

Framingham State University
Syllabus
PHIL 101 Invitation to Philosophy
Summer 2018

General Information

Session: Summer 2018, May 28, 2018 to Jun 29, 2018

Credit: 4

Teaching Hours: 50 Hours

Time: 2 hours/day, Mon-Fri

Instructor: Ryan Brown

Home Institution: Framingham State University

Email: brownaha@bc.edu

Course Description

Welcome to philosophy! This course is designed to introduce students to what philosophers do and how philosophy has been practiced historically. Special weight will be given to the classic texts that have been preserved in the Western tradition. Though philosophy has been practiced in isolation in the past, ideas can only ever be tested by being submitted to the crucible of dialogue. Thus, we will endeavor to get everyone in class participating in and contributing to philosophical discussions.

In its original definition, philosophy means love (*philein*) of wisdom (*sophia*). In philosophy, we seek to ask questions about the most fundamental aspects of our human experience—in broadest terms, questions about the Divine, the Human Person, the World, and Society—and in asking and answering these questions, strive to know ourselves. Our way in to philosophy this semester will be asking about the being who does philosophy—namely, the human being. Thus we want to ask questions concerning what it is to be a human being in this world—the kinds of questions people ask every day, and the kinds of questions people might want to ask more frequently. Most fundamentally, we will ask: What is the human good, and how can we live the best lives?

Goals

Students will be expected to:

- Gain an introductory understanding both of philosophy as a discipline and practice and of the classic texts selected, which help shape our traditions.
- Learn to read (philosophical) texts deeply and honestly, to write (philosophical) essays clearly and persuasively, and to discuss (in philosophical conversation) cogently and sensitively.
- Build a solid foundation in Western philosophy so as to continue to study and discuss philosophy from other epochs and regions.

Finally, all of us will be asked to come to know ourselves—to struggle with our own (perhaps unrealized) philosophical positions as they come against those of brilliant thinkers of the past.

Readings

All required readings will be made available as PDFs on Blackboard. Please print them out and read them before the assigned date, as per the reading list at the end of this syllabus.

Assignments and Grading

- **Participation:** Being an active listener and participant is essential for the success of the class. Therefore, students will be expected to arrive on time, having brought a tangible copy of the reading, which has been critically read before class. *Take notes on the reading itself*, as well as in your notebooks. **Students will also be expected to contribute to the discussion at least once per week. Failure to do so will result in “cold-calling”.**
- **Reading Quizzes:** To ensure that texts are read before class, there will be a number of short reading quizzes each week, which will prompt you to respond to a question or two about the reading.
- **Midterm Exam:** The midterm will be given in the third week of class. It will cover all of the readings from the first two weeks of the term. Students will be expected to articulate definitions, themes, and central arguments and images from these texts.
- **Final Exam:** The final exam will be given on the last day of class. It will cover all of the readings from the third, fourth, and fifth weeks of the term. Students will be expected to articulate definitions, themes, and central arguments and images from these texts.

Here is the breakdown of how of the grading will work:

Attendance	10%
Participation	10%
Reading Quizzes	25%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	30%

100-93	92-90	89-87	86-83	82-80	79-77	76-73	72-70	69-60	59-0
A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F

Policies

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory and constitutes a substantial portion of the final grade. If something serious comes up (and some kind of documentation is provided), or if you clear an absence with me beforehand, it will be excused. If not, it will be unexcused. If you miss more than two classes, a point will be deducted from your final grade for each additional unexcused absence. I don’t want this, and neither do you, so come to class! Additionally, three unexcused late arrivals will constitute one unexcused absence.

Technology: Absolutely no electronics (computers, phones, etc.) are to be used in class without special permission solicited from me. *Any readings provided online must be printed out* and brought to class on the day for which they are assigned.

Food, Drink, and Other Potential Distractions: These kinds of things are okay, but please just don't be distracting.

Academic Integrity: We all know plagiarism of any kind is strictly forbidden. Plagiarism will result in a failed assignment, perhaps even a failure of the class itself, or worse. If you have any questions as to whether something counts as plagiarism, ask me, or refer to the school's policy, which is included as an appendix at the end of this syllabus.

Personal Integrity: Because part of the nature of philosophy is critically examining assumptions and beliefs, it is easy for philosophical arguments to get tense. This is perfectly fine, as long as all the participants are respectful and do not resort to *ad hominem* attacks, slander, or anything of the sort. *Keep your comments on the idea, not on the person*, and remember that someone buying into what you consider to be a false idea need not imply that that person is foolish. Additionally, be respectful of religious, political, racial, sexual, and other differences. I will not tolerate bashing any religion, or sexist comments, or harassment, or discrimination of any kind. That being said, arguing about whether or not a religious, political, or other belief is true is perfectly acceptable and encouraged, so long as it remains respectful. If you feel as if this code is being broken, either by a student or by the instructor, please see me, and we will work on finding a solution.

