

PHIL 202 - History of Philosophy 2

Summer 2020

Section 001: B099 JFSB on M W F from 10:00 am - 11:50 am

Instructor/TA Info

Instructor Information

Name: Sean Driscoll

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Office Phone: N/A

Office Hours: Wed 3:00pm-4:00pm

Or By Appointment

Email: sean_driscoll@byu.edu

TA Information

Name: Brandon Merrill

Office Location: N/A

Office Phone: N/A

Office Hours: Only By Appointment

Email: brandon.merrill14@gmail.com

Course Information

Description

This is a course in the history of western philosophy, from around 1500 to the present day. In this class, we get to read a robust variety of philosophical ideas. We will first study epistemology, metaphysics, political philosophy, and ethics. Then we will study different movements that have critiqued these philosophical development (marxism, existentialism, pragmatism, and linguistic analysis). Be prepared to have your minds blown and then blown again!

Course Goals

What will students accomplish by taking this course?

1. Students will learn key philosophical ideas in their historical context.
2. Students will learn how to critically evaluate those ideas.
3. Students will learn to appreciate the relevance of philosophy in their lives and how they can benefit from it in their future.

How will students reach these goals?

1. **Reading Questions:** With each reading, I will provide you with an accompanying introduction and some questions to help guide your reading. These reading questions are intended to help guide your reading and they will not be collected or graded. However, should you be inclined to ignore them, please note that I regularly draw from them for quiz and exam questions.

2. **Quizzes:** At the beginning of every class, we will have a reading quiz. The quiz will be administered through Learning Suite, and it will only be open for 5 or 10 minutes. That means you absolutely must be on time. If you are not, you will simply miss the quiz. You cannot make up missed quizzes, but to allow for unanticipated circumstances, I will drop at least the lowest 2 quiz scores. Unless I instruct otherwise, quizzes will be closed-book, closed-note, closed-partner, etc.

3. **Written Assignments:** Students will complete regular written assignments. These will vary in length and difficulty, from small exercises to accompany your reading to longer paper-like responses. They are to be submitted before class on the day they are due.

4. **Exams:** Students will take a midterm and a final exam. Both will be open only during the times scheduled on Learning Suite. Please look *now* and plan your term accordingly. I will provide more details about the format of the exams as the date approaches. Unless I instruct otherwise, exams will be closed-book, closed-note, closed-partner, etc.

5. **Class Engagement:** It is an important part of my teaching strategy that you are an active member of our class. I stand by that commitment in our online format. In *every single class*, we will utilize Zoom's "break out groups," we will have class-wide discussions, and I will introduce other engagement tools as appropriate. You are expected to be actively engaged, and you will be graded on your engagement: I will provide you with a self-evaluation, which you will submit with the midterm and final grades. I will then read each of your evaluations and adjust the grade, if I see discrepancies between your perceived engagement and your actual engagement. This is attached as part of the syllabus. As you may have noted, that makes this different

from other online classes that you can watch whenever you want; I expect you to be live, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10 a.m. to noon. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, *I will not be recording class for you to watch later*. The reason for this is so that students feel more open to speaking and making mistakes in class, without the threat that everyone will re-listen to their comments.

***Late Work:** I will accept late work, but I will take off 5% for every working day it is turned in late. That adds up fast, and in such a short term, you can't afford to be racking up late assignments. Plan now to submit them on time.

Communication Strategy: Because courses have been changed to online, it is important that you know that I am available to help and that I will do my best to respond quickly to your questions and concerns. You can reach me by email at sean_driscoll@byu.edu, and I will check it regularly (though please note I am not Google, so I am unplugged when I have other meetings and on most evenings). On most days, I will stick around after the class has ended to answer whatever questions you might have, and for as long as you like. In addition, I will hold regular office hours (I am currently changing offices, so the actual hours are TBD). During this time, I will be available to talk one-on-one, and I will use Zoom's "waiting room" function for this. Please do not send messages through Learning Suite (or carrier pigeon or whatever other platform you might have in mind); the best way to contact me is email.

