PHIL 6: Introduction to Philosophy  
Section 06: MW 1:30-2:45, ARC-1011  
Section 20: TV Broadcast, Ch. 16, MW 5:30-6:45 pm

Instructor: Prof. Thomas F. Pyne

Office Hours: MW 11:00-11:50; By Appointment  
In addition, I will conduct “virtual” office hours in the SacCT ‘Discussions’ room on Monday/Wednesday, 5:30-6:45 during the broadcast.

Office Location: Mendocino 3000

Phone: (Office) 278-7288  
(Philosophy Department) 278-6424

Email: pynetf@csus.edu

Faculty Website: www.csus.edu/indiv/p/pynetf/

GE Area: GE Area C3: Introduction to the Humanities

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 argumentative papers on particular philosophical questions.

Access the Course

Both sections of the course will be ‘web-assisted.’ That is, both sections will use the SacCT course management system. Students may use their Saclink account to log into the course from the SacCT Login page (https://online.csus.edu).

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

To get started using SacCT visit the Student Resources 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.

Course Delivery

The course will be offered in two ways:
1. Section 06 will be taught in ARC 1011, a television studio which functions exactly like an ordinary college classroom. The class will meet on Monday/Wednesday,
1:30-2:45. Students will be expected to answer questions and participate in discussions just as they would in any university class.

2. Section 20 will be taught as a TV class. The Monday/Wednesday afternoon class meeting of Section 06 will be broadcast for Section 20 on Sacramento Cable channel 16, Monday/Wednesday, 5:30-6:45 pm. I will be available online during that broadcast in the SacCT ‘Discussions’ room to answer questions and participate. I will also look in at other times.

The class lectures will also be archived as streaming video in the ‘Course Content’ folder within SacCT. In addition, my lecture notes will appear in the relevant folder within ‘Course Content’ after the conclusion of the broadcast.

For both sections exams, quizzes, papers, and other work will be submitted through SacCT.

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). 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 (10%)
   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 Monday or Wednesday class period for which it is assigned. That will be true even for those watching it via cable on Tuesday mornings.

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. First Paper (2-3 pages) (20%)  
   **Topic:** Given what makes a question ‘philosophical’ (that we lack the conceptual resources needed to answer it),
   a. What, in your view, is the most important philosophical question facing us at the present time?
   b. What is your argument for the claim that it is the most important question?
   c. What is your **reasoned** answer to the question?

5. Second Paper (4-5 pages) (20%)  
   **Topic:** Given what you have learned this semester,
   a. What do you **now** think is the most important philosophical question facing us? (It need not be different from the issue you wrote about in the first paper, but it probably will be.)
   b. What do you think is the answer?
   c. Argue for your position.

6. Discussion Contributions (10%)  
   You will be expected to make regular contributions to discussion either in the class period itself or in the online ‘Chat’ discussion conducted in SacCT.

**Assignment Submission Instructions**

**Papers:** Papers will be submitted in SacCT.
In writing the paper, follow the instructions for argumentative papers found in the “Guidelines for Writing Philosophy Papers” at the Philosophy Department website: [http://www.csus.edu/phil/WritingGuidelines&GradingStandardsforPapers.htm](http://www.csus.edu/phil/WritingGuidelines&GradingStandardsforPapers.htm)

To submit a paper in SacCT:
- Enter SacCT at [https://online.csus.edu](https://online.csus.edu);
- Open the main page for PHIL 6;
- Open ‘Assignments’ (under ‘Course Tools’ on the left margin);
- Open the correct assignment; you will see the text of the assignment itself as well as the due date and time;
- You will see a space for the paper - don’t use that;
• Instead, click on the ‘Attachment’ button;
• Attach your paper as an *editable* file that will open in Microsoft Word (*not* a .pdf or .htm file); if you’re unsure, attach it as a ‘text’ (.txt) or ‘rich text’ (.rtf); those options are available in all word-processing programs;
• 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 due 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 (10%) 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 Monday/Wednesday class period in which the reading will be discussed.

To take a reading quiz in SacCT:
Enter SacCT at [https://online.csus.edu](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.

**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.

**Papers:** Papers will receive letter grades. To determine the final grade, those letter grades will be converted into the highest number in the grade range under ‘Grading Criteria’ below. (For example, a B grade on a paper converts to 89.)

**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) or none (0).

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

**Grading Criteria**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scaled Score</th>
<th>Letter Equivalent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100-94</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>93-92</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>91-90</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>89-84</td>
<td>B</td>
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<td>83-82</td>
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<td>63-62</td>
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**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**

**Make-Up Exams**

Since you may take exams at your convenience over a period of a week, there will be no make-up exams. 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.

**University Policies**

**Academic Honesty**

Students are expected to be familiar with the University’s Academic Honesty, Policy & Procedures. The policy on Academic Honesty and other information regarding student conduct can be accessed from the [University Policy Manual](http://www.csus.edu/umanual/index.htm).

