

PHIL 6: Introduction to Philosophy
Section 02: MW 1:30-2:45
Amador Hall 314

The aim of philosophy, abstractly formulated, is to understand how things in the broadest possible sense of the term hang together in the broadest possible sense of the term.

Wilfrid Sellars, "Philosophy and the Scientific Image of Man"

Instructor:	Prof. Thomas F. Pyne
Office Hours:	MW 12:30-1:30; TR 3:00-4:00; other times by appointment.
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GE Area :	GE Area C3: Introduction to the Humanities
Required Texts:	Daniel Kolak & Raymond Martin. <i>The Experience of Philosophy</i> . 6 th Edition. Oxford University Press (New York, 2005) ISBN-10 0195177681

Course Description

"A representative selection of philosophical problems will be explored in areas such as knowledge, reality, religion, science, politics, art and morals."

This course will introduce you to some of the most important philosophical questions of the present day.

You will see:

- How philosophical questions arise out of our natural and cultural history;
- Why these *particular* questions have become important at this time in our history;
- What is 'at stake' for us in answering them.

You will also be introduced to some recent attempts at answering these philosophical questions. From this you will learn how to think well about them; you will also learn what a habit of thinking this way can contribute to your life and to your society.

Finally, you will be required to do some philosophical thinking, and some writing, yourself.

Course Objectives

- Investigate major philosophical problems by a careful study of some good, representative philosophical texts.
- Encourage you to question and examine your own presuppositions and deep-rooted prejudices.
- To defend your own position on a philosophical issue by careful argument.

Students will demonstrate their achievement of the course objectives through:

- Reading comprehension quizzes on each reading assignment;
- Exams which test for a deeper understanding of the philosophical questions, as well as of the arguments for or against particular answers; students will show their understanding via essay answers;
- Participation in in-class and/or online discussion;
- Composition of analytical essays on philosophical subjects.

Access to the Course

This course is 'web-assisted.' That is, we will use the SacCT 9.1 course management system.

Course Delivery

While PHIL 6 will be in most ways a standard lecture/discussion class, it will be 'web-assisted.' That is, we will be using some features of the SacCT course management system.

SacCT is a program designed for on-line college courses. Among other things, it serves as a location for course material, lecture notes, tests, papers, and discussions. I will make important course content available, including lecture notes and other supplementary material.

Students may use their Saclink account to log into the course from the [SacCT Login page](http://www.csus.edu/sacct/) (<http://www.csus.edu/sacct/>).

If you do not have a Saclink account yet, refer to the [Setting Up a Saclink Account](http://www.csus.edu/saclink/settingUp.stm) webpage (<http://www.csus.edu/saclink/settingUp.stm>).

To get started using SacCT visit the [Student Resources](http://www.csus.edu/WebCT/student/) webpage (<http://www.csus.edu/WebCT/student/>). There you will find Online Tutorials, Frequently Asked Questions, and other help resources. You can also ask me for help.

You will be taking quizzes and exams, participating in discussions, and submitting papers through SacCT. In addition, you may communicate with me, as well as with other students in the class, through the SacCT Mail facility.

Communications

The course will use the communication tools built into SacCT:

- Announcements: It's a good idea to check for announcements from time to time
- Mail: You may send me a message using the 'Mail' function in SacCT. I will respond promptly.
- Discussions: You will be expected to participate in discussions, whether in class or through the 'Discussions' function in SacCT.
- Calendar: Exams and due dates for papers will all appear in the Calendar.

Technical Requirements

To access a course on SacCT you will need access to the Internet and an internet browser (Internet Explorer, Firefox, Safari, Chrome). To ensure that you are using a supported browser and have required plug-ins please run the Check Browser from your SacCT course. Refer to the [SacCT Browser Tune-up](#) page for instructions.

