

PHIL 11

Introduction to Philosophy

Fall, 2022 9/22 – 12/2

UC, Santa Cruz

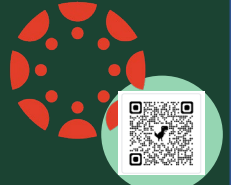
In-person meetings

Tu & Th 11:⁴⁰am – 1:¹⁵pm PST

Media Theater M110

[map](#)

Website Quick-Links



[Canvas Link](#)



[Discord Link](#)



[Zoom Link](#)

Course Description

This course is an *introduction* to philosophy. Students will explore philosophy through critical reflection of classical and contemporary texts. The course starts by asking “what is philosophy?” and looks at some critical thinking tools used by philosophers. Then, we’ll use these tools to think about a few central and enduring questions in philosophy like “Can I really trust my senses if illusions or hallucinations are possible?”, “Is there more to me than just my body?”, and “Does God exist?”.

Learning Outcomes

The principle learning outcome for this course is for students to develop a philosophical ‘tool-kit’ of concepts, distinctions, examples, methods, and resources they can use to explain and assess philosophical arguments.

The class is designed so that students will have ample opportunities to practice the necessary skills for developing their tool-kits. By the end of the course, students will have practiced:

- Explaining and discussing philosophical concepts, like the concept of ‘necessity’ (Kripke).
- Identifying and explaining distinctions, like the distinction between sexism and misogyny (Manne).
- Interpreting examples, like Rene Descartes’s ball of wax example.
- Comparing philosophical methods, like phenomenology and pragmatism.
- Using resources specific to philosophy, like The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy or Philpapers.org.




Simone de
Beauvoir
1908-1986

“Self-knowledge is no guarantee of happiness, but it is on the side of happiness and can supply the courage to fight for it.”

Instructor



Jordan Dopkins 

jdopkins@ucsc.edu

he/him/his

Office hours: Tuesdays 2-4pm in HUM 2, rm 115 or by appointment.

[Zoom](#) office hours Tuesdays 3-4pm

Teaching Assistants



Office hours: tbd

Sections: tbd



Books

You do **not** need to purchase any books for this course. All readings will be made available to you as .pdfs on the course Canvas page.

In addition to the assigned readings, you may also find the following free eBooks helpful when writing your papers and weekly writing responses:

The Pink Guide to Philosophy. Pink, Lee and Flea, Philosa
<https://sites.google.com/a/wellesley.edu/pinkguidetophilosophy/>

Guidelines on Writing a Philosophy Paper. Pryor, Jim. 2016.
<http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/writing.html>

A Rulebook for Arguments. Weston, Anthony. Hackett Publishing Co.(Indianapolis) 2000.
<http://books.google.com/books?id=FtRN5QKMBnEC>

SLC Tutoring

More information coming Soon!

Websites and Apps

Canvas will be used to host course materials.



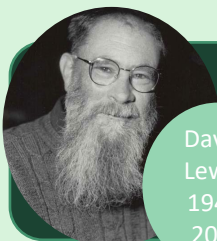
All lectures will be recorded and posted to the Canvas site so you can rewatch them later or catch up in case you missed the lecture. **That said, watching recorded lectures is not a substitute for attending lecture. You should attend as many lectures in person as you can.**



Use of the class Discord is optional. I'll use it during office hours and lectures to answer questions via a live-chat. It's also a great place to ask questions about the course, arrange work-groups, or get to know your classmates.



Zoom will be used for office hours sometimes (I hold one hour of Zoom office hours), one-on-one meetings or for class in case a TA or I cannot make it to campus.



David
Lewis
1941-
2001

"As the realm of sets is for mathematicians, so logical space is a paradise for philosophers. We have only to believe in the vast realm of possibilities, and there we find what we need to advance our endeavours" – David Lewis

- Writing Exercise 1 5%
- Writing Exercise 2 10%
- Writing Exercise 3 10%
- Writing Exercise 4 10%
- Research Project 25%
- Final Paper Outline 10%
- Final Paper 30%
- Extra Credit +< 10%

Writing Exercises

There are four, short Writing Exercises, and each one should be between 400 – 500 words. The first one is worth 5% of your final grade, and the rest are worth 10% of your grade. The **Writing Exercises are due by 5pm on Thursdays of Weeks 2, 3, 5, & 6**. On these weeks, I will post a detailed prompt with instructions and a rubric to the course Canvas site Monday morning. That gives you approximately 4 days to complete each exercise.

