class. Familiarize yourself with the UNC-Chapel Hill student Honor Code (which covers academic dishonesty). Your full participation and observance of the Honor Code is expected.

**Accessibility Resources & Service (ARS):** UNC-Chapel Hill facilitates the implementation of reasonable accommodations for students with learning disabilities, physical disabilities, mental health struggles, chronic medical conditions, temporary disability, or pregnancy complications, all of which can impair student success. See the ARS website for contact and registration information:  
<https://ars.unc.edu/about-ars/contact-us>

**Counseling and Psychological Services:** CAPS is strongly committed to addressing the mental health needs of a diverse student body through timely access to consultation and connection to clinically appropriate services, whether for short- or long-term needs. Go to their website: [www.caps.unc.edu](http://www.caps.unc.edu) or visit their facilities on the third floor of the Campus Health Service building for a walk-in evaluation to learn more.

**Note:** The professor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus, including project due dates and test dates, when unforeseen circumstances occur. These changes will be announced as early as possible so that students can adjust their schedules.

### List of Topics and Readings

All readings will be made available on Sakai.  
Note: the recommended readings are *not required*.

Topic	Date	Reading
Course Introduction	Week 1: August 21, 23	None
Ethics I Consequentialism	Week 2: August 26, 28, 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jeremy Bentham, <i>The Principles of Morals and Legislations</i>, Ch. 1 and 4 (13 pages)</li> <li>John Stuart Mill excerpts from Chapter 2, <i>Utilitarianism</i> (15 p.)</li> </ul>
Ethics II Deontology	Week 3: September 4, <b>6</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Immanuel Kant, excerpts from <i>Groundwork</i> Ch. 2, up to p. 71 (23 p.)</li> </ul> <p><b>(no discussion on Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>, regular lecture)</b>  <b>- Discussion signup: groups and leaders posted on Sakai</b></p>
Ethics III Virtue Ethics	Week 4: September 9, 11, <b>13</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aristotle, excerpts from <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> Book I, Chs. 1-5; 7-9; (16 p.) Book II, Chs. 1-9; (10 p.) Book III Chs. 1-5; 10-12 (11 p.)</li> </ul> <p><b>- Friday's group discussions start</b></p>
Epistemology Ethics of Belief	Week 5: September 16, 18, 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>W. K. Clifford, "The Ethics of Belief" (10 p.)</li> <li>William James, "The Will to Believe" (10 p.)</li> </ul>
	Week 6: September 23, 25, <b>27</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>John Heil, "Doxastic Incontinence" (15 p.)</li> <li>Miranda Fricker, "Testimonial Injustice" (25 p.)</li> </ul> <p><b>- First critical analysis due</b></p>
Mind Mind-Body Problem	Week 7: Sep 30, October 2, 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Renee Descartes, Meditations I and VI (14 p.)</li> <li>Elizabeth of Bohemia (5 p.)</li> </ul>
	Week 8: October 7, 9, <b>11</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gilbert Ryle, "Descartes Myth" (14 p.)</li> <li>Thomas Nagel, "What Is It Like to be a Bat?" (17 p.)</li> </ul> <p><b>- Prospectus due</b></p>

	Week 9: October 14 <b>October 16 (no class)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review, Essay tips</li> </ul>
Metaphysics Personal Identity	Week 9: October 21, 23, <b>25</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>David Hume, "Personal Identity" (6 p.)</li> <li>John Locke, "Identity and Diversity" (11 p.)</li> </ul> <p>- <b>Midterm due</b></p>
	Week 10: October 28, 30, Nov 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Derek Parfit, "Personal Identity" (25 p.)</li> <li>Marya Schechtman, "Empathic Access: the Missing Ingredient in Personal Identity" (20 p.)</li> </ul>
Politics Free Speech	Week 11: November 4, 6, 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JS Mill, "Liberty of Thought and Discussion" (16 p.)</li> <li>Jeremy Waldron, "Approaching Hate Speech" (18 p.)</li> </ul> <p><i>Suggested reading:</i> Jason Stanley (2018), "What John Stuart Mill Got Wrong about Freedom of Speech" (9 p.)</p> <p><i>Movie suggestion:</i> "Denial" (available on Netflix)</p>
	Week 12: November, 11, 13, <b>15</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jeremy Waldron, "Anthony Lewis' Freedom for the Thought we Hate" (16 p.)</li> <li>Andrew Altman, "Speech Codes and Expressive Harm" (9 p.)</li> </ul> <p>- <b>Second critical analysis due</b></p>
Gender Studies	Week 13: November, 18, 20, 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sally Haslanger, "Gender and Race: (What) Are They? (What) Do We Want Them To Be?" (25 p.) <i>(TW: police violence)</i></li> <li>Iris Marion Young, "Throwing Like a Girl" (20 p.) <i>(TW: sexual assault)</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Mandatory movie:</i> "Miss Representation" (available on Netflix)</p>
Intersectionality	Week 14: Nov 25 December 2, 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jared Sexton Yates, <i>The Man They Wanted Me To Be</i> (excerpts, 35 p.)</li> </ul> <p><i>Mandatory movie:</i> "The Mask You Live In" (available on Netflix)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kimberlé Crenshaw, "Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence Against Women of Color" (60 p.) <i>(TW: violence against women, sexual assault)</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Suggested Reading:</i> bell hooks, "Black Women: Shaping Feminist Theory"</p>

	December 6 <sup>th</sup> , 8:00-12:00pm	<i>Kimberlé Crenshaw: What is Intersectionality?</i> (2 min): <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ViDtnfQ9FHc">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ViDtnfQ9FHc</a> <b>- Final Exam</b>
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