



蘇州大學
Soochow University

PHI 140 Introduction to the Evolution of Philosophical Thought

Summer 2024

Course Credits: 4

Contact Hours: 56 hours

Instructor: TBA

Email:TBA

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course provides a comprehensive overview of the evolution of philosophical thought through the examination of seminal works by prominent philosophers including Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas, Descartes, Hume, Kant, Hegel, Nietzsche, Wittgenstein, and Sartre. Students will explore the historical context and intellectual frameworks that gave rise to these thinkers' ideas and engage in critical analysis of their contributions to the philosophical canon. Through a nuanced understanding of the development of philosophical discourse, students will be able to contextualize and analyze contemporary philosophical debates.

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

1. Develop a comprehensive understanding of the evolution of philosophical thought through the examination of seminal works by major philosophers.
2. Engage in critical analysis of these philosophers' contributions to the philosophical canon.
3. Develop an understanding of the historical context and intellectual frameworks that gave rise to these philosophers' ideas.
4. Develop the ability to contextualize and analyze contemporary philosophical debates.

PREREQUISITES

N/A



GRADING

Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the maximum, as follows:

ITEM	POINTS
Quizzes	20 Points
Midterm 1	15 Points
Midterm 2	15 Points
Project 3	20 Points
Final Exam	30 Points
Total	100 Points

Late submissions will be graded at the end of the course. Grades will be assigned according to the following rule:

$A \geq 90 > B \geq 80 > C \geq 70 > D \geq 60 > F$.

We reserve the right to make adjustments to the overall grading policy.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Texts:

The Great Philosophers: From Socrates to Foucault by Jeremy Stangroom.

Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:

None

COURSE TOPICS

MODULE	TASKS
Module 1	Topics: Topic 1: Introduction to Philosophy and Philosophical Methodology Topic 2: Overview of philosophy as a discipline Topic 3: Introduction to major philosophical methodologies and their significance Topic 4: Plato's Republic Assessments:



	Quiz#1
Module 2	<p>Topics: Topic 5: Analysis of Plato's concept of the ideal state Topic 6: Critical analysis of Plato's theory of forms Topic 7: Analysis of Aristotle's ethical theory Topic 8: Critical analysis of Aristotle's concept of virtue</p> <p>Assessments: Quiz#2 Project</p>
Module 3	<p>Topics: Topic 9: Aquinas' Summa Theologica Topic 10: Analysis of Aquinas' concept of natural law Topic 11: Critical analysis of Aquinas' theological arguments Topic 12: Descartes' Meditations on First Philosophy</p> <p>Assessments: Midterm#1 Project</p>
Module 4	<p>Topics: Topic 13: Analysis of Descartes' concept of the cogito Topic 14: Critical analysis of Descartes' concept of substance Topic 15: Analysis of Hume's concept of causation Topic 16: Critical analysis of Hume's theory of knowledge</p> <p>Assessments: Midterm#2 Project due</p>
Module 5	<p>Topics: Topic 17: Analysis of Kant's concept of transcendental idealism Topic 18: Critical analysis of Kant's moral philosophy Topic 19: Analysis of Hegel's dialectical method Topic 20: Analysis of Nietzsche's concept of the will to power</p> <p>Assessments: Final Exam</p>

ATTENDANCE

1) Class attendance is required. Missing classes without permission will lead to



decrease in overall grade.

Missing less than two classes: no penalty.

Missing more than two classes: 7% will be taken off from the overall grade.

If the instructor reports a student's frequent missing of class to the Soochow University Academic Administration Office, the student might get a written warning and might be prohibited from attending final exam.

2) Participants in this course are expected to arrive in class promptly and adequately prepared. The primary objective of this course is to critically engage with the readings and the subject matter. Therefore, course participants are expected to have completed the reading prior to class and prepare thoughtful reflections/commentaries to share with fellow colleagues.

LEARNING REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Late assignments are not acceptable and are subjected to grade deductions.
- 2) Assignments submitted in the wrong format will be counted as not submitted.
- 3) Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.
- 4) Make-up for midterm and final exams only with valid excuses, as defined by the University.
- 5) In order to earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must thoughtfully complete all assignments by stated deadlines and earn an average quiz score of 50% or greater.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY

The use of electronic devices in class is distracting, both for the user and for the rest of the class. Only non-programmable calculators can be used in the tests and exam. Any attempts to use cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be seemed as cheating. Laptops are discouraged, unless you use them for activities DIRECTLY related to the course (eg., note taking, reading course documents).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Soochow University highly values the academic integrity and aims to promote the



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academic fairness, honesty and responsibility. Any academic dishonesty behaviors and any attempts to cheats and plagiarism will be reported to the university administration office. A written warning and the relevant penalties will be imposed. The record might be shown on the official university transcript.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

Soochow University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at Soochow University. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome.

Note:

Please contact the University Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material.