

CSUS Philosophy Department

PHIL 26: History of Philosophy Spring 2018 Syllabus

"I do not know how to teach philosophy without becoming a disturber of the peace." Baruch Spinoza 1632- 1677

"If it is not questionable then it is not philosophy." CK

Part 1: Course Information

Class Meeting: Section 03 MW 3.00PM-4.15PM - DH 110 Nbr#30884

Instructor: Dr. Clovis Karam, PhD
Office: Mendocino 3032
Office Hours: Wednesdays from 1.45 to 2.45 or by appointment.
Office Telephone: (916) 278-6424
E-mail: clovis.karam@csus.edu
Faculty Website: <http://www.csus.edu/faculty/k/clovis.karam/index.html>

Course Description

History of Philosophy: Classics of Philosophy

Introduction to the history of philosophy, emphasizing such themes as the foundations of knowledge, the nature of reality, the basis of good life and just society, the existence of God, and the nature of self, along with tracing the development of these themes from antiquity to the modern period. **Units:** 3.0

GE

GE Area C1 – World Civilizations

1. Is introductory and has no prerequisites.
2. Deals with one or more of the major Western and /or Non-Western civilizations which have had a significant direct influence on the modern world.
3. Covers a period of at least 2,500 years.
4. Is broad in scope, emphasizing the distinguishing characteristics of the civilization(s) studied.
5. Develops an understanding of and appreciation for the diversity of the human community.
6. Presents the contributions and perspectives of women, persons from various ethnic, socioeconomic, and religious groups, gays, and lesbians, and persons with disabilities.
7. Encourages the student to reflect, question and examine difficult subjects in a manageable dialogue form.

Students will:

1. Explain the historical and cultural significance of the major phenomena within the period(s) and region(s) studies.
2. Compare the basic values of the people/cultures studied.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the conventions and methods of the humanities.
4. Investigate, analyze and the roles and effects of human culture and understanding in the development of human societies.
5. Compare and analyze different aspects of humankind.
6. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the historical development of cultures and civilizations, including their animating ideas and values.

Textbook & Course Materials

Required Text

- Louis P. Pojman & Lewis Vaughn; Classics of Philosophy 3rd Edition, Oxford University Press 2011.
ISBN: 978-0-19-973729-1 (acid-free paper).

Recommended Texts & Supplementary Readings

- The text book exceptionally offers extensive and economical collection of the major works of the Western traditions; however, selected related readings will be made available on the SacCT Black Board and/or in the Open Reserve at Sac State Library.
- The Passion for Wisdom, A Very Brief History of Philosophy by Robert Solomon and Karhleen Higgins. Oxford University Press 1997

Course Requirements

Need access to SacCT

Technical Assistance

If you need technical assistance at any time during the course or to report a problem with SacCT you can:

- Visit the SacCT [Student Resources Page](#)
- Review SacCT [Student Tutorials](#)
- Visit the SacCT [Student FAQ's Web Page](#)
- Submit a [SacCT Problem Form](#)

Part 2: Course Objectives

Student Learning Objectives for Area C2 courses can be viewed at:

<http://www.csus.edu/indiv/b/bellonc/Area%20C%20Learning%20Outcomes%20%28Carried%20May%201%202014%29.pdf>

Spanning 2,500 years of human thought, you will be introduced to a unique variety of philosophical texts from Gilgamesh to Teilhard De Chardin & from Thales to Rawls. We will be introducing new methodologies, using critical thinking global approach to help reflect on some of the most intriguing questions and fundamental timeless issues, raised and addressed by more than 49 famous archetypal figures, from the beginnings up to our contemporary scene.

These course objectives and general education guidelines will be satisfied through a variety of practical assessments including quizzes, group work, essay writing, and verbal communication (class/group participation). We will explore:

Objectives	Practical Goals	Assessment Tools
Discover & investigate major ancient, classical, medieval, and modern philosophical texts.	Reflect on the canon of philosophy and demonstrate competence in discerning philosophical topics' approach & concepts' analysis.	Group discussions and presentations emphasized, quizzes, reading reports & term papers.

