

SYLLABUS
Philosophy 210 TYD
Course Reference #

Mondays and Wednesdays 9:30-10:45
Robert Frost Hall 301

Professor: Eleanor Dunfey-Freiburger
Office: Robert Frost Hall 309
Tel: 603/668-2211 ext. 2254
Office Hours: by appointment
Office Secretary: Jane Yerrington, RF 309A, ext. 2488

Required Text:

Cahn, Steven. Exploring Philosophy: An Introductory Anthology. NY:Oxford Press, 2000. ISBN: 0-19-513352-8.
Reich, Robert. The Future of Success. Summer Reading Requirement of TYD. Part Three: Choices: Chapter 11, "Personal Choice" Chapter 12, "Public Choice"

Other required materials will be distributed, posted on Blackboard, or as links.

Why study philosophy?

"There is perhaps nothing worse than reaching the top of the ladder and discovering that you're on the wrong wall." Joseph Campbell

Course Objectives:

Given students' diverse backgrounds (academic, cultural, religious) and individual readiness to venture into what may be new territory, this course is offered as an initiation to some of the big questions of philosophy. Our realistic objectives, therefore, are the following:

- to engage our minds in wonder--and logic, recognizing the philosopher in ourselves
- to expand our horizons by bringing new perspective to life's big questions
- to explore some of the writings of great thinkers throughout history.

Prerequisites:

Senior status in Three-Year Degree Program

Please be aware that this is a process course: Students are expected to read, re-read, think about, discuss, write – taking active ownership of learning.

Overview of Course Content: Exploring the Big Questions

What is philosophy?

What is self?

What about God? What about death? Is there meaning to life?

How do we know?

Am I free? What do we mean when we talk about freedom?

What about right and wrong? Are there universal standards?

What is a just society?

Policies:

- **There is an expectation that students' dress, behavior, and preparation reflect respect and create an atmosphere conducive to learning.**
- **Appropriate dress is expected, as well, for all presentations.**
- **Only one person speaks at a time in order that that person's ideas may be heard.**
- **Please be sure your cell phone is OFF when you are in the classroom. No personal conversations may take place during class sessions.**

Thank you for your careful attention to the above.

Honesty

Any form of cheating/plagiarizing is against the policy of this professor and Southern New Hampshire University. Cheating is defined as any presentation of work as your own that is not your own: the copying of papers, the copying of assignments, or copying of answers during tests or examinations. Violations will be pursued according to the College's policy on Academic Dishonesty.

Attendance/Participation

Active participation in class is essential in this course. Absence, therefore, will impact student's grade. Excessive, unexcused absences will result in dismissal from the course. Conformity to University cut policy is expected. The professor reserves the right to withdraw any student who does not meet the stated requirements. Excessive tardiness (more than 3 late arrivals) will be considered an absence. Students are responsible for all material covered during an absence.

Disability Policy

Southern New Hampshire University is committed to and concerned with meeting the needs of students challenged by physical, emotional and/or learning disabilities. At the beginning of each term, or as soon as you become aware of a disability, we encourage you to request those accommodations which you need to meet your academic goals. To ensure that all of your needs are met, Southern New Hampshire University recommends that you meet with one of the following individuals who will assist you in making contact with appropriate faculty members and support services staff regarding accommodations:

<p>Emotional Disabilities & General ADA issues: Mrs. Jet Goldberg Wellness Center 645-9679 j.Goldberg@snhu.edu</p>	<p>Learning Disabilities & ADD/ADHD: Professor Chris Zimmermann School of Liberal Arts, RF-304 668-2211 x 2009 c.zimmermann@snhu.edu</p>	<p>Physical Disabilities: Mrs. Nancy White Wellness Center 645-9679 n.white@snhu.edu</p>
---	---	---

Assigned Work

Assigned work is usually due on WEDNESDAYS unless otherwise noted. Late work receives minimum of 1/2 letter grade reduction (e.g. C+ to C). Assigned readings must be completed for effective class discussion.

Philosophical Analysis and Reflection Papers are of critical importance in this course. Details will be given in class.

Written work:

- Must be college-level quality when submitted. Careless, frequent, common errors in grammar, punctuation, and spelling are not acceptable. I will be happy to assist students with their questions.
- Are to be typed/word-processed unless otherwise directed by professor.
- Should be dated, in correct format// no cover page and in pocket folder with clear identification on cover:

NAME
Title and #

PHL 210TYD
Date due:
Date submitted:

Course Rubrics:

It is essential that students take ownership of their own learning and, in doing so, understand how they will be evaluated. This section is an effort to inform students of such specifics, but as in any course or project, questions will certainly arise. It is the student's responsibility to contact the professor by phone, email or in person when he/she cannot fulfill some requirement.

Students are expected to take adequate notes during presentations and to summarize key points of class discussions. These will become the basis for student-initiated exchanges during the semester's two required conferences with the professor. Additional conferences are recommended especially in connection with the term's two projects.

