

INSTRUCTOR'S CONTACT INFORMATION

NAME:

Professor Cherry

OFFICE:

Humanities Building, 466

OFFICE HOURS:

Tues/Thurs: 3:00-4:15pm

CLASS:

Philosophy 61-14

E-MAIL ADDRESS: Myisha.Cherry @liu.edu

Long Island University
Department of Philosophy
Philosophy 62
Philosophical Explorations 2
Spring 2012

Syllabus

Phil 62-Course Description

Philosophy 62 is part two of an introductory course to the discipline of philosophy and its topics and questions. Whereas Philosophy 61 sought to answer basic philosophical questions from a range of philosophical branches from ancient times to the 1700's, Philosophy 62 will primarily focus more specifically on modern concepts of ethics and political philosophy. We will focus on modern theories of ethics, issues in political philosophy, and contemporary applied ethical topics and controversies. We will engage in the readings of some great philosophical work of the modern era and also a couple of ancient Greek texts from Plato and Aristotle.

Our Philosophy 62 journey will begin with a look at modern ethical theories that seem to shape the way we not only make decisions personally but also in the public sphere. We will then take a look at justice and quality as a concept and a look at specific issues regarding punishment and civil disobedience. Finally, we will address questions relating to rights and equality as we look at modern ethical issues such as gay marriage and drug legalization.

This course will strive to be not a series of lectures but an active and reciprocal journey between teacher and students. It will emphasize critical reflections, intellectual exchanges, and the relevancy of philosophy to everyday situations that can only effectively happen with the active involvement of all participants. The focus of our class session will be to explore concepts of the themes related to the class readings by addressing complexities and questions posed by students in advance. This requires consistent reciprocal and active participation on behalf of all students.

Course Objectives:

1. Familiarize ourselves with modern philosophical issues and arguments
2. Explore a few outstanding works by philosophical authors from Aristotle to Angela Davis
3. Become able to explain and critique the philosophical work and thoughts of writers in ones own words
4. Improve on ones own responsive and critical writing, one that is free of illogical reasoning and is fully explored and filled with rational, critical analysis

Required Text:

The text can be found in the bookstore.

Justice: What's the Right Thing To Do? By Michael Sandel (paperback) ISBN: 978-0-374-53250-5

All other readings will be provided via pdf and can be accessed through our course page at www.tinyurl.com/philosophy62

Grading:

Percentages represent the weight of each assignment toward the final grade

10% Attendance & Participation

20% Homework Log assignments that provide brief yet critical responses to the readings (5)

15% "Confused Q's" 1-3 sentence questions that are electronically sent to professor after each reading

25% One Short Essay paper (4-6 pgs)

30% Exams (2) (short answer, short essay, and fill in blank response)

Log Questions Assignments:

Answer the following for your log questions. Answers should be addressed in 3 separate paragraphs.

- Summarize the reading or a particular argument in your own words (Comprehension)
- What parts of the reading do you highly agree with and/or disagree with and why? (Critical Analysis)
- What philosophical insight did you receive from the reading? It can be something the author said or a thought, concept, or new idea that you came up with while reading (Insight, Idea Constructions).

** Log Assignments are due at the very beginning of the class it is due. No later.

"Confused Q's":

After reading the assigned reading at least twice, write down any ideas that are still unclear to you or that you are confused about. What concepts are hard to grasp? What part of the argument are you confused about? Send such questions to the professor. If you understand every element of the reading, tell me the most complex part of the reading according to you or any questions of how the reading applies to other ideas.

(Examples: I am confused about the blank part of his argument. How does the particular principle apply to poor communities? Is the author saying that ethics is intrinsic or can be learned? I did not understand the concept of liberty that Jackson talked about.)

**Confused Q's must be sent to the Professor 12 hours before our class meeting time. For our course that means they must be sent every Monday and Wednesday by 11:00pm. (by 3:00 the world is asleep)

Schedule

Date	Topic	Work Due
1/17	Introduction to Course and Each Other	
	Ethical Theories and the Public Sphere	
1/19	Doing the Right thing (Sandel)	
1/24	What Utilitarianism Is (John Stuart Mill)	
1/26	Utilitarianism (Sandel)	LOG 1
1/31	On liberty (John Stuart Mill)	

2/7	Grounding for metaphysics of morals (Kant)	
2/9	Kantian Ethics (Sandel)	LOG 2
2/14	Dilemmas' of Loyalties (Sandel)	
2/16	Patriotism and Cosmopolitanism Martha Nussbaum	LOG 3
	Governance, Equality, & Rights	
2/21	Aristotle and Politics, (Sandel)	LOG 4
2/23	Cont'd	
2/28	EXAM	EXAM ONE
3/1	Discourse on Equality: Part Two (Rousseau)	
3/6	Nihilism in America (West)	
3/8	Racialization of Prisons (Davis)	LOG 5
3/12-18	SPRING BREAK NO CLASSES	
3/20	In Class Essay Workshop	Essay Distribution Writing Workshop
3/22	Plato and Personhood (Hall)	
3/27	Crito (Plato)	
3/29	Letter From a Birmingham Jail (King) The Ballot or the Bullet (Malcolm X)	
4/3	Justice As Fairness (Rawls)	
4/5	Rawls and Occupy Wall Street (Cohen, Rinsler, & Mazie)	
4/10	The Case For Equality: John Rawls (Sandel)	
4/12	In Class Debate	
	Modern Social Issues	
4/17	Homosexuality: The Nature and Harm Arguments (Corvino)	
4/19	Against Gay Marriage	ESSAY DUE
4/24	The Case for Legalization (Nadelmann)	
4/26	Against the Legalization of Drugs (Wilson)	
5/1	Last Day of Class	EXAM TWO (FINAL)

Tues & Thurs.
Phil 61:14
3:00-4:15 PM/H:315

Long Island University (Brooklyn)
Office: Humanities Building/ 449
Email: myisha.cherry @liu.edu

Philosophy 62 Syllabus Addendum Spring 2012 Professor Cherry

Readings and Participation:

Participation is truly encouraged in the course. Participation not only includes being in attendance and expressing your thoughts and interpretations of the readings to the class but it also entails coming to class with a physical copy of the readings and also having read them.

