

Imperial Valley College Course Syllabus – Philosophy 100

Basic Course Information

Semester	Spring	Instructor Name	Aaron S. Edwards
Course Title & #	Introduction to Philosophy 100	Email	aaron.edwards@imperial.edu
CRN:	20515		
Room	1603	Office	314 C
Class Dates	February 16- June 9	Office Hours	Mon. 7:30–8:00 AM Tue. 10:15–11:15 AM Wed. 4:30–6:00 PM Thu. 10:15–11:15 AM
Units:	3	Office Phone #	760 355--6285

Course Description

What can I know? Does God exist? Is there an afterlife? Do humans have free will? What is moral? This course is designed to introduce students to these kinds of questions and to how Philosophers go about answering these questions through analysis and argumentation. The goal of the course is to help students understand the main fields of philosophy and teach students how to think and write critically about philosophical questions such as these.

Student Learning Outcomes

ISLO1, ISLO2 will be met by this course.

Institutional Student Learning Outcomes: ISLO1 = communication skills; ISLO2 = critical thinking skills;

ISLO3 = personal responsibility; ISLO4 = information literacy; ISLO5 = global awareness

Course Objectives

Required language: Acquire critical thinking skills by comprehending philosophical texts and critiquing philosophical arguments. Be able to construct arguments of your own on various philosophical issues.

Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

The Philosopher’s Way: A Text with Readings: Thinking Critically About Profound Ideas, fourth Edition ISBN–13: 978-0-205-77699-3

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

Course Requirements:

Final grades will be determined by class participation, quizzes, a short paper, and four exams, including a final exam, as outlined below:

In-Class Exams: 30%	Final Exam: 25%	Paper: 20%	Homework and Participation: 15%	Quizzes: 10%
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Writing assignments will be due at the beginning of class. They will be graded by letters ranging from an A to an F.

The Grading scale is as follows:

- A 100% – 90%
- B 89% – 80%
- C 79% – 70%
- D 69% – 60%
- F 59% – 0%

There will be two exams throughout the semester, one midterm and a comprehensive final. Before each exam I will tell you what kinds of topics will be on the test so you can prepare accordingly.

In addition to the Paper and exams, there will be 5 quizzes, each is worth 2% of your final grade. There will also be a term paper (4–6 pages) assigned near the end of the semester. The specifics of the paper will be covered in class.

Finally, a significant component of your final grade will be based on your participation in class. To do well in the class, you should do all of the reading assignments and group work in order to obtain you class participation points.

Attendance

Classroom Etiquette

You may be absent from three classes with no consequences. If you miss more than two classes, then you must bring valid documentation (doctor's note, jury duty notice, receipt from mechanic etc.) to the next class meeting or you will be dropped from the course. **While you are in class you will be expected to turn cell phones off and not use them in any capacity.**

Late Assignment Policy: Late assignments will be accepted only one day after the assignments is due. You will lose a whole letter grade on the assignment. Depending on the assignment you may lose two points or twenty depending how much the assignment is worth. Quizzes, Tests and Group Discussion entries will not be accepted as late.

Academic Honesty

- Plagiarism is to take and present as one's own the writings or ideas of others, without citing the source. You should understand the concept of plagiarism and keep it in mind when taking exams and preparing written materials. If you do not understand how to correctly 'cite a source', you must ask for help.
- Cheating is defined as fraud, deceit, or dishonesty in an academic assignment or using or attempting to use materials, or assisting others in using materials, or assisting others in using materials, which are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question.
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- Anyone caught cheating or will receive a zero (0) on the exam or assignment, and the instructor may report the incident to the Campus Disciplinary Officer, who may place related documentation in a file. Repeated acts of cheating may result in an F in the course and/or disciplinary action. Please refer to the General School Catalog for more information on academic dishonesty or other misconduct. Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to the following: (a) plagiarism; (b) copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment ;(c) communicating test information with another person during an examination; (d) allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment, (e) use of a commercial term paper service

Additional Help

The instructor can add the information pertinent to his or her class here. Some suggested language:

- Blackboard support center: <http://bbcrm.edusupportcenter.com/ics/support/default.asp?deptID=8543>
- Learning Labs: There are several 'labs' on campus to assist you through the use of computers, tutors, or a combination. Please consult your college map for the Math Lab, Reading & Writing Lab, and Learning Services (library). Please speak to the instructor about labs unique to your specific program
- Library Services: There is more to our library than just books. You have access to tutors in the learning center, study rooms for small groups, and online access to a wealth of resources.

Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS)

Any student with a documented disability who may need educational accommodations should notify the instructor or the Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSP&S) office as soon as possible. The DSP&S office is located in Building 2100, telephone 760-355-6313 if you feel you need to be evaluated for educational accommodations.

Student Counseling and Health Services

Students have counseling and health services available, provided by the pre-paid Student Health Fee. We now also have a fulltime mental health counselor. For information see <http://www.imperial.edu/students/student->

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[health-center/](#). The IVC Student Health Center is located in the Health Science building in Room 2109, telephone 760-355-6310.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Students have the right to experience a positive learning environment and due process. For further information regarding student rights and responsibilities please refer to the IVC General Catalog available online at http://www.imperial.edu/index.php?option=com_docman&task=doc_download&gid=4516&Itemid=762

Information Literacy

Imperial Valley College is dedicated to help students skillfully discover, evaluate, and use information from all sources. Students can access tutorials at <http://www.imperial.edu/courses-and-programs/divisions/arts-and-letters/library-department/info-lit-tutorials/>

Anticipated Class Schedule / Calendar

The instructor will provide a tentative, provisional overview of the reading, assignments, tests, or other activity for the duration of the course. The faculty may find a table format useful for this purpose.

Date	Topic	Assignment
Section 1: Knowledge		
Week one	Course Overview and What is Philosophy?	Read 1.1-1.4 in the text book and Pollock “Brain in a Vat” in Blackboard (Not in book).
Week two	Knowledge; Skepticism and Reason	Descartes’ Meditations Read pg. 5.1 & 5.4
Week two	Experience; Induction	6.2 Locke
Week three	Radical Skepticism	6.4 Hume
Section 2: God		
Week three	Matrix	
Week four	Test #1	
Week four	Metaphysics, Ontological argument	7.4 Ontological argument
Week five	Cosmological Argument	7.4 Cosmological argument
Week five	The Design Argument	7.4 Teleological Argument
Week six	The Problem of Evil	Dostoevsky (In etudes) & pg. 346
Week seven	Spring Break	

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Section 3: Mind		
Week eight	The Problem of Evil	7.5
Week eight	Problem of Evil /Test #2	
Week nine	Mind Body Problem Dualism	3.8
Week nine	Dualism / Physicalism	4.2
Week ten	Determinism	4.3
Section 4: Freedom and Determinism		
Week ten	Libertarianism	4.3
Week eleven	Compatibalism / Minority Report	
Section 5: Moral Theory		
Week twelve	Test # 3	8.1
Week twelve	Moral Relativism	8.3
Week Thirteen	Moral Subjectivism / Divine Command Theory	8.5
Week fourteen	Divine Command Theory	9.4
Section 7: Applied Ethics		
Week fourteen	Utilitarianism	9.4
Week fifteen	Utilitarianism	
Week Fifteen	Deontology	9.3
Week Sixteen	FINAL EXAM	