Explore 49 archetypal figures in philosophy and more than 20 complete works.	Identify, integrate, and develop a wider and deeper understanding, and sound argumentation for tolerant thinking.	Acquisition of needed writing tools: Structure, clarity, logic, grammar & syntax.
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Part 3: Topic Outline/Schedule

Important Note: Please refer to the course calendar daily for specific meeting dates and times. Activity and assignment details will be explained in detail within each week's corresponding learning module via SacCt and Blackboard. If you have any questions, please contact me via email at clovis.karam@csus.edu

Week	Topic	Readings / Assignments
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Methodology & Introduction Timely & Timeless Questions Mythology & Religion 	TB. Louis P. Pojman & Lewis Vaughn; Classics of Philosophy 3 rd Edition pp 3 to 6 "they looked into the heavens..."
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Sage men legacy The Buddha & Lao-tzu The Birth of Philosophy 	TB pp 6 to 21 "they looked into the heavens..."
3	Part I: The Pre-Socratics 600 BC. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thales & Anaximander: the search for a Common Principle, from Mythos to Logos Heraclitus: Appearance and Reality & the Mystical Logos Pythagoras: From Chaos to Cosmos Parmenides: Being and Change Protagoras: The Sophist & the Pragmatist 	Readings from TB pp 6 to 21 Plus, PPT Lecture.
4	Formation of the Group Work Teams & Selection of the Term Paper Topics	Quiz #1 (on material and PP lectures from weeks 1-3)
5	Part II: The Ancient Period 469 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Socrates: The Wise Man & the Agora The Apology: The Trial and the Last Days of Socrates 	TB pp 36 to 58 & pp 69 to 100 & selection from the Republic text Plus PPT Lecture Submission by mail of your chosen Term Paper Topic.
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plato: The Academy The Allegory of the Cave & the Forms 	Quiz #2 (Groups PPT presentations on selected materials). TB, Phaedo, selection from pp 69-100 & selection from the Republic, pp 112-205
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aristotle: The Lyceum The Naturalist 	TB selected readings from pp 202-341. plus PPT.
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hellenic Philosophy 341 BC. The Epicurean Philosophy: Epicurus: The Pursuit of Happiness & the Hedonistic Vision. The Stoic Philosophy Epictetus: From Slave to Sage Marcus Aurelius: Philosopher King 	Readings from TB pp 342-348 TB PP 349-378 Plus, selected texts
9	300 CA. Neo-Platonism & its Impact on the Western Mind: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ammonius Saccas the Founder Plotinus: The Philosopher Bridge between East and West Porphyry: The Pagan, Pantheist & Vegetarian Iamblicus: His pagan influence on Christian "One, Salvation & Divine Working" Proclus: The One & Multiplicity Early Christian & Medieval Neoplatonism 	Quiz #3 (Group Work PPT Presentation on selected materials). Readings from TB PP 379-392 Plus, extra readings and PPT Readings from SEP (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy)
10	Part III: The Medieval Period 1000 to 1600 AD.	Readings from TB pp 395-443

Week	Topic	Readings / Assignments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Augustine of Hippo: Bridging Paganism & Christianity Islamic & Jewish Philosophy Avicenna 980 AD Algazzali 1058 AD Averroes 1126 AD Maimonides 1135 AD: A Jewish scholar The Seeds of Change The God Centered Universe 	Readings from TB PP 444-448 & 448- 454 Plus, extra texts PPT & from SEP Midterm in class (on material from weeks 1 through 11)
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thomas Aquinas: The Scholastic The Need to Reconcile Faith and Reason 	Readings from TB pp454-477 Plus, extra readings selection
12	Part IV: The Modern Period 1600-1900 AD. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Origin of the Modern Mind The Rationalist Rene Descartes. The Epistemological Turn. Thomas Hobs- Jean Jacques Rousseau: The Social Contract 	Quiz #4 (Groups PPT presentations on selected materials from weeks 10 & 11) TB pp 487-516 TB pp 517-557 Plus, selected text on J.J Rousseau OR.
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baruch Spinoza: Panentheism, God & Nature 	Readings from TB pp 562-603 Plus PPT A selection from TB PP 718-814.
14	Part V: The Modern and Contemporary Period <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Individualist Soren Kierkegaard & The Prophet Frederic Nietzsche 	Quiz #5 (Draft and progress due on TP assignment). TB pp 940-952 TB pp 1041-1069
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existentialist: Jean Paul Sartre's "Condemned to be Free" Albert Camus' "Bad Fit" Social Justice &The Feminists The Prophet Martin Luther King Simone De Beauvoir & "The Second Sex" EPILOGUE: Pericitione (450-350 BC) A Feminist Model for All Times 	Readings from TB pp 1218-1236 Plus, OR pus PPT TB pp 1255-1267 TB pp 1268-1286 Harvest Day period: Term Paper due & optional presentations.
16	EXAM WEEK	
	Spring Recess	

