



**University of International Business and Economics
International Summer Sessions**

PHI 110: Introduction to Philosophy

Term: May 29 – June 29, 2017

Instructor: Haiming Wen

Home Institution: Renmin University of China

Email:

Class Hours: Monday through Thursday, 120 minutes each day (2,400 minutes in total)

Office Hours:

Teaching Assistant: TBD

Discussion session: 2 hours each week

Total Contact Hours: 64 contact hours (45 minutes each, 48 hours in total)

Credit: 4 units

Course Description

This course is intended to be a general introduction to both the substance and methods of western philosophy. Ideally, students should exit this course with both a sense of what sorts of things philosophers spend their time thinking about and an appreciation of how they go about that thought. Because of the breadth and depth of philosophical inquiry (both in regards to its subject matter and its history), we cannot possibly hope to cover everything worthy of investigation, even in a summary and superficial fashion. What we can hope to do however - and what we will do in this course - is cover some particular topics of interest that have been a persistent feature of philosophical discourse throughout the last 2500 years.

Course Goals

The expectation is that students will leave this course with an understanding of and appreciation for philosophical study. Ideally, students will recognize that the methods of inquiry employed in philosophy have application in every area of life, and will leave the course prepared for more active, critical, and reflective approach when assessing the merits of their own beliefs and the beliefs of others.

Required Text

2013. *Introduction to Philosophy: Classical and Contemporary Readings*. Seventh Edition. Edited by John Perry, Michael Bratman, and John Fischer. New York: Oxford University Press.



Required course materials

No course materials are required beyond the required texts. Any material not in the course textbook will be made available on the course website.

Attendance

Summer school is very intense and to be successful, students need to attend every class. Occasionally, due to illness or other unavoidable circumstance, a student may need to miss a class. UIBE policy requires a medical certificate to be excused. Any unexcused absence may affect the student's grade. Moreover, UIBE policy is that a student who has more than 1/3 (6 times) of the class in unexcused absences will fail the course.

Grading Policy

Grading will be determined by a combination of class attendance and participation, short quizzes at the beginning of some lectures (roughly 2 per week), and the results of your exams.

Attendance and Participation	20%
Quizzes (Cumulative)	20%
Exam 1	30%
Exam 2	30%

Grading Scale

Assignments and examinations will be graded according to the following grade scale:

- A 90-100
- A- 85-89
- B+ 82-84
- B 78-81
- B- 75-77
- C+ 72-74
- C 68-71
- C- 64-67
- D 60-63
- F below 60

Class Rules

Students are expected to come to lecture having read to material assigned for the day, and to be prepared to engage in active discussion about that material. Philosophy is an inherently dialogical enterprise; we only progress in philosophy through active exchange of ideas and arguments.

Course Schedule

Date	Notes	Reading	Topics
Week 1			
7.4		[22]; [23]; [28]	What is Philosophy, and Why Study It?
7.5		[4]; [16]	The Mind-Body Problem: Physicalism
7.6		[6]	Other Solutions
7.7		[31]; [5]	Do Computers Have Beliefs?
7.8			
Week 2			
7.11		[36]; [21]	Personal Identity and the Self
7.12		[12]; [7]; [17]	Knowledge and Justification
7.13		[9]	Cartesian Epistemology
7.14		[14]; [26]	Hume's Skepticism
7.15			
Week 3			
7.18		[29]	The Problem of Induction
7.19	First Exam	[35]	Free Will and Determinism (2nd hour of class)
7.20		[11]; [10]	Free Will and Moral Responsibility
7.21		[13]; [32]	Moral Relativism and Its Critics
7.22			
Week 4			
7.25		[20]; [10: 530-34]	Ethical Theories
7.26		[25]	Challenges to Morality: Plato's Republic
7.27		[27]; [8]	Justice and Equality
7.28		[34]; [15]; [30]	Reproductive Labor and Reproductive Rights
7.29			
Week 5			
8.1		[19]; [24]	God and the Problem of Evil
8.2		[1], [2], [3]	The Liar and Sorites Paradoxes
8.3		[33]	Meaningfulness in Life

