

Introduction to Philosophy Philosophy 1000-001 Fall 2023 LRSM Auditorium MW 9-9:59 am	
Description	What is philosophy? One way to start answering the question is to note that philosophers ask difficult questions about the most basic issues in human life. What can we know about the world? How should a just society be organized? What makes an action right or wrong? and so on. This course examines philosophy as a way of thinking clearly and critically about such questions, but also as a way of living by the answers to them. We will examine the work of four great exemplars of critical thought and practice and undertake a critical comparison and contrast of them.
Instructor:	Dr George Borg e-mail: gborg@sas.penn.edu phone : 215-898-7535
Instructor Office Hours:	Claudia Cohen Hall 426 Tu 11-12, F 11-12 and by appointment
Teaching Assistants:	Eugene Vaynberg eugenev@sas.upenn.edu Office hours: M 10:30-12:30 Cohen 403 Kyle Brown ktb@sas.upenn.edu Office hours: T 3:30-4:30, W 10:30-11:30 Cohen 403
Course website:	canvas.upenn.edu
Course Objectives	<p>Knowledge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To further our thinking about some basic questions of human existence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What's the right thing to do? ○ How far should our moral circle extend? ○ What is a just society? ○ How do we know? ○ What is the nature of human history? <p>Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To learn how to read philosophically • To learn how to evaluate and make philosophical arguments • To learn how to think about difficult philosophical questions in a sophisticated and sensitive way <p>Along the way, you will also develop general philosophical ability. By the end of the course, you should be better able to inquire about underlying assumptions and argumentative strategies in contexts beyond those of the authors we will read. You will be more sensitive to the importance of precisely defining the concepts we use to understand the world around us. In combination with other courses</p>

taken at this university, this should leave you better able to judge whether or not you agree with a philosophical position taken by another.

Required Texts

From the Penn Bookstore

- Plato and Aristophanes. (1998, revised edition). *Four Texts on Socrates*. Tr. Thomas G. West. (Cornell).
- Galileo et al. (1989) *The Galileo Affair: A Documentary History*. Ed. Maurice A. Finocchiaro. (University of California).
- Mary Wollstonecraft. (1997) *The Vindications: The Rights of Men; The Rights of Woman*. Ed. D. L. Macdonald and Kathleen Scherf.
- Karl Marx. (2012, 2nd edition). *The Communist Manifesto: A Norton Critical Edition*. Ed. Frederic L. Bender. (Norton).

Short readings on Canvas (C), under ‘Files’

Recommended (Penn Bookstore):

- Maurice A. Finocchiaro. (2019). *On Trial for Reason: Science, Religion, and Culture in the Galileo Affair*.

ALL READINGS ARE TO BE DONE BEFORE THE CLASS ON WHICH THEY ARE DUE.

Grading

75% Three Exams (in-class)

- 20% First Exam
- 25% Second Exam
- 30% Final Exam

25% Recitations

- 15% participation
- 10% study questions

Study questions (C) for each reading will be due. Please write a short answer to each question and turn them in at the recitations.

General Guidelines

I encourage participation (asking or answering questions, or contributing to the discussion) in the lectures. The three exams must be taken at the scheduled time; no make-ups will be given for any reason; you can be excused from having to take a test, but only for compelling reasons (such as serious accident or illness) and only after proper documentation.

Date	Topic	Reading and Homework Due
W, Aug 30	1. Preliminaries 2. What is Philosophy?	
M, Sep 4	LABOR DAY - NO CLASS	
W, Sep 6	1. Intro to Plato 2. Plato, <i>Apology</i>	1. <i>4 Texts</i> , Intro pp. 9-12, 16-24 2. <i>4 Texts</i> , <i>Apology</i> , pp. 63-73 3. Socrates study questions 1-3

