

**PHILOSOPHY 100**  
***Introduction to Philosophy (I)***  
**Fall 2013**  
**W 6:30 pm – 9:40 pm**  
**Building 2100, Room 2131**

<b>Instructor Information:</b>	David Burris, <i>Professor of Philosophy &amp; Religious Studies</i>  <i>E-mail:</i> <a href="mailto:david.burris@imperial.edu">david.burris@imperial.edu</a> or <a href="mailto:david.burris@azwestern.edu">david.burris@azwestern.edu</a> <i>Phone:</i> 928-344-7714
<b>Required Text</b>	John Chaffee, <i>The Philosopher's Way: A Text With Readings</i> . 4 <sup>th</sup> Ed. New York: Prentice Hall, 2012.
<b>Course Description</b>	This course is an introduction to some of the philosophical issues associated with man's interpretation of the nature and meaning of reality. Emphasis is placed upon arguments for and against the <i>existence of God</i> , the <i>free will versus determinism</i> debate, and <i>mind-body</i> problems.
<b>Student Learning Outcomes</b>	Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Present and critique major arguments in the main philosophical fields of study.</li> <li>2) Read philosophical literature and extract the information essential to the author's position and method of argumentation.</li> <li>3) Explain how philosophical ideas and concepts interrelate to one another.</li> <li>4) Express themselves clearly, concisely, and persuasively in writing on philosophical topics.</li> <li>5) Employ philosophical techniques and methodologies in providing justification for the student's own views and beliefs.</li> </ol>
<b>Course Requirements</b>	<b><i>Exams (400 pts):</i></b> You will take 4 exams total, each of which will ask questions on the particular topic or unit that we have been covering the last several weeks leading up to the exam. It is hoped that these exams will motivate you to keep up with the course reading, read carefully, work on understanding chapter terminology, and ask questions about material that is unclear to you. All exams will have at least 30 questions, and they will generally be multiple choice or true/false. Each quiz is worth 100 points. The instructor will provide scantrons. Students, however, are responsible for bringing their own pencils. No retakes or make-ups are permitted unless special arrangements are made PRIOR to the exam with the instructor. Vacations and family events are not sufficient reasons to miss these exams. Any student who shows up more than 10 minutes late on quiz days will not be permitted to take the test.

\* *The instructor reserves the right to alter this document at any point during the semester*

**Term Paper (300 pts):** The term paper is called *Socratic Dialogue*. In this paper, the student must write a creative dialogue similar to what we read in Plato's *Apology*, in which various characters are discussing and debating a philosophical issue relevant to the material covered in the class to that point, such as free will, the mind-body problem, the theory of knowledge etc. This paper must be 7 full pages (1900-2100 words). This paper must be submitted through Blackboard no later than 11:59 pm on **(11/6)**.

More information regarding the specific requirements and method for submission for both papers, including an Assignment Sheet, Grading Rubric, and MLA Formatting Document, can be found by logging onto Blackboard and clicking on the Assignments button. I will look at a draft of the paper ahead of time if you so wish. I only ask that you bring a hard copy by my office during office hours so we look at it together. Do not simply e-mail me a paper as attachment. Moreover, make sure that you bring a complete draft. Do not bring half or a fourth of a paper. Partial drafts will not receive feedback. A complete draft is a paper that you would be comfortable turning in right at that moment for credit.

Let me just emphasize that no paper will be read that suffers from glaring deficiencies in either formatting or grammar. It is thusly recommended that each student proofreads his or her submissions multiple times. It is also highly recommended, though not required, that students bring their papers by the writing center prior to the time of submission. **NO LATE PAPERS** will be accepted. Late papers are defined as any paper that is submitted after the stroke of 11:59 pm the day the paper is due.

**Reading Quizzes (200 pts.):** As preparation to discuss the reading material in class, throughout the semester there will be 6 short quizzes that will test the student's level of understanding and familiarity with the chapter vocabulary and main themes presented in that week's reading. Quizzes will be administered randomly and always take place at the beginning of class on *Wednesday*. Students may not consult the textbook while taking the quiz, however, any handwritten notes may be used. If the student is late on a quiz day, they will not be able to take the quiz. Every student is responsible for completing 5 of the 6 quizzes, however, if the student decides to complete all 6, then the lowest quiz score will be dropped!

*Note: there are no make-up quizzes even for excused absences. Thus, it is highly recommended that the student save their extra score for any planned or unplanned absences.*

Generally quizzes will generally consist of 2-4 short answer questions. To earn the maximum points, the student must:

- (1) give evidence that they have read and understood the assigned reading
- (2) provide a thorough and accurate response to each question.
- (3) show proof of significant interaction with the primary sources (i.e., the writings of the philosophers themselves), and not only the commentary by our author.

Grades will be assigned a using four level system:

(100%) demonstrates significant familiarity and thorough comprehension of the assign reading.

(75%) demonstrates some familiarity, comprehension, and evidence of significant investment with the assigned reading.

(50%) demonstrates little familiarity or evidence of significant investment with the assigned reading.