For help or to report a problem with SacCT you can:

- Visit the [Student SacCT FAQ's webpage](#)
- Submit a [SacCT Problem Form](#)
- Contact the University Help Desk at (916) 278-7337

Work for Course

1. Quizzes on Reading Assignments (15%)

You will be responsible for the readings assigned for a particular class day. While you will be responsible for the whole reading, I may indicate in the Schedule below that you should pay particular attention of some part of the reading. As a result, it may happen that other parts will not be treated in class. You will be responsible for them anyway. The quiz for the reading assignment must be taken by the beginning

of the class period for which it is assigned. That will be true even for those watching it via cable.

2. Midterm Exam (20%) The midterm will be a combination of multiple-choice, fill-in, true/false questions, plus some essay questions. The questions will be on the readings, lectures, and discussions.
3. Final Exam (20%) Same as the midterm. The final will cover all the readings, lectures, and discussions since the midterm.
4. Two Analytical Essays (20% each) You will be assigned two readings to analyze following the requirements for an analytical essay in SacCT.
5. Discussion Contributions (5%)
You will be expected to make regular contributions to discussion either in the class period itself or in the online "Discussion" folder in SacCT.

Assignment Submission Instructions

Analytical Essays: Papers will be submitted in SacCT.

In writing the essay, follow the instructions for analytical essay found in the Philosophy Department website. Look under "Guidance" for "How to Write an Analytical Essay."

Here's the URL:

<http://www.csus.edu/phil/Guidance/How%20to%20Write%20an%20Analysis.htm>

You will find another document there that will be helpful, since it gives you some hints as to what we look for. It's called "Guidelines for Writing Philosophy Papers":

<http://www.csus.edu/phil/Guidance/WritingGuidelines.html>

In addition, look carefully at the rubric by which the essays will be graded. The rubric can be found on the page for each writing assignment. Click on the box "View Rubric." Keep it in mind as you write, since that forms the standards by which I will be grading them.

To submit an essay in SacCT:

- Enter SacCT at <http://csus.edu/sacct/>
- Open the main page for PHIL 6;
- On the Course Menu select 'Assignments';
- Open the correct assignment (the first assignment is on the essay entitled "The Ethics of Belief," by W. A. Clifford). That page will say "Preview Upload Assignment: First Analytical Essay: "The Ethics of Belief."
- Clicking the little triangle next to "*Type Submission*" opens a box in which you can write your essay. (You'll probably want to produce it in your own word

processing software first and then copy-and-paste it in. Be sure to revise it once you do, since you may lose some editing.)

- Once you are satisfied with how your essay looks in that box, click 'Submit' (Important);
- A green "success" message should appear: "This assignment is complete. Review the submission history." *It's not submitted until you see that message.*
- Late papers will be lowered a grade increment for every day past the due date. I leave the window open for submitting papers for five days past the date.

Discussions

Philosophy involves discussion and argument. It's the best way to explore philosophical questions, the best way to learn how to philosophize. So I will expect you to participate in the discussions. You will either receive full credit for participation (5%) or no credit, depending on how seriously you take your responsibility to make contributions. If I notice that you are not participating, I will let you know that I expect more.

To participate in an online discussion:

- Enter SacCT;
- Open 'Discussions' (under 'Course Tools' on the left margin);
- Click on one of the topics; you will be able to read the other contributions;
- You can contribute to the discussion by clicking 'Create Message'.

Online Quizzes/Exams

Reading Quizzes: There will be a reading quiz on every assignment. A reading quiz will consist of five to ten multiple-choice questions designed so that a careful reader should be able to answer them. The quiz will 'open' a week before it is due; it will 'close' at the beginning of the class period in which the reading will be discussed.

To take a reading quiz in SacCT:

Enter SacCT at <https://online.csus.edu>;

- Open the main page for PHIL 6;
- Open 'Assessments' (under 'Course Tools' on the left margin of the main page);
- Answer the questions (make sure you 'submit' each question as well as the entire exam).

You will have only one chance to take the quiz, so check your answers before submitting.

I have included a sample 'Test Quiz' you can practice on before you have to do the real thing. It gives you an idea of what the real quizzes (and exams) will be like. The Test Quiz doesn't count, and you can take it as many times as you like. If you are unsure

whether your connection is reliable, run a test quiz to see if it holds up. You can always take the quizzes in one of the labs if your internet connection is kludgy.

