



Basic Course Information

Semester:	Fall 2025	Instructor Name:	Dr. Matthew Egan
Course Title & #:	Introduction to Philosophy I, PHIL 100	Email:	matthew.egan@imperial.edu
CRN #:	11225	Webpage (optional):	
Classroom:	Real Time Online Zoom	Office #:	
Class Dates:	Aug. 11-Dec. 6	Office Hours:	Mondays, 2:15-3:15pm, by email
Class Days:	Mondays and Wednesdays	Office Phone #:	
Class Times:	09:40-11:05 am	Emergency Contact:	
Units:	3	Class Format/Modality:	RT Online Zoom

Course Description

This course introduces philosophical ideas and methods concerning knowledge, reality and values. Expected topics will include the sources and limits of knowledge, and the nature of reality. Other topics will be examined from a philosophical perspective and include the nature of the self, truth, ethics, religion, science, language, beauty and art, political theory, and mind. An emphasis will be placed on readings from primary source texts. (CSU/UC)

Course Prerequisite(s) and/or Corequisite(s)

None.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

1. Describe the foremost ideas and arguments in the three major philosophical fields.
2. Critique various philosophical arguments.
3. Write their own arguments on Epistemological, Metaphysical and Ethical issues.

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a basic understanding of philosophical methods.
2. Demonstrate an ability to articulate ideas about philosophical issues.
3. Use philosophical methods, assumptions and principles to analyze philosophical ideas and positions.
4. Evaluate philosophical arguments, methods, assumptions, and principles for consistency, relevance, and truth.
5. Evaluate views concerning Knowledge, the nature of science and artificial intelligence.
6. Evaluate and critique the arguments for the existence of God, compare and contrast differing theories concerning free will, the existence of God, the fundamental nature of reality, and/or other ideas addressed in the course.



7. Analyze and evaluate arguments from primary sources and secondary concerning knowledge, ethics, free will, the existence of God, the fundamental nature of reality.
8. Formulate arguments concerning Knowledge, AI, morality, and the existence of God

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

Lewis Vaughn, *Philosophy Here and Now: Powerful Ideas in Everyday Life*, 4th Edition, Oxford University Press, ISBN: 9780197543412.

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Your course grade will be determined by online tests and participation. [See next section for precise breakdown.] You will have reading assignments for each class, and you are expected to do them in preparation for each class. Reading assignments will be stated in class and posted on our course Canvas site.

Class will include both a lecture and a discussion component.

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

Exams: 90% of course grade

You will have 3 online, timed exams, each worth 30% of your course grade. 2 will be midterm exams; 1 a final exam. Dates for each exam are in the “Other Course Information” section below. These will test your understanding of basic concepts, arguments, individuals, and philosophies covered in class and the readings. You are responsible for all the assigned readings and what we discuss in class. Each test will be made available on our course Canvas site the day assigned to it below, and you must complete it that day and in the allotted time (otherwise, penalties will be assessed). **NO OUTSIDE RESOURCES (e.g., the textbook, another text or writing, any online resource, AI tools, another student, or any other individual) ARE PERMITTED.** Further details of these tests will be provided in class as the tests approach.

Attendance: 10% of course grade

You may miss 2 classes during the semester without penalty – these are for sickness, conflicting appointments that you can’t reschedule, family emergencies, or for a day you just need to unwind, etc. After that, each unexcused absence will subtract 0.5% from your 10% maximum for your attendance portion of the course grade (or 5% from your attendance grade, conceived on its own on a scale from 0%-100%).

To get credit for attending a given class, you must sign in for that class and be visibly present (with your camera on) for the entire class. You must also pay attention to lecture and class discussion. Moreover, you will not receive credit for a day’s attendance if you are distracting to me or to other classmates, e.g., by having side conversations or messaging (even about the course material) apart from our class discussion.

If you have questions about something said in class, or about a topic we are currently discussing, please raise your hand and we can discuss it as a class. Otherwise, it is disrespectful to me and to other students, it interrupts concentration and the flow of thought, and it ultimately wastes class time.

Participation:

Participation is strongly encouraged in the course, though it is not a requirement. For students who participate consistently and contribute positively to class discussion, I reserve the right to reward them with bonus points. For students who are distracting to me or other classmates, e.g., by talking to others in class apart from our class discussion, surfing the web, being on non-essential electronic devices, etc., I reserve the right to subtract points from their final grade.



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Grading Scale:

A	≥93%
A-	90-92%
B+	88-89%
B	83-87%
B-	80-82%
C+	78-79%
C	73-77%
C-	70-72%
D	60-69%
F	≤59%

Academic Honesty (Artificial Intelligence -AI)

IVC values critical thinking and communication skills and considers academic integrity essential to learning. Using AI tools as a replacement for your own thinking, writing, or quantitative reasoning goes against both our mission and academic honesty policy and will be considered academic dishonesty, or plagiarism unless you have been instructed to do so by your instructor. In case of any uncertainty regarding the ethical use of AI tools, students are encouraged to reach out to their instructors for clarification.

Accessibility Statement

Imperial Valley College is committed to providing an accessible learning experience for all students, regardless of course modality. Every effort has been made to ensure that this course complies with all state and federal accessibility regulations, including Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Title 5 of the California Code of Regulations. However, if you encounter any content that is not accessible, please contact your instructor or the area dean for assistance. If you have specific accommodations through **DSPS**, contact them for additional assistance.

We are here to support you and ensure that you have equal access to all course materials.

Course Policies

You are expected to attend class, be on time, be prepared, be fully dressed, have your camera on, click the button to raise your hand if you have a question or comment, be respectful of others' opinions and time talking, including the instructor, and complete all requirements. No plagiarism or cheating of any kind will be tolerated – you will receive a 0 for that assignment, in addition to the college's disciplinary actions.

Other Course Information

Key Dates:

Monday, 08/11: First day of class

Monday, 09/01: NO CLASS (Labor Day)

Monday, 09/15: MIDTERM EXAM 1

Monday, 10/20: MIDTERM EXAM 2

Monday, 11/10: NO CLASS (Veteran Day)

Updated 11/2024



Monday, 11/24, Wednesday 11/26: NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Break)

Wednesday, 12/03: Last day of class; FINAL EXAM

Financial Aid

Your Grades Matter! In order to continue to receive financial aid, you must meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirement. Making SAP means that you are maintaining a 2.0 GPA, you have successfully completed 67% of your coursework, and you will graduate on time. If you do not maintain SAP, you may lose your financial aid. If you have questions, please contact financial aid at finaid@imperial.edu.

IVC Student Resources

IVC wants you to be successful in all aspects of your education. For help, resources, services, and an explanation of policies, visit <http://www.imperial.edu/studentresources> or click the heart icon in Canvas.

Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

- Unless otherwise stated, all readings will be from our course textbook.
- Reading and homework assignments will be stated in class and posted on our course Canvas site, under “Pages,” then “Assignments.”
- I do not provide a detailed schedule because each class has a bit different pace. However, I will give you each week’s assignments with plenty of advanced notice.
- Here is the first week’s assignment.

Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
Week 1 August 11, 13	Syllabus & Introduction Chapter 1: Philosophy and You	Pages 1-14