

University of South Florida Summer A 2015

PHI2010 902 Introduction to Philosophy
Monday and Wednesday 5:00-8:30 pm
CPR126
3 Credits

Ms. Christine Wieseler
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 Office Hours:
 Mon and Weds 3:30-4:30pm
 or by appointment

"To philosophize is then at once to learn how to live and to know how to die. Because of the uncertainty of temporal existence life is always an experiment" (Jaspers 2003, 125).

Course Description

In this course, we will consider questions surrounding the good life and what makes life meaningful. Questions regarding the significance of the body for how we make sense of and express ourselves will be central to the course. We will focus primarily on the work of 20th century philosophers. This course is designed to help you to identify and cultivate your own philosophical interests.

This course is part of the University of South Florida's Foundations of Knowledge and Learning (FKL) Core Curriculum. It is certified under the Humanities Core Area of Knowledge and Enquiry, and as a Gordon Rule Communication course. Students enrolled in this course will be asked to participate in the USF General Education assessment effort. This might involve submitting copies of writing assignments for review, responding to surveys, or participating in other measurements designed to assess the FKL Core Curriculum learning outcomes.

Learning Outcomes

1. Develop the ability to effectively analyze and respond to philosophical texts.
2. Communicate effectively about philosophical issues through dialogue and written assignments (e.g. clearly articulate the position of a given philosopher, explain your own view, formulate philosophical questions, identify counterexamples).
3. Critically examine relationships between embodiment and concepts of the good life within the United States.
4. Recognize the value of philosophical inquiry for everyday life. Reflect on your own experiences, beliefs, and concerns using philosophical concepts and methods.

Required Texts

- *Better than Well: American Medicine meets the American Dream*, by Carl Elliott, W.W. Norton & Co., ISBN: 978-0-393-32565-2
- Course pack—available for purchase for \$35.00 plus tax at Pro-Copy, which is located at 5219 E. Fowler Ave. Tampa, FL 33617 Phone: (813) 988-5900

Additional assigned readings will be made available to students via Canvas or through provided links. Students are expected to complete the readings *prior* to coming to class on the day for which they are assigned. Students are required to bring the textbook and/or paper copies of readings to class.

Accessibility

I encourage disabled students to consult with me as soon as possible, preferably at the beginning of the semester so that we can work together to figure out the best way for you to effectively participate in this class. The University requires disabled students to register with Students with Disabilities Services in order to receive academic accommodations such as extra time to take exams, an alternate format, or a note-taker. Students are encouraged to notify instructors of accommodation needs at least 5 business days prior to needing the accommodation. A letter from SDS must accompany this request. Students with Disabilities Services is located at SVC1133 in the Student Services Building, across from the Registrar's Office. Contact (813) 974-4309 or sa-sds-information@usf.edu.

If you have physical access concerns about the USF campus, please contact the USF Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator, David Owens, at (813) 974-8616 or dowens@usf.edu.

Attendance Policy

Attendance at all class meetings is required. Attendance will count for 10% (100 points) of your grade for the course. You will be allowed 2 absences. Any more than that will result in a 50-point reduction in your final grade (for 3-4 absences) or a 100-point reduction in the case that you miss 5 or more classes. If you are tardy for class (meaning you arrive after 5:00pm) or leave prior to the end of class, each instance will count as a half absence.

Missing class will impact your grade in at least two additional ways. First, there will be frequent quizzes and other in-class assignments that count toward your grade for the course. Secondly, the purpose of lecture and class discussion is to help you to have a greater understanding of the course material and to prepare you for assignments and exams. Learning is a collaborative process. If you are not in class, you will miss important opportunities to learn concepts and develop skills that you will need to demonstrate in order to pass the course.

Students are required to bring the textbook and/or paper copies of the readings for the current class (and possibly reading assignments from the prior class). Failure to do so will result in receiving a half absence because these readings will be necessary for full participation in class. Please bring a notebook or lined loose-leaf paper to each class meeting as well.

Students who anticipate the necessity of being absent from class in order to observe a major religious holiday must provide notice of the date(s) to the instructor, in writing, by the second class meeting. Students who must miss class unexpectedly should make an effort to contact the instructor as soon as possible, and preferably prior to that day's meeting.

Class Policies and Information

- All electronic devices – laptops, cell phones, iPods, headphones, etc. – must be silenced and stowed during class. Students using electronic devices in class may be asked to leave and marked absent for the day.
- Students may record class lectures but are prohibited from selling notes or recordings of those lectures. Students wishing to record lectures should speak with the instructor at the start of the semester.
- Students are expected to take notes during class or obtain notes from a classmate in the case of absence.
- *Note: I reserve the right to change the readings/topics/due dates as necessary.*

E-mail and Canvas

It is your responsibility to check your USF e-mail and Canvas frequently. These are the ways I will communicate with you outside of class meetings. I will attempt to respond to e-mails within 24 hours, excluding weekends and holidays. If you do not receive a response from me within a few days, assume that I did not receive your e-mail.

Assignment Policy

All written assignments must be typed, unless otherwise noted. Hard copies of papers must be turned in to me at the *beginning* of the class on the due date. Please plan accordingly. As a USF student, you have a credit of \$2.50 on your student ID for printing available to you each day at no cost in the USF library on the Tampa campus. I will *not* accept assignments via email. In addition, you must follow all formatting requirements specified for each assignment.

Please note: you should staple multiple page writing assignments before arriving to class. I will *not* have a stapler.

Assignments may be turned in prior to the due date to my office, which is FAO225.