Research Project

These are short research projects on one contemporary (born after 1960-ish) philosopher we have **not** covered in this class. You will use philosophy specific research tools to find some papers or book chapters by that philosopher. Then, you will summarize two key ideas and explain how they relate to themes from this class. Your summaries and explanations should be fairly brief. The idea is to ‘boil down’ these ideas into a, roughly, one page summary or 5 minute presentation. Its up to you how to format your research project. You might create a research poster, a pamphlet, a podcast, a video, an interview, a piece of art (with an artist’s statement), a website, a wiki, or find some other way to present your research. Its up to you! I will provide a rubric and detailed instructions (with plenty of examples!) for the assignment at the end of week 4.

Final Paper Outline

You will prepare an outline of your Final Paper for the writing workshop in Week 10. I will provide more instructions in the Final Paper instructions.

Final Paper

The final paper is a 1500 word argumentative essay. It is important that you do not treat this as a research paper. You are **not** allowed to use outside sources. You will be expected to (1) **explain** complex, technical arguments from the readings and (2) **assess** those arguments. I will post a rubric and more detailed instructions to the course Canvas site when I post the prompts.

Extra Credit

You can earn up to 5 points of extra credit in this course by doing well on in-class assignments and exercises. Most extra credit opportunities will only be made available during synchronous class meetings. There are no make-ups or late submissions allowed for extra credit. Please note that if you receive a grade of ‘0’ on any assignment you may not receive any Extra Credit or resubmit a Short Writing Exercise.

Calendar of Assignment Due Dates

Week 2: Thursday at 5pm, Writing Exercise 1
Week 3: Thursday at 5pm, Writing Exercise 2
Week 5: Thursday at 5pm, Writing Exercise 3
Week 6: Thursday at 5pm, Writing Exercise 4
Week 9: Thursday at 5pm, Research Projects
Week 10: Monday at 10am, Final Paper Outline
DD/MM: tbd, Final Paper

Grading Scale

100-97 = A+	73-76 = C
96-93 = A	70-72 = C-
92-90 = A-	67-69 = D+
89-87 = B+	63-66 = D
83-86 = B	60-62 = D-
80-82 = B-	50-60 = F
77-79 = C+	

Week	Topics (Canvas Module)	Readings	Assignments Due?
1	The Beginnings of Philosophy?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>A Presocratics Reader</i>, Curd. <small>Excerpts</small> 2. <i>The Euthyphro</i>, Plato. 3. Watch: The School of Life: Plato 4. <i>The Greek Philosophers</i>, Guthrie. <small>Excerpts</small> 	No
2	What is F Questions: What is race? What is gender? What is misogyny?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Resisting Reality</i>, Haslanger. <small>Chapter 7.</small> 2. <i>Down Girl</i>, Manne. <small>Preface, Chapters 2 and 3.</small> 3. Listen: HiPhi Nation S1ep.8, Be a Man. 	Yes (Writing exercise 1)
3	Is everything we know learned by experience?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Meditations</i>, Descartes. <small>Chapters 1 and 2</small> 2. Discourse on the Dhalamas, Buddha. <small>Excerpts</small> 3. <i>Engaging Buddhism</i>, Garfield. <small>Excerpts</small> 4. <i>Treatise on Human Nature</i>, Hume. <small>Excerpts</small> 	Yes (Writing exercise 2)
4	Possible Worlds & Scientific Laws	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Your choice: listen to The Partially Examined Life Ep.240 David Lewis or HiPhi Nation S5ep1 The Man of Many Worlds 1 & 2. 2. On Contingency, Leibniz. 	No
5	Phenomenology	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction to Phenomenology, Moran. <small>Excerpts</small> 2. <i>The Second Sex</i>, De Beauvoir. <small>Introduction</small> 3. Throwing like a Girl, Young. 4. <i>Black Skin, White Masks</i>. Fanon. <small>Excerpts</small> 	Yes (Writing exercise 3)
6	Pragmatism	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Fixation of Belief, Pierce. 2. What Pragmatism Means, James. 3. Pragmatism and Ethnicity, Medina. 4. The Consequences of Pragmatism, Rorty. <small>Excerpts</small> 	Yes (Writing exercise 4)
7	God	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God? Arguments for and against, Sinnott-Armstrong and Craig <small>Chapters 1 and 2</small> 2. <i>Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion</i>, Hume. <small>Part 1 and Part 2</small> 	No
8	Sci-fi nerds delight: Personal Identity & Time Travel	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>An Essay Concerning Human Understanding</i>, Locke. <small>Book 2 chapter 27</small> 2. Personal Identify, Parfit. 3. <i>Engaging Buddhism</i>, Garfield. <small>Excerpts</small> 4. Personal Identity and Time Travel, Ehring. 	No
9	What can we know?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Problem of the External World, Stroud. 2. <i>Meditations</i>, Descartes. <small>Chapters 1</small> 3. Watch: The Matrix 4. Rationality of Perception, Siegel. <small>Excerpts</small> 	Yes (Research Project)
10	Writing Workshops	No new readings.	Yes (Final Paper Outline)