Since you have a week to take a quiz, and the instructions to 'save' questions are clear, I will under no circumstances reset a quiz you have messed up or not taken. It's your responsibility to figure out how to take exams and keep track of due dates.

Exams: The exam window will open a week before it is due. You must take the exam during that time.

To take an exam in SacCT, follow the instructions for taking a reading quiz. The difference between an exam and a quiz will be the time constraints. You will have 75 minutes to take the midterm, two hours (120 minutes) to take the final. In addition, each individual question will have a time limit.

Grading

Exams: Exams will receive numerical grades; your score will be 'out of' 100.

Essays: Each essay will receive a numerical grade out of 20. The basis for the grade will be the 'Rubric' found in SacCT.

Essay Score	Grade Equivalent
20-17.5	A
17.49-14.5	B
14.49-11.5	C
11.49-9.0	D
8.9-	F

Reading Quizzes: Reading quizzes will receive a grade of **2** (full credit), **1** (inadequate comprehension), or **0** (not taken). An average of **1.7** or above will receive full credit (100). Lower scores will be prorated.

Discussion: Discussion participation will receive either complete credit (100), half credit (50), or none (0). Periodically I will post progress reports in the form of a grade. *That grade is not final and will not count toward your final grade.* It is merely an indication of the grade you will receive if you contribute at your current rate.

Final Grade: The final grade for the course will be determined by the weighted sum of the exams, quizzes, discussion, and papers.

Grading Criteria

Scaled Score	Letter Equivalent
100-94	A
93-92	A-
91-90	B+
89-84	B
83-82	B-
81-80	C+
79-74	C
73-72	C-
71-70	D+
69-64	D
63-62	D-
61-	F

Viewing Grades in SacCT

For reading quizzes you will be able to see your score as soon as you have submitted your quiz.

For exams, and papers I will post the grades as soon as I have finished grading them. You can see your grades during the semester by going to 'MyGrades' in SacCT.

Course Policies**Attendance**

I expect attendance at every class meeting. I will confirm this by taking roll. If you must miss class please inform me in advance. If advance notice is not possible then you must e-mail me through the SacCT e-mail utility by 5:00 PM on the day you miss.

Class meetings begin at 1:30 pm with a roll. Be on time. Anticipate. Excuses aren't acceptable. I will treat a pattern of late arrival as an unexcused absence.

I will lower you a final grade increment for every unexcused absence. So keep up.

Make-Up Exams

Since you may take exams at your convenience over a period of a week, and since you have the Test Quiz to test the reliability of your internet connection, *there will be no make-up exams.*

Period.

The opening and closing dates and times for exams will be listed in the calendar.

Late Work

For papers, I will leave the assignment window open for five days after the due date. The grade will be lowered a grade increment for every day it's late.

Extra Credit

Since it is easy to get full credit for the Reading Quiz and Discussion elements of your grade, there will be no extra credit. Get the credit that's there already.

University Policies***Academic Honesty***

Students are expected to be familiar with the University's Academic Honesty, Policy & Procedures. The University Library has a helpful treatment of plagiarism at <http://library.csus.edu/content2.asp?pageID=353>

Originality is an over-rated virtue in undergraduate written work, ranking well below unity, clarity, and cogency of argument. You can borrow other people's ideas and arguments all you like. You just need to *cite* them when you do. Use any method of citation you find comfortable and convenient. (I like MLA myself.) Don't borrow their *words*: you mustn't submit a paper consisting of a bunch of quotations. Since you can borrow ideas, you have no excuse for plagiarism except laziness.

Reasonable Accommodation Policy

If you have a disability and require accommodations, you need to provide disability documentation to Services for Students with Disabilities (SSWD). For more information please visit the [SSWD website](http://www.csus.edu/sswd/) (<http://www.csus.edu/sswd/>). They are located 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.

Please discuss your accommodation needs with me *early* in the semester – that is, within the first week. It is difficult and time-consuming to make certain accommodations in SacCT. If you wait until the first quiz or paper is due to announce your disability it may simply not be *humanly* possible to make the accommodation. You will then have to do as best you can.

