

HONORS PHIL 6: INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

Course Syllabus

Fall Semester 2013 Long Beach City College



LONG BEACH
CITY COLLEGE

Class Meetings: M 6:00 pm – 9:10 pm, T1324

Instructor: Michael Monge

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Textbook: *Philosophical Dilemmas*, by Phil Washburn



Course Student Learning Outcomes

1. Examine many of the major theories and key concepts in philosophy.
2. Compare and contrast the views of particular philosophers.
3. Evaluate the theories and arguments of particular philosophers.

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- Correctly use a variety of philosophical terms, including analyzing basic arguments using proper logical terminology.
- Describe their own worldviews by identifying their positions on a variety of philosophical issues.
- Defend their views in written and oral presentations, as well as criticize other views.
- Identify substantive arguments in philosophy, and correctly draw inferences about those arguments and the people who accept them.
- Recognize more fully the limits of their own knowledge, and perhaps knowledge itself.
- Realize their own inconsistencies through understanding the logical connections between philosophical views in seemingly diverse areas.

Grading: Exams will be taken on scantron forms 886E, and will include true/false, matching, multiple-choice and short essay questions. Each exam will be subject to a curve, if appropriate. If you participate regularly in the class, and thus enrich the educational experience for the rest of the students, you may receive up to an additional point and a half, so you might still receive an A for an 88.5%. You may check your grade at any time throughout the semester using the online gradebook, which appears under “Links” on the class website. To access the online gradebook you will need your school ID and the section/ticket number of the class.

Percent value for each exercise	
30%	Mid-term exams (2)
20%	Final Exam
30%	Homework/Quizzes
15%	Essay (5-7 pages)
5%	Attendance

Final Grade Scale	
90%-100%	A
80%-89.9%	B
70%-79.9%	C
60%-69.9%	D
Below 60%	F

Homework and Assignments: Homework will be assigned, generally the day before it is due. Each homework assignment may or may not be collected and graded with either a ✓+ (10 pts), a ✓ (8 pts), or a ✓- (6 pts). This class is a collaborative effort by all students and as such homework assignments, written essays, and quizzes might be examined, corrected, and even graded by other students, for both your benefits. Please inform me at the beginning of the semester if you have any objections to this policy.

Attendance and Participation: I expect you to attend all of the scheduled class meetings. Your attendance will count as 5% of your grade. You may miss two classes without affecting this portion of your grade, but for any absence beyond this you will lose two percentage points. You may be dropped from the class if your attendance grade reaches zero. NOTE: Showing up after roll has been taken will count as one half of an absence. I will generally take roll at the beginning of class. If you are tardy, it is your responsibility to inform me at the end of class.

Make-up work: Exams may be made up only when you inform me prior to class that you will be unable to make the exam. Preferably, you should inform me far in advance, but in emergency situations you may inform me before the exam begins through e-mail or voice mail. Don't worry about missing quizzes; your grade will only reflect quizzes which you take. When absent, you may obtain the assignment on the day you return to class, and then turn in the assignment the next day of class. No work will be accepted late.

Drop Policy and Distractions: It is your responsibility to drop this course. See below for relevant dates. If you fail to drop yourself and do not complete the course, you will likely receive an “F” for the course. Although it is your responsibility to drop the course, you may be dropped if you miss an exam without notifying me or do not attend class for two weeks. All students have a right to an undisrupted and undistracted learning experience, and so all disruptions or distractions in the classroom will be considered a violation of this right. You will receive one warning **for the entire semester** for any distraction or disruption you cause, which includes a ringing cell phone, an obscene picture or clothing, and raunchy, lewd, or revealing clothing. On the second offense, you will lose your attendance point for the day. On your third violation, you will be asked to leave the classroom for the day.

Students with Disabilities: Students who believe that they have some disability and that they are entitled to academic accommodations should notify me and contact Disabled Students Programs and Services. I would be happy to work with any student who is academically disadvantaged in any way.

Academic Dishonesty: Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on exams, plagiarism, copying assignments, and collaborating on an assignment without explicit permission. Punishment for academic dishonesty can range from getting a zero on the assignment to expulsion. Please review your school’s policies regarding academic dishonesty, or ask me if you have any questions.

Note: For me to assign you a grade means I am certifying that you have earned it. I cannot give you a grade unless I am confident that you have completed the assignment on your own. This means that if I have a reasonable suspicion that you have cheated on an assignment, or that the work is not your own, then I have the right to withhold a grade for the assignment, which would be equivalent to receiving a zero. I do not have to prove that you cheated in order to withhold a grade. Should I withhold a grade on an assignment, I will work with you so that you can demonstrate whether the work was your own.

Incompletes: Incomplete grades will be assigned only in the case of documented medical emergencies. Otherwise each student will receive a zero for any incomplete assignments at the end of the semester, and the appropriate grade will be recorded.

Tacit Agreement to the Syllabus: *Should you disagree to any of the policies in this syllabus, you may withdraw yourself from the course and take the course with another professor. If you remain enrolled in the course, you are tacitly agreeing to be bound by all policies, procedures, and guidelines stated in the syllabus. See your school catalog for more details of your rights and responsibilities.*

Tentative Schedule: Underlined dates are holidays. Do the assigned reading BEFORE the class meeting.

Week #	Date	Topic	Reading Assignments
Week #1	8/26	Introduction to the course	
Week #2	9/2	Labor Day	
9/9 Last Day to Drop without a “W” on your transcript or to request a refund			
Week #3	9/9	Chapter 1.1 “Theism” / 1.3 “The Problem of Evil”	pp. 1-29, 41-51
Week #4	9/16	1.4 “Life After Death” / 1.7 Current Controversy: Is Buddhism Philosophy? / “Connections	pp. 52-61, 92-111
Week #5	9/23	First Debate / First Exam	
Week #6	9/30	2.2 “Liberty” / 2.3 “Equality”	pp. 127-140, 141-152
Week #7	10/7	2.4 “Capitalism” / 2.6 Current Controversy: Race and Identity, “Connections”	pp. 153-167, 182-203
Week #8	10/14	3.1 “Hedonism” / 3.3 “Relativism”	pp. 205-220, 231-243
Week #9	10/21	3.5 “Is Society the Source of Values?” / “Connections”	pp. 260-269, 287-292
Week #10	10/28	Second Debate / Second Exam	
Week #11	11/4	4.1 “Free Will” / 4.3 “Dualism”	pp. 293-307, 320-330
Week #12	11/11	Veteran’s Day	
11/12 Last Day to Drop with a “W” on transcript			
Week #13	11/18	4.7 Current Controversy: Gender / 1.5 “Faith vs. Reason”	pp. 372-395, 62-74
Week #14	11/25	5.1 “The External World” / 5.3 “Empiricism and Rationalism”	pp. 397-408, 421-433
Week #15	12/2	5.4 “Certainty and Knowledge” / Final Debate	pp. 434-448
Week #16	12/9	Final Exam	

I do my best with grading deadlines, but you should check with admissions for the official dates.