(25%) demonstrates almost no evidence of significant investment with the assigned reading beyond mere skimming.

***Participation (100 pts.):*** The student must demonstrate preparedness for class sessions. This includes reading the assigned materials BEFORE the start of class, bringing textbooks to every class meeting, contributing to class discussions, asking thoughtful questions, and performing well on any in-class assignments. Genuine desire on the part of the student to improve throughout the semester will also be considered.

***Extra Credit (40 pts.):*** Extra credit assignments are available to those students wishing improve their grades a slight incremental amount. These assignments will not be able to make up large amounts of ground, so the student should not think they have a safety net of extra credit should they get behind in this course. All extra credit assignments must be turned in before the final exam.

***Assignment #1*** First, type in the following web address to your internet search navigation bar:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xcfwq3GNjOU>

What should come up is a formal debate between two philosophers named William Lane Craig and Austin Dacey on the existence of God. Note: Do not be fooled by the time on this first video. You must keep clicking on succeeding videos to watch the entire debate which lasts about an hour and a half. Third, write a 1-2 page paper telling me who you think won the debate and why? The maximum amount of extra credit you can get on this assignment is 20 pts. (2%). The amount of extra credit will be determined by how well and detailed you explain WHY you think that person won.

*Assignment #2:* Watch the film *I ROBOT*. Then write a 1-2 page paper explaining to me whether the USSR's supercomputer VIKI is exercising free will. Use examples from the movie.

The maximum amount of extra credit you can get on this assignment is 20 pts. (2%). These are the only two extra credit assignments I will offer.

## Grading Scale

A	900 – 1000 pts.
B	800 – 899 pts.
C	700 – 799 pts.
D	600 – 699 pts.
F	less than 600 pts.
* <i>These point values are rigid. This means, for example, students who receive 699 points will not receive a C because they were "close."</i>	

## Attendance Policy

Given that this class meets *once* a week, there is *one* unexcused absence allowed during the semester. Students who are absent more than *once* will receive a 5 point deduction to their participation grade per absence. After all, if one is not in class then one cannot participate. Further, please note that the same criteria for determining excused late work also apply to excused absences as well (see below). Moreover, if the student is not present for more than twenty minutes at any time during the class meeting, it will be marked as an unexcused absence. Further, students who are tardy more than twice during the semester will be marked absent for any subsequent tardies. Please note also that if the student comes into class after the instructor has taken attendance, it is the student's responsibility to communicate to the instructor that they were present by the end of that class meeting. If the student does not communicate this, then it will remain an unexcused absence. Finally, if the student stops attending class altogether, it is the student's responsibility to drop the class, not the instructor's. Students who do not drop themselves run the risk of being given an F at the end of the semester.

## Late Work

Generally, I do NOT accept late work (including any quizzes, papers, exams etc.), even for partial credit. If you have an illness or medical emergency of some kind, please provide me with some documentation so that I can verify your excuse. **All excuses must be able to be verified by the instructor.** And unless an excuse can be verified, then no late work will be accepted. Moreover, the student must request the excuse or notify the instructor in a timely manner in relation to the assignment. In other words, if there is a problem with turning in an assignment or coming to an exam, then the student (or someone speaking on the student's behalf) must inform the instructor of the situation within two days of the due date.

\* *The instructor reserves the right to alter this document at any point during the semester*

Furthermore, the student must complete any late assignment within one week of the due date unless the instructor has explicitly given an alternative timeline.

**Provisos:** The student needs to be forewarned that taking a college class brings with it, some measure of risk. This means that students are NOT automatically entitled to make-up assignments or take tests that they miss because of some personal conflict. Here is a list of excuses that will NOT be accepted.

- 1) Vacations and family events are NEVER sufficient reasons to miss an assignment or exam.
- 2) Personal issues such as funerals, financial hardships, work conflicts, pet problems, childcare issues, military relocations, transportation complications etc. are not verifiable excuses. The instructor has no interest in prying into the details of your personal life, thus work not completed as a result of one of these conflicts will not be excused.
- 3) Any student who either misses class or cannot complete an assignment in the early part of the semester because they have entered the class late or have not purchased a book, is also NOT excused. If a student is unable to purchase a book due to a delay in receiving their financial aid, this will NOT be considered a valid excuse. Students are expected to have all of their class materials by the first day of class. If there is a delay, students have the option of using a copy of the book on reserve at the AWC library.
- 4) If there is a prolonged illness or family issue (and by prolonged I mean something that would keep the student out of class for 2 or more weeks), the student will not be permitted to make-up any missing work and will be strongly encouraged to withdraw from the class.