A tendency toward procrastination is not a recognized disability.

University Resources***The CSUS 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.

Sac State Library

The Sac State Library's webpage is <http://library.csus.edu>.

To find a book or periodical, click on "Eureka: Library Catalogue" under "Resources and Collections" or go directly to <http://eureka.lib.csus.edu/>

For an undergraduate library Sac State's philosophy holdings are pretty good.

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 Computing 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](http://www.csus.edu/uccs/labs/generalinfo/about.stm) , 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) (<https://online.csus.edu>).

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

Course Schedule

The contents of square brackets are readings from the text. If the material for a meeting is not from the text you will see [Lecture] instead.

If something is due for a given day the "Due Date" box will indicate so. The SacCT calendar will also show due dates.

Week	Topic	Readings	Due Date
Introduction: What Makes a Question 'Philosophical'? Philosophy in an important sense has no special subject-matter which stands to it as other subject-matters stand to other special disciplines. If philosophers did have such a special subject-matter, they could turn it over to a new group of specialists as they have turned over other special subject-matters to non-philosophers over the past 2500 years, first with mathematics, more recently psychology and sociology, and, currently, certain aspects of theoretical linguistics. What is characteristic of Philosophy is not its special subject matter, but the aim of knowing one's way around with respect to the subject-matters of all the special disciplines. Wilfrid Sellars, "Philosophy and the Scientific Image of Man"			
Week 1 M 8/31	M: Introduction: When is a Question 'Philosophical'?	M: [Lecture]	M:
W 9/2	W: The Concepts of 'Discipline,' 'Realm,' 'Conceptual Scheme,' 'Manifest Image,' 'Scientific Image'	W: [Lecture]	W:
Week 2 M 9/7	M: Labor Day Holiday	M:	M:
W 2/5	W: Is the Manifest Image Coherent? The Case of 'Motion'	W: [Kolak & Goloff, "The Incredible Shrinking Zeno" (48-61)]	W: Reading Quiz on Kolak & Goloff
Part I: Space and Time Under 'things in the broadest possible sense' I include such radically different items as not only 'cabbages and kings,' but numbers and duties, possibilities and finger snaps, aesthetic experience and death. Wilfrid Sellars, "Philosophy and the Scientific Image of Man"			
Week 3 M 9/14	M: Refining Zeno's Paradox	W: [Kolak & Goloff, "The Incredible Shrinking Zeno" (48-61)]	M:
W 9/16	W: Time in the Manifest Image: Our Two Conceptions of Time	W: [Lecture]	W:
Week 4 M 9/21	M: Time in the Scientific Image	M: [Einstein, "On the Idea of Time in Physics"; Vignette: Paul Davies, "What Time is it on Mars?"]	M: Reading Quiz on Einstein and Davies

Week	Topic	Readings	Due Date
W 9/23	W: Is the Future Real?	W: [Einstein, "On the Idea of Time in Physics"; Vignette: Paul Davies, "What Time is it on Mars?"]	W:
Part II: The Self To be able to think is to be able to measure one's thoughts by standards of correctness, of relevance, of evidence. In this sense a diversified conceptual framework is a whole which, however sketchy, is prior to its parts, and cannot be construed as a coming together of parts which are already conceptual in character. The conclusion is difficult to avoid that the transition from pre-conceptual patterns of behavior to conceptual thinking was a holistic one, a jump to a level of awareness which is irreducibly new, a jump which was the coming into being of man. Wilfrid Sellars, "Philosophy and the Scientific Image of Man"			
Week 5 M 9/28 M 9/30	M: The Concept of 'Person' W: Location and the Self	M: [Daniel Dennett, "Where Am I?"] W: [Daniel Dennett, "Where Am I?"]	M: Reading Quiz on Dennett W: 1st Discussion Progress Report
Week 6 M 10/5 W 10/7	M: 'Human Being' and 'Person' W: "Human Being and Person"	M: [John Locke, "Personal Identity"] W: [John Locke, "Personal Identity"]	M: Reading Quiz on Locke W:
Week 7 M 10/12 W 10/14	M: An Account of the Origins of our Manifest Image Concept of the Self W: Recent Discussion of Personal Identity	M: [David Hume, "Personal Identity"] W: [Raymond Martin, "Personal Identity from Plato to Parfit, pp. 131-137"]	M: Reading Quiz on Hume, "Personal Identity" W: Reading Quiz on Martin, pp. 131-137
Week 8 M 10/19 W 10/21	M: Recent Discussion of Personal Identity (Cont.) W: Recent Discussion of Personal Identity (cont.)	M: [Raymond Martin, "Personal Identity from Plato to Parfit, pp. 131-137"] W: [Raymond Martin, "Personal Identity from Plato to Parfit, pp. 131-137"]	M: First Analytic Essay due in SacCT M 10/19, 11:30 pm. W:
Part III: Actions, Events, and the Will A man who at noon leaves his purse full of gold on the pavement at Charing Cross may as well expect that it will fly away like a feather as that he will find it untouched an hour after. David Hume, "An Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding"			
Week 9 M 10/26	M: Freedom as a Manifest Image Concept; Determinism as a Scientific Image Concept	M: [Baron Holbach, "The Illusion of Free Will"]	M: Reading Quiz on Holbach

