



蘇州大學
Soochow University

PHL 110 Introduction to Philosophy

Summer 2024

Course Credits: 4

Contact Hours: 56 hours

Instructor: TBA

Email: TBA

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course offers an introduction to students about the basic concepts and theories of philosophy. Topics of the course include mind, brains, and machines, personal identity, freedom, determinism, justice and equality, morality, ethics, Zeno's paradoxes, paradoxes of logic, set theory, puzzles of ethics, and etc. Students will not only develop their logical thinking and critical thinking through class discussions and essay writing but also explore the philosophical issues that are closely related to the real world.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the basic concepts and theories of philosophy;
2. Develop critical thinking skills and academic writing skills;
3. Describe the methods commonly used in philosophical research;
4. Clearly express their ideas with rationale;
5. Understand the nature of reasoning;
6. Articulate their thoughts in a logical and clear fashion;
7. Explain the difference between an act being morally permissible and morally necessary.

PREREQUISITES

N/A

GRADING

Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the



maximum, as follows:

ITEM	POINTS
Class Participation	10 Points
Essays	40 Points
Midterm Test	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:

John Perry, Michael Bratman, John Martin Fischer, *Introduction to Philosophy Classical and Contemporary Readings*, 7th Edition, OUP USA, 2015.

Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:

None

COURSE TOPICS

MODULE	TASKS
Module 1	Topics: Topic 1: Course Introduction: What Is Philosophy? Topic 2: Why Believe? Topic 3: The Problem of Evil Topic 4: Descartes and the Problems of Skepticism Assessments: Essay#1



Module 2	Topics: Topic 5: Hume's Problems and Some Solutions Topic 6: The Traditional Problem of Mind and Body Topic 7: Minds, Brains, and Machines Topic 8: Personal Identity Assessments: Essay#2
Module 3	Topics: Topic 9: Freedom, Determinism, and Responsibility Topic 10: Utilitarianism Topic 11: Kantian Ethics Topic 12: Aristotelian Ethics Assessments: Midterm Test
Module 4	Topics: Topic 13: Justice and Equality Topic 14: Contemporary Moral Problems Topic 15: Existential Issues Topic 16: Zeno's Paradoxes Assessments: Essay#3
Module 5	Topics: Topic 17: Metaphysical and Epistemological Puzzles and Paradoxes Topic 18: Puzzles of Rational Choice Topic 19: Paradoxes of Logic, Set Theory, and Semantics Topic 20: Puzzles of Ethics Assessments: Essay#4 Final Exam

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 (e.g., note taking, reading course documents).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

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



蘇州大學
Soochow University

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.