**Classroom Conduct** While in this classroom, students will show respect for the instructor and their fellow classmates. Students must show up to class on time, or if they are late, come in the least disruptive way possible. Sleeping in class or distracting other students by talking during lectures or presentations may result in the student being asked to leave the class without warning. Moreover, negative cultural, ethnic, political, racial, sexist, or religious comments are strictly prohibited, and will result in strong disciplinary measures. Furthermore, students should remember to turn off their cell phones BEFORE coming to class. All CELL PHONE, SMART PHONE, IPAD, ITOUCH, IPOD, or the use any other electronic device during class is strictly prohibited. In fact, these devices should not be seen by the instructor for the entire duration of the class. Any student caught using one of these devices (having headphones in will be assumed to be using) or TEXTING will automatically be asked to leave the class for the day without a warning. Additionally, students may bring laptop computers to class; however, they must be used for note taking purposes only. Any student caught using a laptop for any other reason will be forbidden from

using it for the rest of the semester. Students are NOT permitted to take pictures of lecture notes or power point material during class.

Due to the sensitive nature of a number of issues we will discuss in this class, it is imperative that, if the student cannot participate without getting angry, rude, disruptive, hateful, or intolerant, then they simply do not participate. All issues must be discussed with an air of academic and scholarly open-mindedness and objectivity in order to foster a learning environment of mutual respect where students can ask honest questions and present their ideas and opinions without fear of being ridiculed. After all, we are all essentially after the same thing, the truth. And *the truth is rarely found in the person with the loudest voice*. Part of what makes a good critical thinker is the ability to assess an issue, idea, or proposition without getting emotionally attached or outraged by it. The idea is evaluated on its own merits and not merely assumed to be true or false based on some prejudice we may already have.

*Cheating:* Cheating is strictly forbidden. By cheating, I mean any unauthorized assistance in taking tests. All personal belongings must be kept off your desk and tucked away in a backpack or knapsack. If you are talking during the exam, your eyes begin to wander to another student's exam, or you take out an electronic device during the test, I will automatically assume that you are cheating. If you are caught cheating you will receive a 0 on the assignment.

*Plagiarizing:* Plagiarism is defined as stealing and passing off the ideas or words of another as one's own. However, if due credit is given or acknowledged, usually by using quotations, works cited pages, and bibliographies, then using the ideas of others to supplement your own is permitted. Any student caught plagiarizing on any homework assignment, quiz, paper, or exam will receive an automatic 0 on the entire assignment. As a caution to students, all papers will be run through **Safe Assign**, which will detect any and all plagiarizing violations.

### **Student Services**

Students with special needs due to a learning or physical disability are encouraged to avail themselves of the resources in the Disabled Student Programs and Services office in the 2100 Bldg. (760-355-6313). If you think something might prevent you from doing well in this course, you should discuss this with the instructor so that proper arrangements can be made to accommodate your needs.

Tutoring is available to all IVC students on a walk-in basis in the Spencer Library Media Center. The center also provides study skills workshops which may prove to be invaluable to those just beginning their college experience.

## Course Calendar

All reading assignments on this schedule are mandatory and must be done BEFORE each class session. The student should not think that the contents of the readings not explicitly covered or emphasized in class will not be included on the exam. Exam dates may be flexible; however, the dates of the papers are not. Readings come from the Course Reader by Chaffee.

<u>Schedule</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Reading</u>
8/21	Chapter 1: <i>What is Philosophy?</i>	(Sections 1.1, 1.2, 1.5)
8/28	Chapter 1: <i>Critical Thinking &amp; Understanding Arguments</i>	(Section 1.3 & 1.4)
9/4	Chapter 2: <i>The Philosopher's Way</i>	(Sections 2.1-2.3)
9/11	Chapter 2: <i>The Philosopher's Way</i>	(Sections 2.4)
9/18	Chapter 5: <i>Metaphysics &amp; Epistemology</i> <b>QUIZ 1</b>	(Sections 5.1-5.2)
9/25	Chapter 5: <i>Metaphysics &amp; Epistemology</i>	(Sections 5.3-5.5)
10/2	Chapter 6: <i>Metaphysics &amp; Epistemology</i>	(Sections 6.1-6.3)
10/9	Chapter 6: <i>Metaphysics &amp; Epistemology</i>	(Sections 6.4-6.5)
10/16	Chapter 3: <i>Consciousness, Identity, and the Self</i> ; <b>QUIZ 2</b>	(Sections 3.1-3.4)
10/23	Chapter 3: <i>Consciousness, Identity, and the Self</i>	(Sections 3.5-3.7 & 3.10)
10/30	Chapter 4: <i>The Problem of Free Will</i>	(Sections 4.1-4.2)
11/6	Chapter 4: <i>The Problem of Free Will</i> <b>TERM PAPER DUE</b>	(Sections 4.3-4.4)
11/13	Chapter 7: <i>Philosophy of Religion</i> <b>QUIZ 3</b>	(Sections 7.1-7.2)
11/20	Chapter 7: <i>Philosophy of Religion</i>	(Section 7.4)
11/27	Chapter 7: <i>Philosophy of Religion</i>	(Sections 7.5-7.6)
12/4	Final Exam Week <b>QUIZ 4</b>	

\* *The instructor reserves the right to alter this document at any point during the semester*



## Course Agreement: Philosophy 100

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read this document and understand its contents. I know what is expected of me and I agree to adhere to all of the instructor's policies, deadlines, procedures, and methods of evaluation.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date