

Philosophy 101: Syllabus

For more information and updates, see the course website at:

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Course Description

Are we free, or do the laws of physics preclude genuine freedom of choice? Do we have any reason to be moral? And what is it about us that is supposed to make us responsible agents in the first place? Finally, is there any interesting connection between these questions?

This course examines these and other questions which are central to the discipline of philosophy. We will read both classic works of philosophy and papers published recently by living philosophers.

Of course, no prior experience in philosophy is necessary.

Readings

All texts are available in the campus bookstore.

- Butler. *Five Sermons*
- Epictetus. *The Handbook*
- Plato. *Gorgias*

Further readings will be available on Electronic Reserve or www.jstor.org.

You can only access the JSTOR readings from a Cornell I.P. Go to www.jstor.org and search for the papers by author and subject. Alternatively, you can simply enter the URL provided on the syllabus.

You can access the electronic reserve readings by going to <http://campusgw.library.cornell.edu/>. Click on the 'Course Reserves' link under 'Research Tools'. Go to 'Instructors' and scroll down to 'Chris Young'.

Grading, Assignments and Course Policies

Course work consists of:

- a) a series of 2 page assignments written in two drafts (5 assignments, each worth 10% each)
- b) a series of quizzes to test basic comprehension of the readings (5 quizzes, each worth 2%)
- c) a participation grade (worth 10%)
- d) a final take-home examination (worth 30%)

You must come to class and take part in discussion. Lateness will result in a lower attendance grade.

If you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to contact a classmate to fill you in on anything you've missed.

See the "Assignments" Handout for further details on the assignments

A Few Statements Regarding University Policies

A Statement on University policies and regulations¹: "This instructor respects and upholds University policies and regulations pertaining to the observation of religious holidays; assistance available to the physically handicapped, visually and/or hearing impaired student; plagiarism; sexual harassment; and racial or ethnic discrimination. All students are advised to become familiar with the respective University regulations and are encouraged to bring any questions or concerns to the attention of the instructor."

A Statement about Plagiarism²: Plagiarism is the misrepresentation -intentional or not – of someone else's work as one's own. Students will be held responsible for plagiarism, including both deliberate plagiarism and the sort that results from sloppy work habits. Students should also be aware (and should warn fellow students considering plagiarism)

¹ From: "A Jump Start for New Instructors of First-Year Writing Seminars," p. 5.

² Adapted from *ibid.* p. 5.

that plagiarism is surprisingly easy to detect. Punishments vary but typically include failure in the course and a permanent mark in a student's record.

I am always available to discuss your concerns about plagiarism. For more on plagiarism, see the sections in Cornell's *Policy Notebook* on the 'Code of Academic Integrity' and 'Acknowledging the Work of Others.' The *Code of Academic Integrity* is available on the Web at:

<http://www.cornell.edu/UniversityFaculty/docs/mail.html>

There is a general ban in this class on all internet research (beyond, of course, using Electronic Reserve and the course website).