Disabilities: If you have a documented disability and need special accommodations, please see me.

Reading Schedule

All readings are available as PDFs on Blackboard. Reading list is subject to change based on weather and/or the needs of the class.

Week 1. 28/5/18—1/6/18:

Monday, 28/5:	D.F. Wallace, “This is Water” Shiffman, “Humanity 4.5”
Tuesday, 29/5:	Descartes, <i>Meditations on First Philosophy</i> , Preface, Dedication, Meditations I and II
Thursday, 31/5:	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> , III and IV
Friday, 1/6:	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> , V and VI

Week 2. 4/6/18—8/6/18:

Monday, 4/6:	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , I-XII (selections)
Tuesday, 5/6:	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , XIII-XVI
Thursday 7/6:	Becker, “The Economic Approach to Human Behavior” Dostoevsky, <i>Notes From Underground</i> , I
Friday: 8/6:	Nietzsche <i>Thus Spoke Zarathustra</i> , “Prologue,” “The Three Metamorphoses” Nietzsche, <i>The Gay Science</i> , “The Madman”

Week 3. 11/6/18—15/6/18

Monday, 11/6:	Nietzsche, <i>Genealogy of Morality</i> , Preface, Essay I.1-10 Nietzsche, <i>Twilight of the Idols</i> , “How the True World Finally Became a Fable”
Tuesday, 12/6:	Nietzsche, <i>Genealogy</i> , Essay I.11-17; II.1-7
Wednesday, 12/7:	Midterm Exam
Thursday, 14/6:	Nietzsche, <i>Genealogy</i> , Essay II.8-25
Friday, 15/6:	Plato, <i>Symposium</i> , Intro and Diotima’s Speech

Week 4. 18/6/18—22/6/18

Monday, 18/6:	Plato, <i>Republic</i> , I
Tuesday, 19/6:	Plato, <i>Republic</i> , II Thucydides, <i>History of the Peloponnesian War</i> , “Melian Dialogue”
Thursday, 21/6:	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , I
Friday, 22/6:	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , II

Week 5. 25/6/18—29/6/18

Monday, 25/6:	Plato, <i>Republic</i> , VI-VII
---------------	---------------------------------

Tuesday, 26/6: Boethius, *The Consolation of Philosophy*, I-II
Wednesday, 27/6: Boethius, *Consolation*, III-IV
Thursday, 28/6: Boethius, *Consolation*, V
Friday, 29/6: Final Exam

UNIVERSITY POLICY REGARDING ACADEMIC HONESTY

Integrity is essential to academic life. Consequently, students who enroll at Framingham State University agree to maintain high standards of academic honesty and scholarly practice. They shall be responsible for familiarizing themselves with the published policies and procedures regarding academic honesty. Faculty members shall, at their discretion, include in the course syllabus additional statements relating the definition of academic honesty to their courses. They shall administer hour tests and exams in such a manner as to provide the best possible situation for all students. Faculty shall proctor exams, or, if they feel it is suitable to schedule a non-proctored exam, shall designate in writing at the beginning of the examination: 1) where they shall be found during the period and 2) where the exam papers are to be turned in.

Academic honesty requires but is not limited to the following practices: appropriately citing all published and unpublished sources, whether quoted, paraphrased, or otherwise expressed, in all of the student's oral and written, technical, and artistic work; observing the policies regarding the use of technical facilities.

Infractions of the Policy on Academic Honesty include, but are not limited to:

1. Plagiarism: claiming as one's own work the published or unpublished literal or paraphrased work of another. It should be recognized that plagiarism is not only academically dishonest but also illegal.
2. Cheating on exams, tests, quizzes, assignments, and papers, including the giving or acceptance of these materials and other sources of information without the permission of the instructor(s).
3. Unauthorized collaboration with other individuals in the preparation of course assignments.
4. Submitting without authorization the same assignment for credit in more than one course.
5. Use of dishonest procedures in computer, laboratory, studio, or field work. Further clarification on academic honesty will be provided, when appropriate, in individual courses.
6. Misuse of the University's technical facilities (computer machinery, laboratories, media equipment, etc.), either maliciously or for personal gain. Examples include but are not necessarily limited to: a. Accessing the private files of another person or agency without express permission. b. The unauthorized use of technical facilities for purposes not connected with academic pursuits. When evidence indicates that a student has improperly used a technical facility, an appropriate supervisor (faculty or staff member) may take appropriate action reflecting the seriousness of the infraction, ranging from a verbal warning to, but not beyond, denial of use of the facility. If coursework may have been plagiarized, the supervisor will also inform all concerned faculty members, who may act as described in the procedures for handling cases of alleged infractions of academic honesty.
7. Falsification of forms used to document the academic record and to conduct the academic business of the University.