
PHIL 11

Intro to Philosophy

Winter 2018

MW 05:20pm–06:55pm

Classroom Unit 002

Nico Orlandi

Cowell Faculty Annex 112

Office hours: M 3.00–5.00, or by appointment

norlandi@ucsc.edu

Teaching assistants:	Jordan Dopkins, sect. C,B,M	jdopkins@ucsc.edu
	Aaron Franklin, sect. N,O,R	afrank11@ucsc.edu
	Sean Hunter, sect. U,I,K	ghunter@ucsc.edu
	Mariana Imaz Sheinbaum, sect. H,J,S	mimazshe@ucsc.edu
	Travis Raymond, sect. P,Q,A	traymon1@ucsc.edu
	Cynthia Tibbetts, sect. D,E,F	cmtibbet@ucsc.edu
	Kelvin Villegas, sect. G,L,T	kevilleg@ucsc.edu

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to philosophy that surveys three major areas of philosophical reflection. We will consider, first, questions that concern what the mind is and how to study it. We will then think about ethical issues pertaining to what is valuable and what's ethical. We will end with a look at the field of epistemology which studies knowledge and its social implications. In surveying these three central areas of philosophy, we will read selections from some of the most prominent classical and contemporary thinkers such as Renee Descartes, Plato, John Stuart Mill, Immanuel Kant, Hilary Putnam, Susan Wolf, and Charles Mills. We will read these works not solely as historical pieces, but as lively contributions to philosophical debates. The aim of the class is to acquaint students with some central issues in philosophy, and to expose students to the style and methodology of philosophical theorizing.

Class Time:

Lectures and discussion sections are devoted to presenting and discussing the material with the students. Most class sessions have a reading assignment (see below). You should come to class having read and thought about the assigned reading. You will

soon notice that philosophical writings are difficult: you should read them several times before class.

In order to help prepare for class, study questions for all the assigned readings are posted on Canvas. You are not required to turn in answers to the study questions, but trying to answer them will prepare you for the exams.

Please limit use of laptop computers for taking notes during lecture and during discussion sections.

Readings:

The readings for this class consist in articles, and in excerpts from a number of books.

The books are:

- Descartes *Meditations on First Philosophy*, Third Edition, Hackett Classics.
- Fine *Delusions of Gender*, W.W. Norton & Company.
- Kant *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals*, Ellington's translation, Hackett.
- Mill *Utilitarianism*, Second Edition, Hackett.
- Mills *Race and Epistemologies of Ignorance*, SUNY Press.
- Plato *Theaetetus*, edited by B. Williams, Hackett Publishing Company.
- Ryle *The Concept of Mind*, with an Intro by D. Dennett, U. of Chicago Press.

The books are available for purchase online, but all the excerpts we will use are available on Canvas. Articles for the class are also available on Canvas.

Assignments and Grading:

The required assignments are as follows:

Take-Home Exam #1:	25%	Due on Wednesday, January 31
Take-Home Exam #2:	30%	Due on Monday, February 26
Final paper:	35%	Due via email on Tuesday, March 20 at 10.30pm
Participation:	10%	

Take-home Exams:

The take-home exams test your comprehension of the material. The exams will consist of one or more essay questions. The questions are based on the study questions.

Paper:

The paper requires you to reflect on a problem and to explain how some contrasting

philosophical positions relate to it. The paper also requires you to take a critical stance. A paper assignment will be posted on Canvas well before the paper's due date. The paper is of moderate length (1,800 – 2,000 words).

Writing philosophy papers can be difficult and new to some of you. You can find some helpful advice on how to write philosophy papers on Jim Pryor's website: www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/writing.html.

Participation:

Your participation grade is determined by your contribution to discussion sections. Attendance is recommended for lectures and **mandatory for discussion sections**. Please come to class and to sections having read the material and being prepared to discuss it. **Missing 50% of sections or more will result in a failing grade in the course.**

Late/Makeup Assignments:

Please note the due dates for the written assignments below. Because of the size of the class, there will be **no possibility for a make-up**. If you are not able to turn in an assignment on time, you will receive a failing grade on that assignment.

There will be *no* extra-credit opportunities in this class.

Disability:

If you qualify for classroom accommodations because of a disability, please get an Accommodation Authorization from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) and submit it to me in person outside of class (e.g. office hours) within the first two weeks of the quarter. Contact DRC at 459-2089 (voice), 459-4806 (TTY), or drc.ucsc.edu. for more information on the requirements and/or process.

Plagiarism:

You are responsible for being familiar with UCSC's policies on plagiarism and proper sourcing. Proper sourcing and good scholarship are expected. You can study together, but the assignments are not collaborative and should reflect your individual skill. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and will not be tolerated. At a minimum, plagiarism will result in failing the course. If you have any questions or concerns about how to avoid plagiarism and ensure the originality of your work, please ask the instructor. UCLA has helpful tips on avoiding plagiarism:

<http://unitproj.library.ucla.edu/col/b Bruinsuccess/>.

Class Schedule:

Introduction

M 01.08 *Introduction to the course*

Mind

W 01.10 R. DESCARTES *Meditations on First Philosophy* II

W 01.17 R. DESCARTES *Meditations on First Philosophy* VI

M 01.22 G. RYLE Ch. 1 “Descartes’ Myth”

W 01.24 G. RYLE Ch. 2 “Knowing How and Knowing That” (selection)

M 01.29 H. PUTNAM “The nature of mental states”

W 01.31 C. FINE *Delusions of Gender* Chapter I, & FIRST EXAM DUE

Ethics

M 02.05 J.S. MILL *Utilitarianism*, Ch. 2.

W 02.07 J.S. MILL *Utilitarianism*, Ch. 4.

M 02.12 I. KANT *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals*, pp. 7–23; sections 393–412.

W 02.14 I. KANT *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals*, pp. 23–32; sections 412–424.

W 02.21 I. KANT *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals*, pp. 32–38; sections 424–431.

M 02.26 S. WOLF “Moral Saints” & SECOND EXAM DUE

Epistemology

W 02.28 PLATO *Theaetetus*

M 03.05 PLATO *Theaetetus*

W 03.07 R. DESCARTES *Meditations on First Philosophy* I

M 03.12 C.H. MILLS “White Ignorance”

W 03.14 M. FRICKER “Epistemic Injustice”

Final Paper Due

Tu 03.20 10.30 PM