Please make sure you bring all readings to class the day they are discussed. There will be times where we read them as a class and its best that each student is prepared to read and follow our class discussion of the texts.

Confused Q's

To add to class participation and discussion, students are required to submit "Confused Q's" before *each class meeting*. They are to be 1-3 sentence questions and can be as limited or extended as you like. The purpose is to allow for each class time to focus specifically on material that was hard for students to grasp and see how those elements contribute to the overall theme, idea, or argument of the author. They are to be submitted on Monday and Wednesdays by 11:00pm through our course site here: www.tinyurl.com/philosophy62

On days that logs are due, there is no need to submit Confused Q's!!!!!!

Technology in Class

Several electronic versions of the readings will be distributed throughout the semester. In addition, use of technology will be used a lot during our class discussions. Therefore, use of computers, Ipads, Iphones and other devices are encouraged as an alternative to printing out massive amounts of paper, for note taking, peer-instruction, and class discussions. **However, please do not abuse technology integration in our course!** Please refrain from texting, aiming, and internet searching during class lectures and discussions. If this is abused, you may have participation points deducted.

Lateness:

Class begins at 3:00 pm. If it is within your power, make every effort to get to class on time. I take roll at the beginning of class. I also collect assignments (essay and logs) usually within the first 3 minutes of class. If you are late and have not emailed your assignment as a safety, I will not accept log assignments after this time.

Attendance:

Being present is necessary to learning. If under certain circumstances you cannot make it to class, please get notes from a friend and also send your log or essay for that week in advance to class or via email before or on the assigned day.

Make sure that you make every effort to refresh yourself before class begins. This will minimize on the rate of students going in and out during class. This not only distracts students and myself, but also when you leave class, you miss out on valuable information.

Emailed Assignments:

If you are late for class or is not able to attend, you should email your assignment as a "time stamp" BEFORE it is due. However, I will only grade hard copies. Make sure when you arrive or attend the next class, to give the assignment to me and inform me that you have emailed it to me in advance so that I can verify. If they are not given to me in hardcopy form, it will not be graded. When sending emails, please make sure that you state your name and course number and make sure that you send all assignments as attachments.

Log & Essay Assignments:

Log assignments structure is provided in the syllabus and due dates are provided on the class schedule. They will always be on the assigned readings for that week. I DO NOT ACCEPT LATE LOG ASSIGNMENTS. I ONLY ACCEPT TYPED AND STAPLED ASSIGNMENTS.

On days that logs are due, there is no need to submit Confused Q's!!!!!!

Late Essay Assignments:

Essays handed in after they are collected (including at the end of class) will be considered late.

A late essay will be deducted points as follows:

- Handed in the same day in class but after essays were collected: -5 points
- Handed in after the day it was due but no later than 7 days: -10 points
- * Handed in more than a week after it was due, -10 points, plus -5 points for each additional day

Grading:

As indicated on the syllabus, each assignment carries a particular percentage weight. Please take special note of this in advance. Each assignment is important and collectively contributes to your overall grade.

If you are having a difficult time, please come visit me during my office hours before it is too late. After the semester is an example of "too late". I do not give extra credit. I do not make grade changes as a favor but only in the case of a grading error on my part. I give you the grade that you earn, however the early you visit me with a difficulty or question, the quicker we can both help find a solution to a productive and successful semester for you.

Make Up Exams

Being in class on the exam days very important. If you know in advance that you will not be here on exam days, please arrange with me a time to take the exam *in advance*. However excuses such as forgetting the exam, going on vacation, running too late for it, or waking up too late to take it are not valid excuses for a make-up.

In the case of illness or emergencies on the exam day, I am very suspect and strict. It is the student's responsibility to contact me as soon as possible to discuss the situation and ones options. Valid written proof and validation such as an emergency room note or a youtube video of you in a car crash must be given ☺ and verification by me will be followed up. Be prepared to take the exam in the very next class after our discussion.

Early Departures:

Occasionally it may be necessary to leave class early. If for some reason you know you will be leaving class before the end of the class session, please notify me at the beginning of class, try to find a seat in the back, and slip out quietly when the time comes. Like late arrivals, early departures are distracting to learning both for me as a teacher and for other students.

Academic Integrity:

"Responsibility for academic integrity is shared by the Brooklyn Campus' administration, faculty, students and staff. While classroom discipline is the responsibility of the faculty member in charge of the class, disciplinary action, ranging from reprimand through expulsion from the university (subject to the Dean of Student's final decision), may be initiated by an individual faculty member and/or Department against any student for the conduct of a nature that interferes with the educational purpose of a class, and for conduct involving plagiarism and/or dishonesty in examinations or class work."

-- Long Island University Brooklyn Campus Student Handbook and Planner (2007-2008)

Academic Integrity (p.28):

Please be careful as you do your log assignments and essay paper. Do not use outside or internet sources for your log assignments and do not copy word for word what is in the text. I am assessing YOUR ability to summarize and reflect.

During exams, use your own thoughts and do not seek assistance from ones neighbor, phones, notes on your shoe, notes on your hand, Bluetooth communication, and any other clever ideas. Rapid bathroom visitation is highly discouraged along with using your phone during the exam.

Sanctions: If Plagiarism is detected, student will receive a 0 for the assignment with no opportunity for a rewrite. Cheating on exams will result in automatic failure of the course.