Evaluation will be as follows:

Participation (in class and on Blackboard)	30
Philosophical Analysis and Reflection Papers (3) A&R papers due: Wed. 9/15, 10/13, 12/01	30
Conferences (2) during week of 10/04 and 11/08 Student-initiated exchanges on class notes, discussion summaries and other philosophical questions	10
Projects (2) due 10/25 and 12/06 (10 pts) (20pts) Projects must include student's assessment of him/herself and team	30

Please note that students will be expected to attend and "apply" the message(s) presented in the Business School's Lecture Series.

**Philosophy 210: Tentative Schedule - Students are responsible to note any changes
Fall, 2004**

Week 1:

9/8 Welcome, Philosophers!
Course overview (handout)
Introductory Presentation/Discussion
The Context: World Philosophy

Due: Wed. 9/15 A&R #1 – "What Do I Want anyway?"
(Last page: Obit. see Reich, 225)
Cahn, Ch. 1: 3-13; Ch 7: 413-416
Reich, Ch. 11

Week 2:

9/13, 9/15 Eastern Sages: Confucius
Lao tzu
"The Many Faces of Wisdom"

Due: Wed. 9/22 Blackboard (link/readings will be posted)

Week 3:

9/20, 9/22 **What is Self? No Self?**
the Buddha (Siddhartha Guatama)
Protagoras – the "measure"
Socrates: "Know thyself"

Due: Wed. 9/29 "The Defense of Socrates" in Cahn, 13-40, notes

Week 4:

9/27, 9/29 Plato's "Defense of Socrates"
"The Examined Life"
Discuss Project focus for Freedom vs. Security

Due: Wed 10/6 Blackboard – Nagel in Cahn, 113-16
Plato's "The Phaedo," 417-20
"The Crito," 373-86
Hook "Choosing Death" 300-02
Set conference for next week

Week 5: Conference week (have notes and questions)

10/4, 10/6 **Is There Meaning to Life? What About Death?**
How do We Know? (Epistemology)
Rationalism – Plato's "Allegory of the Cave"

Due: Wed. 10/13 A&R #2 "What's It All About?"
(drawing from readings, discussions, life experiences)
Read and take notes on Cahn, 71-78; 101-112; 300-02

Weekly Schedule (subject to change)

Week 6:

10/11 Holiday

10/13 **Ways of Knowing, continued**

Empiricism

Authority

Intuition

Due: Wed. 10/20 Blackboard – Read and take notes on Cahn, 88-101

Week 7:

10/18, 10/20 **Are We Free?**

Freedom vs. Determinism

Existentialism (Kierkegaard, Sartre)

Presentations: Discussion/Questions

Due: Mon. 10/25 "Privacy," Cahn, 330-34 – Read and take notes

Week 8: Details about this Series will be given in class

Freedom vs. Security

10/25, 10/27 Freedom vs. Security

Due: Wed 11/3 Blackboard – "Democracy," and "Political Action" in Cahn 321-330
John Stuart Mill "On Liberty," in Cahn 386-401

Week 9: Election Day – Tuesday, November 2

11/1, 11/3 **What Does Society Say About Freedom?**

(refer to Reich: Ch. 13 "Public Choice")

Discussion of Final Project specifics

Due: Wed. 11/10 Blackboard

Set conference for next week

Week 10: **Conference week (have notes and questions)**

11/8, 11/10 **What About Right vs. Wrong? (Morality)**

What about Right vs. Right?

Aristotle's "Nicomachean Ethics"

Kant's "Metaphysics of Morals"

Mill's "Utilitarianism"

Due: Wed. 11/17 Outline of Final Project

Read and take notes in Cahn, 303-318

Weekly Schedule (subject to change)

Week 11:

11/15, 11/17 **How Should We Behave?
Morality and Moderation?
Is Compromise Weakness?
Confucius, the Buddha, John Locke and Mandela**

Due: Mon 11/22 Blackboard Discussion

Rachels in Cahn, 245-55

Ludwig/Longnecker, "Bathsheba Syndrome" (posted)

Week 12:

11/22 **Ethics and Leadership – Ideas about Justice**

11/24 **Happy Thanksgiving!**

Due: Wed. 12/1 A&R #3 "What Leaders? What Ethics?"

Re-visit A&R Papers, 1, 2 for assessment/affirmation/re-thinking (due before Friday, Dec. 10) specifics given in class

Week 13:

11/29, 12/1 **Ethics and Leadership, continued
What About Justice?**

Due: Mon. 12/6 Final Projects

Week 14: Presentation (and written submission) of final projects to be scheduled

12/6, 12/8 **Please note: by Friday, December 10, submit "Re-visiting
Philosophical Analysis and Reflection Papers, #1 and 2"
(hard copy delivered with originals of #1 and #2 to RF 309)**