8.4	Second Exam	
8.5		

References

- [1] ‘Russell’s Paradox.’ Reprinted in IP, 882.
- [2] ‘The Paradox of the Heap.’ Reprinted in IP, 875–76.
- [3] ‘The Paradox of the Liar.’ Reprinted in IP, 881–2.
- [4] ARMSTRONG, D. (1980). ‘The Nature of Mind.’ In David Armstrong (ed.), *The Nature of Mind and Other Essays*, 1-15. University of Queensland Press. Reprinted in IP, 257–264.
- [5] BODEN, M. (1988). ‘Is Computational Psychology Possible?’ In *Computer Models of Mind*, 238-251. Cambridge University Press.
- [6] CHURCHLAND, P. (2002). ‘Eliminative Materialism and the Propositional Attitudes.’ *The Journal of Philosophy* 78, n. 2: 67-90. Reprinted in IP, 277-280.
- [7] CLIFFORD, W. (1999). ‘The Ethics of Belief.’ In Timothy Madigan (ed), *The Ethics of Belief and Other Essays*, 70–96. Prometheus.
- [8] COHEN, G.A. (1997). ‘Where The Action Is: On the Site of Distributive Justice.’ Reprinted in IP, 616–32.
- [9] DESCARTES, R. (1993). *Meditations on First Philosophy*. Donald Cress (trans). Hackett Publishing Company. Reprinted in IP, 136–59.
- [10] FISCHER, J. ‘Responsiveness and Moral Responsibility.’ In *My Way*, 63–83. Oxford University Press. Reprinted in IP, 414-29.
- [11] FRANKFURT, H. (1969). ‘Alternate Possibilities and Moral Responsibility.’ *The Journal of Philosophy* 66, n. 23: 829–39. Reprinted in IP, 417–24.
- [12] GETTIER, E. ‘Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?’ *Analysis* 23: 121-23.
- [13] HARMAN, G. (1977). ‘Ethics and Observation.’ In *The Nature of Morality*, 3–10. Oxford University Press. Reprinted in IP, 789–93.
- [14] HUME, D. (2005). ‘Of Scepticism with Regard to the Senses.’ In *A Treatise of Human Nature*, 125-43. Oxford University Press. Reprinted in IP, 176-90.
- [15] HURSTHOUSE, R. ‘Thomson’s Arguments.’ Reprinted in IP, 657–74.
- [16] JACKSON, F. (1986). ‘What Mary Didn’t Know.’ *The Journal of Philosophy* 83, n. 5: 291-95. Reprinted in IP, 281-84.

- [17] JAMES, W. (1979). 'The Will to Believe.' In *The Will to Believe and Other Essays in Popular Philosophy*, 1–31. Harvard University Press.
- [18] KANT, I. (1998). *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*. Mary Gregor (trans). Cambridge University Press. Reprinted in IP, 504-520.
- [19] MACKIE, J.L. (1955). 'Evil and Omnipotence.' *Mind* 64, n. 254, 200–12.
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- [22] PERRY, J. ET AL. (2013). 'Logical Toolkit.' In John Perry, Michael Bratman, and John Fischer (eds.), *Introduction to Philosophy: Classical and Contemporary Readings*. Oxford University Press, 9–14.
- [23] PERRY, J. ET AL. (2013). 'On the Study of Philosophy.' In John Perry, Michael Bratman, and John Fischer (eds.), *Introduction to Philosophy: Classical and Contemporary Readings*. Oxford University Press, 3-8.
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- [25] PLATO. (1974). Selections from *The Republic*, translated by F. MacDonald Cranford. Oxford University Press. Reprinted in IP, 639-675.
- [26] PUTNAM, H. (1981). 'Brains in a Vat.' In *Reason, Truth and History*, 1-21. Cambridge University Press.
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- [28] RUSSELL, B. The Value of Philosophy. Reprinted in IP, 18-21.
- [29] SALMON, W.C. (2002). *The Foundations of Scientific Inference*. The University of Pittsburgh Press. Reprinted in IP, 216-238.
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- [31] SEARLE, J. (1980). 'Minds, Brains and Programs.' *Behavioral and Brain Sciences* 3, n. 3: 417-24. Reprinted in IP, 298-311.
- [32] STURGEON, N. (1984). 'Moral Explanations.' In Geoffrey Sayre-McCord (ed.), *Essays in Moral Realism*, 229–55. Ithaca, NY. Reprinted in IP, 298-311.
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- [34] THOMSON, J.J. 'A Defense of Abortion.' Reprinted in IP, 646–56.



- [35] VAN INWAGEN, P. (2009). 'The Power of Rational Beings: Freedom of the Will.' In *Metaphysics*, 253-72. Westview Press. Reprinted in IP, 385-96.
- [36] VELLEMAN, D. (2006). 'So It Goes.' *The Amherst Lectures in Philosophy 1*: 1–25. Reprinted in IP, 366–78.