PHIL 1000: Introduction to Philosophy (3 credits)

Instructor: Dr. Clarence Mark Phillips
Office Hours: By Appointment
Email: cmphilli@uno.edu
Course Webpages: Moodle login page

Required Texts

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: An introductory study of basic philosophical concepts and problems.

COURSE OVERVIEW: The aim of this course is to survey the history of western philosophy from its inception in ancient Greece. The focus of the course will not be on any one particular philosopher or school of thought. Rather, we will be trying to discern what it is about certain thinkers that makes them "philosophers" (or what renders certain ways of thinking "philosophical"), why other thinkers and types of discourse are not, and whether or not the distinction is justifiable. We will also be trying to figure out what effects past philosophies have on our present ways of thinking, what significance – either good or bad – that may have for contemporary societies, and whether such thinking should be encouraged or abandoned.
Upon successfully completing this course, students will be able to do the following:

- to recognize philosophical issues.
- to know the various subfields of philosophy and the sorts of questions dealt with by philosophers in those areas.
- to know how to form arguments.
- to know the views of the pre-Socratics regarding the problem of explanations.
- to understand the philosophical issues associated with definitions.
- to identify key figures in the history of Western Thought.
- to understand the nature of philosophical argumentation.
- to present and to defend your own views regarding the above issues.
- to read philosophical texts.
- to recognize philosophical questions.
- to define key concepts in philosophical thought.
- to understand the historical development of Western Philosophy, from the Pre-Socratics through Plato and Aristotle.

Grades will be based on a 400 point scale distributed as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>(25%)</td>
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<td>Exam 2</td>
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<td>Exam 3</td>
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<td>Term Paper</td>
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100 points

Rubric for Grades

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100 to 90</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>89.9 to 80</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>79.9 to 70</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>69.9 to 60</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59.9 and below</td>
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Course Requirements

READINGS:

Students will be expected to keep up on the weekly reading assignments for the course, to have read the material prior to class, and to come to class with relevant questions about, and/or criticisms of, those readings.

EXAMS & PAPERS:

Students will write a short paper on the readings, and take a midterm and final exam.

GRADING:

Each test will count for 40% of the overall score, and class participation the remaining 10% = 100%.
Withdrawal Policy – Undergraduate only
Students are responsible for initiating action to resign from the University (withdraw from all courses) or from a course on or before dates indicated in the current Important dates calendar. Students who fail to resign by the published final date for such action will be retained on the class rolls even though they may be absent for the remainder of the semester and be graded as if they were in attendance. Failure to attend classes does not constitute a resignation. Check the dates on the Registrar’s website, http://www.registrar.uno.edu. Consult The Bulletin for charges associated with dropping & adding courses.

Incomplete Policy – Undergraduate only
The grade of I means incomplete and is given for work of passing quality but which, because of circumstances beyond the student’s control, is not complete. The issuance of the grade of I is at the discretion of the faculty member teaching the course. For all graduate and undergraduate students, a grade of I becomes a grade of F if it is not converted before the deadline for adding courses for credit (as printed in the Important Dates Calendar) of the next regular semester including summer semester.

Repeat Policy
When a student is permitted to repeat a course for credit, the last grade earned shall be the one which determines course acceptability for degree credit. A student who has earned a C or better in a course may not repeat that course unless, (1) the catalog description indicates that the course may be repeated for credit, or (2) the student's Dean gives prior approval for documented extenuating circumstances.

Graduate Policies
Graduate policies often vary from undergraduate policies. To view the applicable policies for graduate students, see the Graduate Student Handbook:

Academic Dishonesty Policy

Safety Awareness Facts and Education
Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender is a Civil Rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, etc. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources here: http://www.uno.edu/student-affairs-enrollment-management/

UNO Counseling Services and UNO Cares
UNO offers care and support for students in any type of distress. Counseling Services assist students in addressing mental health concerns through assessment, short-term counseling, and career testing and counseling. Find out more at http://www.uno.edu/counseling-services/. First-year students often have unique concerns, and UNO Cares is designed to address those students succeed. Contact UNO Cares through http://www.uno.edu/fye/uno-cares.aspx.

Emergency Procedures
Sign up for emergency notifications via text and/or email at E2Campus Notification: http://www.uno.edu/ehso/emergency-communications/index.aspx. All emergency and safety procedures are explained at the Emergency Health and Safety Office: http://www.uno.edu/ehso/.

Diversity at UNO
As the most diverse public university in the state, UNO maintains a Diversity Affairs division to support the university’s efforts towards creating an environment of healthy respect, tolerance, and appreciation for the people from all walks of life, and the expression of intellectual point of view and personal lifestyle. The Office of Diversity Affairs promotes these values through a wide range of programming and activities. http://diversity.uno.edu/index.cfm

Learning and Support Services
Help is within reach in the form of learning support services, including tutoring in writing and math and other supplemental instruction. Visit the Learning Resource Center, LA 334 – or: http://www.uno.edu/lrc/.

Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity
UNO is an equal opportunity employer. The Human Resource Management department has more information on UNO’s compliance with federal and state regulations regarding EEOC in its Policies and Resources website: http://www.uno.edu/human-resource-management/policies.aspx