



Basic Course Information

Semester:	Winter	Instructor Name:	Aaron S. Edwards
Course Title & #:	Philosophy 100	Email:	aaron.edwards@imperial.edu
CRN #:	15167	Webpage (optional):	
Classroom:		Office #:	201
Class Dates:	1/2/2025	Office Hours:	Online
Class Days:	3/3/2025	Office Phone #:	
Class Times:		Emergency Contact:	
Units:		Class Format/Modality:	Asynchronous Online

Course Description

Welcome to Philosophy 100. This semester we will explore many of life's most important questions. Questions that have changed the world we currently live in but also can change the way you see the world. Questions such as What can I know? Does God exist? Is there an afterlife? Do humans have free will? What is moral? I am excited to explore these philosophical questions with you. Some skills that I hope you will gain in the course is to think and write critically about philosophical questions and discuss philosophical ideas in a positive and productive way with your fellow students.

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)

No Prerequisite needed.

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:

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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

- Philosophy Here and Now: Powerful Ideas in Everyday Life Third Edition: 13: 978-019754312 By Lewis Vaughn

Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

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: 20% Paper: 20% Homework and Participation 20% 2Quizzes 10%

Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

A 100%-90%

B 89%-80%

C 79%-70%

D 69%-60

F 59%-0%

Writing assignments will be due at the beginning of class. They will be graded by letters ranging from an A to an F. There will be three exams throughout the semester, 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 4 quizzes, each is worth 2.5% 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 and are in Blackboard. 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 your class participation points.

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.



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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

Attendance • A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class or does not complete the first mandatory activity of an online class will be dropped by the instructor as of the first official meeting of that class. Should readmission be desired, the student's status will be the same as that of any other student who desires to add a class. It is the student's responsibility to drop or officially withdraw from the class. See General Catalog for details.

- *Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students. A student whose continuous, unexcused absences exceed the number of hours the class is scheduled to meet per week may be dropped. For online courses, students who fail to complete required activities for two consecutive weeks may be considered to have excessive absences and may be dropped.*

- *Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as 'excused' absences.*

Other Course Information

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

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).
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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
Week three	Kant: Transcendental Idealism	
Week four	Artificial Super Intelligence	
Week four	Matrix	
Week five	Matrix / Study Session	
Week five	Test #1	
Week six	Metaphysics, Ontological argument	7.4
Week seven	Cosmological Argument /The Design Argument	7.4 Cosmological &Teleological Argument
Week eight	The Problem of Evil	7.5
Week eight	Problem of Evil /Test #2	Dostoevsky (In Blackboard) & pg. 346
Week nine	Mind Body Problem Dualism	3.3 & 3.8
Week nine	Dualism / Physicalism	4.2
Week ten	Break	4.3
Week ten	Determinism	4.3
Week eleven	Libertarianism Compatibalism / Minority Report	
Week twelve	Compatibalism Test # 3	8.1



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Week twelve	Test # 3What is Ethics? / Moral Relativism	8.3
Week Thirteen	What is Ethics? / Moral Relativism	8.5 & 9.4
Week fourteen	Divine Command Theory Utilitarianism	9.4
Week fourteen	Utilitarianism	9.3
Week fifteen	Deontology	
Week Sixteen	Final	

*****Tentative, subject to change without prior notice*****