Part 4: Grading Policy

Graded Course Activities

Points	Description
10%	5 quizzes on lectures & reading assignments: You are responsible for completing each assigned reading for each day before the start of class. Each quiz covers all lectures and reading assignments since the previous quiz, including the reading assignment for the day of the quiz, and must be taken at the beginning of the class period for which the reading is assigned.
30%	Midterm Exam: The midterm exam contains several questions that must be answered during class using handwritten short (one paragraph long) answers; the exam is about four pages long.
20%	Term Paper: You will be assigned a topic. Late term papers will go down one full grade for every day past the due date. Attach your paper as an editable file that will open Microsoft Word (not a .pdf or .htm file).
30%	Final Exam: a combination of multiple-choice, fill-in, true / false, and essay questions. The questions will be on the readings, lectures, and discussions since the Midterm.
10%	Each student will earn 5 points for regular attendance and 5 points for: participation in class discussions, taking notes in the dedicated Note Book (inspected during the Mid Term and Final Exam days) , and Group Work Presentations, for a total of 10 points. Only justified absences are accepted.

Late Work Policy

Be sure to pay close attention to deadlines—there will be no make-up assignments or quizzes, or late work accepted without a serious and compelling reason and instructor approval. A 10% penalty will be applied on each late day or missed quiz per calendar day from due date.

Viewing Grades in SacCT

Points you receive for graded activities will be posted to the SacCT Grade Book. Click on the My Grades link on the left navigation to view your points. I will update the online grades each time a grading session has been completed—typically 5 days following the completion of an activity. You will see a visual indication of new grades posted on your SacCT home page under the link to this course.

Assignment Submission Instructions**Term Paper**

Follow the instructions for argumentative papers found in the “Guidelines for Writing Philosophy Papers” at the Philosophy Department website: <http://www.csus.edu/phl/Guidance/WritingGuidelines.html>

To submit an essay in SacCT:

- Create the essay on your own computer (editable file)
- Enter SacCT at <http://csus.edu/sacct/>
- Open the main page for PHIL 6;
- On the Course Menu select “Assignments”;
- Open the correct assignment; on the “Upload Assignment” click “Browse My Computer” to find your essay file;
- Select the file;
- Click “Submit” (Important)

Only AUTHENTIC papers will be considered in this course. Plagiarism and cheating will cost you a 0 and will be reported to the Students Affairs office for further appropriate actions.

Quiz

This class will have a total of 5 quizzes, the first and the last will be individual written quizzes, the other 3 will be Group Work Presentation quizzes. I will under no circumstances reset a GW quiz you have not taken. It's your responsibility to figure out how to take tests and keep track on due dates. You will automatically lose all the points for each missed quiz.

Exams

All my exams are written exams and take place in the assigned classroom, no blue books needed.

Letter Grade Assignment

Final grades assigned for this course will be based on the percentage of total points earned and are assigned as follows:

Letter Grade	Percentage	Performance
A	93-100%	Excellent Work
A-	90-92%	Nearly Excellent Work
B+	87-89%	Very Good Work
B	83-86%	Good Work
B-	80-82%	Mostly Good Work
C+	77-79%	Above Average Work
C	73-76%	Average Work
C-	70-72%	Mostly Average Work
D+	67-69%	Below Average Work
D	60-66%	Poor Work
F	0-59%	Failing Work

Important note: For more information about grading at Sac State, visit the [academic policies and grading section](#) of the university catalog.

Part 5: Course & University Policies

Attendance & Participation.

I will take attendance regularly. Students are expected to always attend and participate in class group activities and report for assigned readings. Excessive unjustified absences (more than 3) and repetitive negative participation in class will result in the loss of 1 point up to losing all the 5% or the totality of the allocated grades. laptops and similar devices are not permitted in my classes.

Make-up Exams

There will be no make-up exams, except for justified absences; otherwise a 10% reduction will apply. Stick to the calendar.

Complete Assignments

Assignments must be submitted by the given deadline or special permission must be requested from instructor *before the due date*. Extensions will not be given beyond the next assignment except under extreme circumstances.

All assignments must be completed according to the listed due date and time. Late or missing assignments are only permitted under extreme and compelling circumstances; otherwise, the grade will be reduced by 1 point per calendar day from the beginning of the due date, or 0 for no submission.