Attendance Policies

Attendance in lecture and discussion section are mandatory. If you miss 4 of your assigned discussion section meetings or more due to unexcused absences, then you will receive a substantial grade penalty: **you will lose 35 points from your final grade.**



Late Work Policies

Late assignments and make-up work will be handled on a case-by-case basis. If it is decided that the work will be accepted, then you should expect a 10 point penalty per day the assignment is late. Of course, if there is documented emergencies/illness, DRC accommodations, or conflicts with religious observance, or something like that, then the teaching team is happy to accommodate you.

If you can, please notify the instructors **in advance** of your need for an exception to course deadlines and attendance requirements. It is much easier for your TA to grant extensions before an assignment deadline than after.

Email Policies

When sending an email, it's helpful to include "PHIL 11" in the subject line.

Canvas Messenger doesn't include email history or past attachments, so I prefer to use Gmail.

Emails from non-UCSC Gmail accounts go directly into my Spam folder.

If I don't respond to an email within 48 hours, I probably missed your email. Sorry! Please send another!



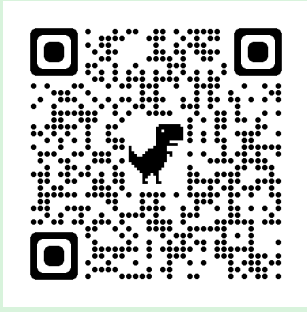
JOSÉ MEDINA

*"In a situation of oppression, epistemic relations are screwed up. **Inequality is the enemy of knowledge: it handicaps our capacity to know and to learn from each other.** Social injustices breed epistemic injustices..."*

Extra Credit Policies

Each lecture will offer 2-3 interactive opportunities to earn extra credit toward your final grade. You must attend lecture, in person, to qualify. There are no make-ups and no late extra credit work will be accepted. This is a benefit of attending class in person.

If you receive a '0' on any assignment, you may not earn extra credit toward your final grade.



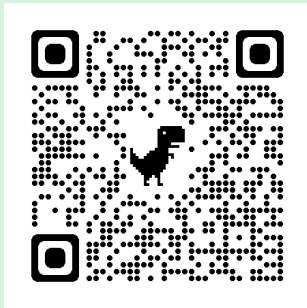
Campus Resources

[link](#)



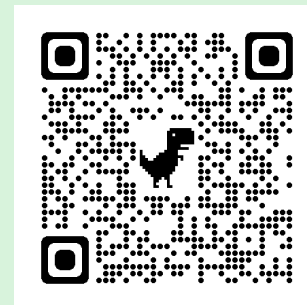
Canvas Support

[link](#)



Disability Resource Center

[link](#)



Academic Integrity

[link](#)

Land Acknowledgment

The land on which we gather is the unceded territory of the Awaswas-speaking Uypi Tribe. The Amah Mutsun Tribal Band, comprised of the descendants of indigenous people taken to missions Santa Cruz and San Juan Bautista during Spanish colonization of the Central Coast, is today working hard to restore traditional stewardship practices on these lands and heal from historical trauma. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

Administrative Deadlines

- Drop - Wednesday, Oct. 12 (tuition reversed)
- Request "W" Grade - Thursday, Oct. 13 (no tuition reversal)
- Change Grade Option - Sunday, Oct. 27
- No classes are held in observance of Veterans Day Nov. 11 & Thanksgiving Nov. 24 & 25
- Grades Due – Wednesday, Dec. 14th