The University Library has a helpful treatment of plagiarism at [http://library.csus.edu/content2.asp?pageID=353](http://library.csus.edu/content2.asp?pageID=353).

You should include information about the policy relevant to your course; for example, define what plagiarism is based on the University Policy Manual and the consequences for engaging in this particular behavior. For plagiarism specifically, you may want to include a link to the [Library’s Plagiarism Website](http://library.csus.edu/content2.asp?pageID=353).

**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/). 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](mailto:sswd@csus.edu).

Please discuss your accommodation needs with me after class or during my office hours early in the semester.
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, our 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, 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.

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.
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”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M 8/31</td>
<td>Introduction: When is a Question ‘Philosophical’?</td>
<td>M: Lecture</td>
<td>M:</td>
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<tr>
<td>W 9/2</td>
<td></td>
<td>W: Lecture</td>
<td>W:</td>
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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: Refining Zeno’s Paradox | M: Kolak & Goloff, “The Incredible Shrinking Zeno” (48-61) | M: |
| M 9/14 | | W: | |
Course Syllabus

Week Topic Readings Due Date

W: 9/16 W: Time in the Manifest Image: Our Two Conceptions of Time as a Series W: [Lecture] 


W 9/23 W: Is the Future Real? M: Reading Quiz on Einstein and Davies 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”


W 9/30 W: Location and the Self W: [Daniel Dennett, “Where Am I?”] 

Week 6 M 10/5 M: ‘Human Being’ and ‘Person’ M: [John Locke, “Personal Identity”] W: [John Locke, “Personal Identity”] M: Reading Quiz on Locke W: 

W 10/7 W: “Human Being and Person” W: [John Locke, “Personal Identity”] 


W 10/14 W: Recent Discussion of Personal Identity M: [Raymond Martin, “Personal Identity from Plato to Parfit, pp. 131-137”] W: [Raymond Martin, “Personal Identity from Plato to Parfit, pp. 131-137”] 

Week 8 M 10/19 M: 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: 

W 10/21 W: Recent Discussion of Personal Identity (cont.) W: [Paper 1 due in SacCT W 10/21 11:30 pm.]

10
### 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”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 9</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>W 10/26</strong></td>
<td>M: Freedom as a Manifest Image Concept; Determinism as a Scientific Image Concept</td>
<td>M: [Baron Holbach, “The Illusion of Free Will”]</td>
<td>M: Reading Quiz on Holbach</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 10</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>M 11/2</strong></td>
<td>M: The View from the Manifest Image: What Do We Mean by ‘Cause’?</td>
<td>M: [David Hume, “Liberty and Necessity”]</td>
<td>M: Reading Quiz on Hume, “Liberty and Necessity”</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 11</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>M 11/9</strong></td>
<td>M: On Conflict Between the Images</td>
<td>M: [William James, “The Dilemma of Determinism”]</td>
<td>M: Reading Quiz on William James</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 12</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>M 11/16</strong></td>
<td>M: The ‘Agency’ Theory of Free Will</td>
<td>M: [Richard Taylor, “Freedom and Determinism”]</td>
<td>M:</td>
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### 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?”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 13</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>W 11/18</strong></td>
<td>W: The Recalcitrance of the Mind/Body Problem</td>
<td>W: [Thomas Nagel, “What Is It Like to be a Bat?”]</td>
<td>W: Reading Quiz on Nagel</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 14</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>W 11/23</strong></td>
<td>M: What <em>Kind of Fact</em>?</td>
<td>M: [Thomas Nagel, “What Is It Like to be a Bat?”]</td>
<td>M:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>W 11/25</strong></td>
<td>W: How Experiences Feel <em>From the Inside</em></td>
<td>W: [Frank Jackson, “Epiphenomenal Qualia”]</td>
<td>W: Reading Quiz on Jackson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Readings</td>
<td>Due Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>M 11/30</td>
<td>M: Irreducible Subjective Facts</td>
<td>M: [Frank Jackson, “Epiphenomenal Qualia”]</td>
<td>M:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W 12/2</td>
<td>W: Another Physicalist Strategy</td>
<td>W: [Paul Churchland, “Reduction, Qualia, and the Direct Introspection of Brain States”]</td>
<td>W: Reading Quiz on Churchland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 15</td>
<td>M 12/7</td>
<td>M: Eliminating the Irreducible</td>
<td>M:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>W 12/9</td>
<td>W: Final Class: Looking Ahead</td>
<td>W: Final exam window opens 2:45 pm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 16</td>
<td>M 12/14</td>
<td>M:</td>
<td>M: Paper 2 due in SacCT M 12/14, 11:30 pm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>W 12/16</td>
<td>W:</td>
<td>W: Final exam window closes W 12/16, 2:45 pm.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

Good luck!