Bonus Opportunities

Extra 6 points bonus will be earned by those: a-who demonstrate an appetite for extra curriculum readings and reports on traced borrowed books from CSUS main library & for those who come and visit me during my office hours for extra discussion(2 pts), b- for the best presentation of the term papers on the Harvest Day ((2pts), c- for those attending and submitting cumulative analysis reports on the Philosophy Department lectures (Center for Practical and Professional Ethics & Nammour Symposium etc.) and active participation in the debates of the "PHILOSOPHY CLUB" (2pts).

Understand When You May Drop This Course

It is the student's responsibility to understand when they need to consider dis-enrolling from a course. Refer to the Sac State Course Schedule for dates and deadlines for registration. After this period, a serious and compelling reason is required to drop from the course.

Inform you Professor of Accommodations Needed

If you have a documented disability and verification from the [Office of Services to Students with Disabilities](#) (SSWD), and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact your instructor as soon as possible. It is the student's responsibility to provide documentation of disability to SSWD and meet with a SSWD counselor to request special accommodation *before* classes start.

SSWD is in Lassen Hall 1008 and can be contacted by phone at (916) 278-6955 (Voice) (916) 278-7239 (TDD only) or via email at sswd@csus.edu.

Commit to Integrity

As a student in this course (and at this university) you are expected to maintain high degrees of professionalism, commitment to active learning and participation in this class and integrity in your behavior in and out of the classroom. Misbehavior will be met with a loss of 1point per incident from final course grade. Turnitin.com will be used for plagiarism detection on essays.

Sac State's Academic Honesty Policy & Procedures

"The principles of truth and honesty are recognized as fundamental to a community of scholars and teachers. California State University, Sacramento expects that both faculty and students will honor these principles, and in so doing, will protect the integrity of academic work and student grades." Read more about Sac State's [Academic Honesty Policy & Procedures](#)

Definitions

At Sac State, "**cheating** is the act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work through the use of any dishonest, deceptive, or fraudulent means. Penalty will be 0.

"**Plagiarism** is a form of cheating. At Sac State, "plagiarism is the use of distinctive ideas or works belonging to another person without providing adequate acknowledgment of that person's contribution." It will be sanctioned with 0.

This policy can be found at the following address:

<http://www.csus.edu/umanual/student/stu-0100.htm>

Important Note: Any form of academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, may be reported to the office of student affairs. Turnitin.com will be used for plagiarism detection on essays.

Course policies are subject to change. It is the student's responsibility to check SacCT for corrections or updates to the syllabus. Any changes will be posted in SacCT.

Part 6: University Resources

Writing Center

The Writing Center provides encouraging, focused, and non-judgmental one-to-one tutorials in writing. Their tutors can help with writing at all points in the process, from initial planning and organizing through developing and revising a paper. You can bring the assignment to them for help.

Students are expected to adhere to the guidelines posted in "How to Analyze a Philosophical Essay" that is located on the CSUS Department of Philosophy webpage.

<http://www.csus.edu/phil/guidance/how-to-analyze.html>

Writing Guidelines: <http://www.csus.edu/phil/guidance/writing%20guidelines.html>

Sac State Library

The Sac State Library's webpage is <http://library.csus.edu>. To find a book or periodical, go to http://onesearch.csus.edu/primo_library/libweb/action/search.do

I particularly recommend Sac State librarian Lisa Roberts' website "Philosophy: Resources." Two ways to find it: through "Research Guides" under "Resources and Collections", or go directly to <http://library.csus.edu/guides/robertsl/philoguide.htm>

Student Computer Labs

To access SacCT from campus, or use any of the other campus online resources, you can use the IRT managed student computer labs on campus. See University Labs website, that is, <http://www.csus.edu/uccs/labs/generalinfo/about.stm> for information about locations, hours, and resources available.

SacCT

SacCT is the course management system used on the Sac State campus for web-assisted courses. To access a course on SacCT, you must login from the SacCT Login Page (<https://online.csus.edu>).

To learn more about SacCT visit the Student Resources webpage (<http://www.csus.edu/WebCT/student/>) where you can view online Tutorials, FAQ's and other help resources.

Important Note: This syllabus, along with course assignments and due dates, are subject to change. It is the student's responsibility to check SacCT for corrections or updates to the syllabus. Any changes will be clearly noted in course announcement or through SacCT email.