Late Assignment Policy

No late homework assignments will be accepted, except by prior arrangement **at least 24 hours in advance** or documented emergency. Students who do not turn in assignments or who turn them in late without a prior arrangement or documented emergency will receive 0 points.

In the event of a missed class, students will have the opportunity to complete and turn in in-class worksheets for partial credit. It is the students' responsibility to find out about missed assignments and to make arrangements with the instructor prior to the next class meeting.

Course Requirements

- Attendance – See section on attendance above, 10% of total grade.
- Readings– Students will be expected to read all assigned texts and come to class prepared to discuss them. Take notes on the readings, including any questions you may have.
- Quizzes – Students will be given reading comprehension quizzes throughout the semester. Quizzes **cannot** be made up for reasons of absence or tardiness. Quizzes are worth 30% of the student's grade.
- In-Class and Take Home Assignments – Students will be expected to complete tasks individually and in small groups during class. Students will be given take home assignments, including short papers, to complete individually. These assignments will be worth 20% of the total grade.
- Papers – students will be required to write three papers, for a total of 40% of the student's final grade.

Course Requirements Overview

Attendance	10%	100 points
Quizzes	30%	300 points
In-Class and Take Home Assignments	20%	200 points
Paper 1: 15%/150 points, Paper 2: 25%/250 points	40%	400 points
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TOTAL:	100%	1,000 points

Grading Policy

Students do not receive an "A" grade simply for meeting requirements. "A" and "B" grades are issued according to the quality of the student's work and the comprehensiveness of the student's understanding (as demonstrated in her/his work and class participation), and are not based solely on a student's effort.

According to the USF Undergraduate Catalog, letter grades have the following meaning:

A	Superior performance
B	Excellent performance
C	Average performance
D	Below average performance
F	Failure
FF	Failure – Academic Dishonesty

The grade scale for this course will be as follows:

A+	97 and above
A	93-96
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	59 and below

Please see the instructor about the S/U option.

Students may receive an incomplete "I" grade for the course in the case of a documented emergency: documented illness, deaths in the immediate family and other documented crises, call to active military duty, court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty), etc. Please see the *Undergraduate Catalog* for more information.

Extra Credit

Extra credit opportunities may be extended to students during the course of the semester. These opportunities are optional, and the point value, timing, and requirements of the opportunity will be subject to the instructor's discretion. The availability of extra credit opportunities is not guaranteed.

Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism

- Students are responsible for knowing and following USF policies regarding academic dishonesty and plagiarism. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. See <www.ugs.usf.edu/catalogs/0607/adadap.htm> for details.
- The University of South Florida has an account with an automated plagiarism detection service (Turnitin), which allows instructors to submit student assignments to be checked for plagiarism. I reserve the right to submit assignments to this detection system. Assignments are compared automatically with a large database of

journal articles, web articles, and previously submitted papers. The instructor receives a report showing exactly how a student's paper was plagiarized. Assignments submitted to Turnitin will not identify the student using the name or ID number of the student in order to protect his/her privacy.

- Suspected cases of plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will be rigorously investigated. Academic dishonesty may result in an F for the test/assignment, and/or an F for the course. Particularly egregious forms of academic misconduct will be penalized as severely as possible; in these case, the instructor reserves the right to pursue an FF grade for the student for the course. Students receiving an FF grade have the right to appeal the grade to the chair of the Philosophy Department, Dr. Roger Ariew.

USF Emergency Policy

In the event of an emergency, it may be necessary for USF to suspend normal operations. During this time, USF may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include but are not limited to: Canvas, Eluminate, Skype, and email messaging and/or an alternate schedule. It's the responsibility of the student to monitor the Canvas site for each class for course specific communication, and the main USF, College, and department websites, emails, and MoBull messages for important general information.

Reading and Assignment Guide: All readings and assignments are due the date they are listed.

**Part 1.
Philosophy and the Search for Meaning**

Week 1

Class #1: 5/11 Course introduction

Class #2: 5/13 "Apology" by Plato, Syllabus Quiz

Week 2

Class #3: 5/18 "An Absurd Reasoning" by Albert Camus

Class #4: 5/20 "The Meanings of Lives" by Susan Wolf pp. 62-73, "What Makes Life Worth Living?" by Owen Flanagan

Week 3

Class #5: 5/25 No class (Memorial Day)

Class #6: 5/27 *Better than Well: American Medicine Meets the American Dream* by Carl Elliott Introduction p. XV-XXI and Ch. 1 "The Perfect Voice" pp. 1-27

*****draft of Paper #1 is due at the beginning of class on Wednesday, 5/27/15—bring a paper copy to class for peer review**

*****Paper #1 is due on Friday, 5/29/15—must be submitted to Turnitin through Canvas by 5:00pm EST**

Week 4

Class #7: 6/1 Elliott Ch. 2 "The True Self" pp. 28-53 **or** Ch. 5 "The Identity Bazaar" pp. 100-128

Class #8: 6/3 "Anorexia Nervosa: Psychopathology as the Crystallization of Culture" by Susan Bordo pp. 388-418

Week 5

Class #9: 6/8 "Illness as dis-ability and health within illness" by Havi Carel pp. 73-104, "Too Late to Die Young" by Harriet McBryde Johnson pp. 7-17 **Paper #2 Topic Due**

Class #10: 6/10 Elliott Ch. 9 "Amputees by Choice"

Week 6

Class #11: 6/15 **Draft of paper #2 due at the beginning of class—bring a paper copy to class**

Class #12: 6/17 Presentations, Course wrap up

Final version of paper #2 is due: turn in an electronic copy to Turnitin through Canvas by 5:00pm EST