Week	Topic	Readings	Due Date
W 10/28	W: The View from the Manifest Image: What Do We Mean by 'Cause'?	W:	W: Exam 1 window opens Wed 10/28, 2:45 pm.
Week 10 M 11/2	M: The Problem of Free Will as "Merely Verbal W:"	M: [David Hume, "Liberty and Necessity"]	M: Reading Quiz on Hume, "Liberty and Necessity"
W 11/4	W:	W: [David Hume, "Liberty and Necessity"]	W: Exam 1 window closes Wed 11/4 1:30 pm
Week 11 M 11/9	M: On Conflict Between the Images	M: [William James, "The Dilemma of Determinism"]	M: Reading Quiz on William James
W 11/11	W: Simple Indeterminism and Its Problems	W: [Richard Taylor, "Freedom and Determinism"]	W: Reading Quiz on Taylor
Week 12 M 11/16	M: The 'Agency' Theory of Free Will	M: [Richard Taylor, "Freedom and Determinism"]	M: 2nd Discussion Progress Report
	M: W:	M: W:	M: W:
Part IV: Consciousness At the present time the status of Physicalism is similar to that which the hypothesis that matter is energy would have had if uttered by a pre-Socratic philosopher. We do not have the beginnings of a conception of how it might be true. Thomas Nagel, "What is it Like to be a Bat?"			
W 11/18	W: The Recalcitrance of the Mind/Body Problem	W: [Thomas Nagel, "What Is It Like to be a Bat?"]	W: Reading Quiz on Nagel, "What Is It Like To Be a Bat?"
Week 13 M 11/23	M: What <i>Kind</i> of Fact?	M: [Thomas Nagel, "What Is It Like to be a Bat?"]	M:
W 11/25	W: How Experiences Feel <i>From the Inside</i>	W: [Frank Jackson, "Epiphenomenal Qualia"]	W: Reading Quiz on Jackson
Week 14 M 11/30	M: Another Physicalist Strategy	M: [Paul Churchland, "Reduction, Qualia, and the Direct Introspection of Brain States"]	M: Reading Quiz on Churchland
W 12/2	W: Eliminating the Irreducible	W: [Paul Churchland, "Reduction, Qualia, and the Direct Introspection of Brain States"]	W:

Week	Topic	Readings	Due Date
Week 15 M 12/7	M: The Problem with Physicalism	M: [Barry Stroud, "The Physical World," found in "Part IV: Consciousness in the Scientific Image"]	M: Reading Quiz on Stroud Final exam window opens Mon, December 7, 12:45 pm
W 12/9	W: Concluding Lecture	W:	W: 2nd Analytic Essay due Wed December 9, 11:30 pm
Week 16 M 12/14			M: Final exam window closes Mon, December 14, 2:45 pm.
W 12/16			

The descriptions and due dates are subject to change at the discretion of the Instructor.

Have a good semester!