M, Sep 11	<i>Apology</i> cont.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>4 Texts, Apology</i>, pp. 73-89 2. Socrates study questions 4-6
W, Sep 13	<i>Apology</i> cont.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>4 Texts, Apology</i>, pp. 89-97 2. Socrates study questions 7-10
M, Sep 18	Plato, <i>Crito</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>4 Texts</i>, Intro pp. 24-28, <i>Crito</i>, pp. 99-114 2. Socrates study questions 11-17
W, Sep 20	Plato, <i>Euthyphro</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>4 Texts</i>, Intro pp. 12-16, <i>Euthyphro</i>, pp. 41-54 2. Socrates study questions 18-20
M, Sep 25	<i>Euthyphro</i> cont.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>4 Texts, Euthyphro</i>, pp. 55-61 2. Socrates study questions 21-24
W, Sep 27	Socrates' ethics and philosophical approach	Socrates study questions 25-26
M, Oct 2	TEST 1	
W, Oct 4	Intro to Galileo	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Galileo Affair</i>, Intro, pp. 1-21 2. Galileo study questions 1-3
M, Oct 9	Intro to Galileo	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Galileo Affair</i>, Intro, pp. 21-43 2. Galileo study questions 4-5
W, Oct 11	Copernicanism and Epistemological Objections	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Galileo Affair</i>, Bellarmine to Foscarini, pp. 67-69 2. <i>Galileo Affair</i>, Considerations on the Copernican Opinion, pp. 70-86 3. Galileo study questions 6-8
M, Oct 16	Religious objections to Copernicanism	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Galileo Affair</i>, Letter to the Grand Duchess Christina, pp. 87-114 2. Galileo study questions 9-14
W, Oct 18	Astronomical and Mechanical Objections and Defenses of Copernicanism	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Galileo Affair</i>, Reply to Ingoli, pp. 154-157, 166-174, 175-187 2. Galileo study questions 15-21
M, Oct 23	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Galileo's Trial 2. Galileo review 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Galileo Affair</i>, pp. 214-222, 256-62, 276-81, 286-93 2. Galileo study questions 23-30
W, Oct 25	Intro to Wollstonecraft	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bergès, "The Rights of Woman and National Education", pp. 19-40 (C) 2. Wollstonecraft study questions 1-2
M, Oct 30	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Un-Gendering Reason 2. Are Women Slaves? 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wollstonecraft, <i>Vindications</i>, Chap. I, pp. 117-125 2. Wollstonecraft, <i>Vindications</i>, Chap. IV, pp. 166-176 3. Wollstonecraft study questions 3-4
W, Nov 1	Are Women Slaves? cont.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wollstonecraft, <i>Vindications</i>, Chap. IV, pp. 176-197 2. Wollstonecraft study questions 5-6

M, Nov 6	TEST 2	
W, Nov 8	Critique of Rousseau	1. Wollstonecraft, <i>Vindications</i> , Chap. V, pp. 198-216 2. Wollstonecraft study questions 7-8
M, Nov 13	Wollstonecraft review	1. No reading due
W, Nov 15	Introduction to Marx	1. <i>Manifesto</i> , xiii-xv, 1-19 2. Marx study questions 1-4
M, Nov 20	Introduction to Marx	1. <i>Manifesto</i> , 19-43 2. Marx study questions 5-9
W, Nov 22	THURSDAY/FRIDAY CLASS SCHEDULE – NO CLASS	
M, Nov 27	Philosophical and historical background to the <i>Manifesto</i>	1. <i>Manifesto</i> , Prefaces, pp. 47-58 2. Engels, <i>Socialism</i> , pp. 683-687, 694-701 (C) 3. Marx study questions 10-12
W, Nov 29	I. Bourgeois and Proletarians	1. <i>Manifesto</i> , pp. 59-70 2. Marx study questions 13-14
M, Dec 4	I. Bourgeois and Proletarians cont. II. Proletarians and Communists	1. <i>Manifesto</i> , pp. 71-83 2. Marx study questions 15-19
W, Dec 6	III. Socialist and Communist Literature IV. Communists and Opposition Parties	1. <i>Manifesto</i> , pp. 83-96 2. Marx study question 20-21
M, Dec 11	1. Marx review 2. Review of course	No reading due
TBD	FINAL EXAM	

We will use the University's grading schema to calculate your grade:

GRADES

The grade point average (GPA) is calculated at the end of every term based on the following grading scale:

A+	4.0
A	4.0
A-	3.7
B+	3.3
B	3.0
B-	2.7
C+	2.3
C	2.0
C-	1.7
D+	1.3
D	1.0
F	0.0

*There is no D-.

Student Support Services:

The Weingarten Center offers a variety of resources to support all Penn students in reaching their academic goals. All services are free and confidential. To contact the Weingarten Center, call 215-573-9235. The office is located in Stouffer Commons, 3702 Spruce Street, Suite 300.

Academic Support

Learning consultations and learning strategies workshops support students in developing more efficient and effective study skills and learning strategies. Learning specialists work with undergraduate, graduate, and professional students to address time and project management, academic reading and writing, note-taking, problem-solving, exam preparation, test-taking, self-regulation, and flexibility.

Undergraduates can also take advantage of free on-campus tutoring for many Penn courses in both drop-in and weekly contract formats. Tutoring may be individual or in small groups. Tutors will assist with applying course information, understanding key concepts, and developing course-specific strategies. Tutoring support is available throughout the term but is best accessed early in the semester.

Disability Services

The University of Pennsylvania is committed to the accessibility of its programs and services. Students with a disability or medical condition can request reasonable accommodations through the Weingarten Center website. Disability Services determines accommodations on an individualized basis through an interactive process, including a meeting with the student and a review of their disability documentation. Students who have approved accommodations are encouraged to notify their faculty members and share their accommodation letters at the start of each semester. Students can contact Disability Services by calling 215-573-9235.