

Philosophy 102

Draft - subject to revision

Winter term 1, 2025-6
Lectures MW 10-11 + discussion section

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This course provides an introduction to philosophical ethics and social political thought through the reading of some texts from key moments featuring trials and law cases. Often confrontations between individuals and public law involve arguments that concern the deepest values of a society and its members: some important historical turning points. By immersing ourselves in the thought of each author in turn, we will explore some of the classical issues discussed in ethics, including individual responsibility, the nature of community and social obligations, and the meaning of justice, law and good government.

This class meets in person for two lectures per week plus small group discussion sections. Attendance/participation in discussion is integral to the course forms part of the evaluation.

Texts (to purchase):

Available at the UBC bookstore: Grube, *Plato: Five Dialogues* and Arendt, *Eichmann in Jerusalem*. Please purchase both these works. Other readings will be made available online through the course Canvas website. Topics for weeks 12 and 13 will be chosen by class vote.

Class Schedule (subject to minor revision):

Week 1 W	Sept 3	Introduction
Week 2 MW	Sept 8/10	<i>Apology</i>
Week 3 MW	Sept 15/17	<i>Crito</i> and King, <i>Letter from a Birmingham Jail</i>
First short essay due Sun Sept 28th, 7pm		
Week 4 MW	Sept 22/24	Brethren of Purity, <i>Case of Animals...</i> ch. 1-5, 27-8
Week 5 MW	Sept 29/Oct 1	De Las Casas, <i>In Defense of the Indians</i> , selection
Second short essay due Sunday Oct 5th		
Week 6 MW	Oct 6/8th	Delgam Uukw et. al., <i>Spirit in the Land</i> , 7-9, 21-42
Week 7 W	Oct 15	Galileo, <i>Letter to Princess Christina</i>
Third short essay written in discussion section		
Week 8 MW	Oct 20/22	Arendt, <i>Eichmann in Jerusalem</i> Chs. 1-3
Week 9 MW	Oct 27/29	Arendt <i>Eichmann in Jerusalem</i> Chs. 4-6
Week 10	MW Nov 3/5	Arendt, <i>Eichmann in Jerusalem</i> Ch. 7-8, pp. 171-5.
Fourth short essay written in discussion section		
Week 11	MW Nov 17/19	Arendt, <i>Eichmann in Jerusalem</i> Chs. 14-15, Epilog
Week 12	MW Nov 24/26	class choice of topics
Week 13	MW Dec 1/3	class choice of topics

Literature Exam at scheduled time during exam period

Evaluation:

Short papers: 10% Discussion participation: 10% Literature Exam: 50%

Short papers (600-800 words) offer students a chance to interact philosophically with our texts and to develop the skills of philosophical argument. Two of these will be submitted to your discussion section

leader via the Canvas website; two will be in class essays (with questions to prepare in advance). The literature exam (short answer/ identification of passages) is your opportunity to demonstrate understanding of the assigned reading material and mastery of the concepts introduced in lecture.

Policies

Students are expected to complete the assigned reading before class, and to be prepared to discuss course material in discussion sections. Careful reading and re-reading is essential to philosophy; participation in discussions will help students develop ideas for their written essays.

Attendance at lecture and discussion are expected and essential for mastering the course material. Illness and family emergencies are accepted as legitimate reasons for missing class or submitting late assignments; otherwise, late assignments will be penalized at 2% per day.

Accommodations for religious observances or university-sponsored activities should be arranged **ahead of time**. Students with disabilities are asked to contact Access and Diversity and notify the instructor of any needed accommodations. If you experience difficult circumstances during the term that interfere with your coursework, please feel free to discuss these with the instructor or your tutorial leader. Assistance is available through Counselling Services, Arts Advising and other services.

UBC Policy on Plagiarism

Plagiarism, which is intellectual theft, occurs where an individual submits or presents the oral or written work of another person as his or her own. Scholarship quite properly rests upon examining and referring to the thoughts and writings of others. However, when another person's words (i.e. phrases, sentences, or paragraphs), ideas, or entire works are used, the author must be acknowledged in the text, in footnotes, in endnotes, or in another accepted form of academic citation. Where direct quotations are made, they must be clearly delineated (for example, within quotation marks or separately indented). Failure to provide proper attribution is plagiarism because it represents someone else's work as one's own. Plagiarism should not occur in submitted drafts or final works. A student who seeks assistance from a tutor or other scholastic aids must ensure that the work submitted is the student's own. Students are responsible for ensuring that any work submitted does not constitute plagiarism. Students who are in any doubt as to what constitutes plagiarism should consult their instructor before handing in any assignments. A link about Academic Misconduct: <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/Vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,959>

Statement of UBC values and policies:

UBC provides resources to support student learning and to maintain healthy lifestyles but recognizes that sometimes crises arise and so there are additional resources to access including those for survivors of sexual violence. UBC values respect for the person and ideas of all members of the academic community. Harassment and discrimination are not tolerated, nor is suppression of academic freedom. UBC provides appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities and for religious and cultural observances. UBC values academic honesty and students are expected to acknowledge the ideas generated by others and to uphold the highest academic standards in all of their actions. Details of the policies and how to access support are available here: <https://senate.ubc.ca/policies-resources-support-student-success/>.