

**Introduction to Philosophy**  
**University of Minnesota – Morris**  
**Professor Mark Collier**  
**Fall 2007**

**Course Description:** How should we live our lives? What happens after death? What is the relationship between the mind and body? Does God exist? Why do bad things happen to good people? In this course, we will examine classical works in philosophy that address these big questions about human nature and its place in the universe. Authors include: Plato, Aristotle, Epictetus, Lucretius, Sextus Empiricus, Descartes, and Hume. We will also work on the development of philosophical writing, reading, and speaking skills.

**Class Schedule:**

Thursday, Aug 30	Introduction
Tuesday, Sept 4	Plato (I): <i>Euthyphro</i>
Thursday, Sept 6	Plato (II): <i>Apology</i>
Tuesday, Sept 11	Plato (III): <i>Crito</i>
Thursday, Sept 13	Plato (IV): <i>Phaedo</i> (death scene) and * <i>Phaedo</i> (survival)
Tuesday, Sept 18	Aristotle (I): <i>Nichomachean Ethics</i> , I: 1-5, 7-8
Thursday, Sept 20	Aristotle (II): <i>Nichomachean Ethics</i> , X: 6-8
Tuesday, Sept 25	<b>TEST #1</b>
Thursday, Sept 27	Epictetus (I): <i>Discourses</i> , I.1, 3-4, 6, 12, 16; II.1-2, 14
Tuesday, Oct 2	Epictetus (II): <i>Discourses</i> , III: 3, 9-10, 13, 24-26; IV: 1
Thursday, Oct 4	Lucretius (I): <i>Nature of Things</i> , I: 1-418, 430-450, 616-628
Tuesday, Oct 9	Lucretius (II): <i>Nature of Things</i> , II: 1-293, 992-1174; III: 1-416
Thursday, Oct 11	<b>NO CLASS</b>
Tuesday, Oct 16	Lucretius (III): <i>Nature of Things</i> , III: 417-1094
Thursday, Oct 18	<b>TEST #2</b>
Tuesday, Oct 23	<b>FALL BREAK</b>
Thursday, Oct 25	Sextus Empiricus (I): * <i>Outlines of Pyrrhonism</i> , I: 1-15
Tuesday, Oct 30	Descartes (I): <i>Meditations</i> , I
Thursday, Nov 1	Descartes (II): <i>Meditations</i> , II
Tuesday, Nov 6	<b>FILM DAY: MATRIX AND PHILOSOPHY</b>
Thursday, Nov 8	Descartes (III): <i>Meditations</i> , III & IV
Tuesday, Nov 13	Descartes (IV): <i>Meditations</i> , V & *Proofs of God's Existence
Thursday, Nov 15	Descartes (V): <i>Meditations</i> , VI
Tuesday, Nov 20	<b>TEST #3</b>
Thursday, Nov 22	<b>THANKSGIVING BREAK</b>
Tuesday, Nov 27	Hume (I): <i>Dialogues on Natural Religion</i> , Parts I-II
Thursday, Nov 29	Hume (II): <i>Dialogues on Natural Religion</i> , Parts III-V
Tuesday, Dec 4	Hume (III): <i>Dialogues on Natural Religion</i> , Parts VI-IX
Thursday, Dec 6	Hume (IV): <i>Dialogues on Natural Religion</i> , Parts X-XI
Tuesday, Dec 11	Hume (V): "Of Miracles"
Thursday, Dec 13	<b>PAPER WORKSHOP</b>
Final Exam Week	<b>TEST #4</b>

\* = electronic course reserve

**Course Requirements:** This course will be structured around a combination of lectures and class discussions/group work. This means that you should come to class well-prepared (i.e. with a solid understanding of the readings for the day and questions for discussion). You will be expected to make significant contributions in class discussions and web-forum discussions.

**Attendance and Exams:** You must attend every meeting of this course. Quizzes may be given in class periodically throughout the semester.

**Grade Distribution:**

Four Exams: 15% each

First Paper (5-6 pages): 15%

Second Paper (5-6 pages): 15%

Class Participation: 10%

**University of Minnesota Policies**

**Grading standards (definition of grades)**

- A Represents achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.
- B Represents achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.
- C Represents achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.
- D Represents achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements.
- S Represents achievement that is satisfactory, which is equivalent to a C- or better.
- F (or N) -- Represents failure (or no credit) and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an I (see also I)
- I -- (Incomplete) Assigned at the discretion of the instructor when, due to extraordinary circumstances, e.g., hospitalization, a student is prevented from completing the work of the course on time. Requires a written agreement between instructor and student.

**Make-up exam policy**

Make-up quizzes and exams are available only when a student has an excellent reason for missing the regular quiz or exam and arrangements are made either before the missed quiz or exam or as quickly as humanly possible thereafter.

**Senate student academic workload policy**

For undergraduate courses, one credit is defined as equivalent to an average of three hours of learning effort per week (over a full semester) necessary for an average student to achieve an average grade (C) in the course. For example, a student taking a four credit course that meets for four hours a week should expect to spend an additional eight hours a week on course work outside the classroom.

**Statement on accommodations for students with disabilities**

It is University policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities. Please contact the Disability Services office, 589-6163, Room 362 Briggs Library to discuss accommodation needs.

**Statement on classroom conduct**

Students are expected to interact with the instructor and other students with respect and courtesy. Students should attend every class session prepared to learn and work. Participation in class is expected, which includes both speaking up and listening. Give class your full attention while here. Complete all assignments including the reading -- in a timely fashion. Do not bring cell phones or recording equipment to class without the instructor's consent. Students whose behavior is disruptive either to the instructor or to other students will be asked to leave. Students whose behavior suggests the need for counseling or other assistance may be referred to counseling services. Students whose behavior violates the University Student Conduct Code will be subject to disciplinary action.

**Statement on academic misconduct**

Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis. In this course, a student responsible for scholastic dishonesty can be assigned a penalty up to and including an "F" or "N" for the course. If you have any questions regarding the expectations for a specific assignment or exam, ask.

**Statement regarding sexual harassment**

University policy prohibits sexual harassment as defined by the University of Minnesota Regents' policy:

<http://www1.umn.edu/regents/policies/humanresources/SexHarassment.pdf>

**Statement on student with disabilities**

It is University policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities. Please contact your instructor or the Disability Services office, 589-6163, Room 362 Briggs Library to discuss accommodation needs.