



## Classic Philosophy

### Unit of Study Outline

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#### 1. Unit of study information

This introductory course of philosophy demonstrates great works of classic philosophical literatures and brings out its most important themes. Many philosophical problems that are worth discussing today are engaged. Rather than trace detailed historical background, this course focuses on key ideas of figures such as Plato, Aristotle, Boethius, Descartes, and Rousseau etc. Those theories proposed by great thinkers will be discussed, compared and analyzed.

#### 2. Pre-requisite units and assumed knowledge

- Basic English reading and analysis skills
- Basic knowledge about the philosophy or philosophers is recommended, but not requested.

#### 3. Learning aims and outcomes

After completion of this course, the students should be able to:

- Get well known of remarkable philosophical concepts and theories
- Acquire competence of critical reading and interpreting philosophical literatures
- Analyze philosophical problems in real life and work out methods of dealing with them

#### 4. Weighting of final grade

Participation 10%  
Comments/questions on each day's readings 20%  
Assignments 10%  
Mid-term exam 30%  
Final exam 30%

## 5. Grading

A	100-95	A-	94-90	B+	89-87
B	86-83	B-	82-80	C+	79-77
C	76-73	C-	72-70	D+	69-67
D	66-63	D-	62-60	F	59 or lower

## 6. Policies

### Attendance Policy

Attendance in class is mandatory for all students enrolled in the course. Any excused absence must be discussed directly with the teacher. Being late to class within 15 minutes will be recorded as 1 LATE and being late over 15 minutes will be recorded as 1 ABSENCE. 3 LATES equal to 1 ABSENCE. 20% absences of the total teaching hours will cause an F (a failing grade) directly. However, students are still welcome to continue to attend class. F students have no right to drop this course anymore. Each unexcused absence will result in the lowering of the attendance grade by 1 point. Each excused absence will result in the lowering of the attendance grade by 0.5 point.

### Participation Policy

Students should participate in their chosen classes actively and effectively. The Participation Grade is related to the Attendance Grade. Students' final attendance grade is the maximum of their participation grade.

Participation grade will be based on a variety of factors including, but not limited to taking part in class discussions and activities, completing assignments, being able to answer questions correctly, obeying class rules, and being prepared for class, frequent visiting your instructors and chatting in English during their office hours is highly recommended.

### Policy on Assignments and Quizzes

Students should finish their assignments completely and punctually. Assignment should be submitted on the date appointed by the instructor. If a student cannot hand in the assignment on time, the reasonable excuse will be needed. Late assignments will receive a maximum grade of 80. An assignment that is late for 3 days will be corrected but receive 0.

You are recommended print all your assignment in the uniform format with the heading of Student's Pledge of no cheating. Written assignment or printed ones without the uniform heading of pledge will receive a maximum grade of 80.

It is mandatory to have weekend assignment every week. Any weekend assignment should be submitted on first class of next week.

It is mandatory to have holiday assignment on the public holidays. Any holiday assignment should be submitted on the first day on returning to school.

Students are required to do a multitude of presentations during the course.

### **Plagiarism**

Any form of cheating is NEVER tolerated. Any student ONCE caught cheating on a quiz, assignment or examination will receive a 0 for that particular work of the whole semester. At the beginning of the semester the definition of plagiarism will be carefully explained. When any thoughts or writings of another person are used, the sources must be clearly identified (using quotes, bibliography and giving reference).

### **Classroom Policies**

1. No eating, cellular phones, electronic dictionaries, smoking, chatting or drowsing in class.
2. Please speak in English rather than Chinese in class.
3. Students are not allowed to attend class without textbooks.
4. Stand up when answering questions.
5. Respect classmates' ideas, opinions, and questions of your classmates.
6. You are welcome to visit the instructor's office in his/her office hours.
7. Take good care of the laboratory facilities. Do not splash water on the desktop.
8. When each class is over, hang the earphone on the hanger. Put the trash into the trash-bin.
9. All your classroom involvement, performance and after-class communications with instructor will affect your participation score.
10. All communications with the teacher must be in English, both inside and outside class time.

## 7. Texts and other recourses

Warburton, Nigel (2006) *Philosophy: The Classics* (3rd ed.) Routledge

## 8. Teaching methods

Lectures and discussion

## 9. Week by week topic and study guide

<b>Week 1</b>	Plato	The Republic
<b>Week 2</b>	Aristotle	Nicomachean Ethics
<b>Week 3</b>	Boethius	The Consolation of Philosophy
	Niccolò Machiavelli	The Prince
	René Descartes	Meditations
<b>Week 4</b>	Thomas Hobbes	Leviathan
	Baruch de Spinoza	Ethics
<b>Week 5</b>	John Locke	Human Understanding
		Second Treatise of Government
<b>Week 6</b>	David Hume	An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding
		Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion
<b>Week 7</b>	<b>Midterm Exam</b>	
<b>Week 8</b>	Jean-Jacques Rousseau	The Social Contract
<b>Week 9</b>	Immanuel Kant	Critique of Pure Reason
		Groundwork of the Metaphysic of Morals
<b>Week 10</b>	Arthur Schopenhauer	The World as Will and Idea
	Søren Kierkegaard	Either/Or
<b>Week 11</b>	John Stuart Mill	On Liberty
		Utilitarianism
<b>Week 12</b>	Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels	The German Ideology
<b>Week 13</b>	Friedrich Nietzsche	Beyond Good and Evil
		On the Genealogy of Morality
<b>Week 14</b>	Bertrand Russell	The Problems of Philosophy
	A.J. Ayer	Language, Truth and Logic
<b>Week 15</b>	Jean-Paul Sartre	Being and Nothingness
		Existentialism and Humanism

<b>Week 16</b>	Ludwig Wittgenstein	Philosophical Investigations
	John Rawls	A Theory of Justice
<b>Week 17</b>	<b>Final Exam</b>	