Special considerations for summer term: This class is based on reading *primary* texts. In other words, there is no textbook that summarizes the ideas we will talk about. Instead, I want you to read the ideas of these great thinkers for yourselves—to read the very words written by greats like Descartes, Kant, and Nietzsche. This adds a layer of difficulty, as these thinkers did not write in a way that you are used to reading (e.g., in newspapers, emails, novels, or even textbooks). This is difficult, but it is also immensely rewarding if you put in the time. Time is, in fact, the key. Because this is a spring-term class, you will have to do the same amount of reading required for a semester-long course in *half the time*. Because this class is reading intensive, that will add up quickly if you get behind. So be prepared to put in more time than you are used to reading for this class.

Schedule

Date	Column 1
M Jun 22 Monday	Today we will go through an introduction to the modern worldview and will talk about thinkers like Bacon, Luther, and Galileo. You do not need to read anything before class, but, from here on out, do the listed reading before class on the day it is listed.

W Jun 24 Wednesday	<p>Today we will learn about Descartes. Again, <i>before class</i>, read my introduction to the reading and read <i>Meditations</i> 1 and 2: Descartes Intro and RQ.docx Download Descartes Meditations Selection.pdf Download</p>
F Jun 26 Friday	<p>Read <i>Meditations</i> 3-4 (attached to last class) and the relevant reading questions.</p> <p>Also, have a look at my "How to Read Philosophy" pamphlet for ideas of how to better read the texts this semester. Download</p>
M Jun 29 Monday	<p>Read <i>Meditations</i> 5 and 6 (with relevant reading questions, again, attached above). Also read the following: By Princess Elizabeth:</p> <p>Princess Elisabeth Intro and RQ.docx Download Descartes and Elizabeth Correspondence Download Also read this shortie: She Thinks Therefore I Am.pdf Download</p>
W Jul 01 Wednesday	<p>Leibniz' <i>Monadology</i> (reading selection TBA)</p> <p>Locke's <i>Essay Concerning Human Understanding</i> Locke Intro and RQ.docx Download Locke Essay Download</p>
F Jul 03 Friday	<p>Independence Day</p>
M Jul 06 Monday	<p>George Berkeley's <i>A Treatise Concerning the Principles of Human Knowledge</i>.</p> <p>Berkeley Intro and RQ.docx Download Berkeley Selection.pdf Download</p>

Mary Shepherd's *Essays on the Perception of an External Universe*.

Shepherd Intro and RQ.docx [Download](#)

Shepherd Selection.pdf [Download](#)

And, finally, read the first few pages of David Hume's *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, Sections 2-3.

Hume Intro and RQ.docx [Download](#)

Hume 1-3.pdf [Download](#)

W Jul 08 Hume's *Enquiry*, (read sections 4, 5, and 7).

Wednesday Hume 4-7.pdf [Download](#)

Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*, Preface A.

Kant Intro and RQ.docx [Download](#)

Kant Preface A.pdf [Download](#)

F Jul 10 Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*, Preface B and Introduction, sections 1-4.

Friday

Kant Preface B.pdf [Download](#)

Kant Intro 1-4.pdf [Download](#)

M Jul 13 Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*, Introduction, sections 5-7.

Monday

Kant Intro 5-7.pdf [Download](#)

Hegel's *Encyclopedia of the Philosophical Sciences*, §78-82.

Hegel Intro and RQ.docx [Download](#)

Hegel Selection.pdf [Download](#)

W Jul 15 Midterm Review

Wednesday

F Jul 17 Midterm Exam

Friday

M Jul 20 Monday	<p>Machiavelli, <i>The Prince</i></p> <p>Machiavelli Prince.pdf Download</p> <p>Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i></p> <p>Hobbes Intro and RQ.docx Download</p> <p>Hobbes Leviathan Selection.pdf Download</p>
W Jul 22 Wednesday	<p>Rousseau, <i>Social Contract</i></p> <p>Rousseau Intro and RQ.docx Download</p> <p>Rousseau Selection.pdf Download</p> <p>Olympe de Gouges, <i>Declaration of the Rights of Woman and the Female Citizen.</i></p> <p>Olympe de Gouges Intro.docx Download</p> <p>Gouges.pdf Download</p> <p>Michel de Montaigne' <i>Essays</i></p> <p>Montaigne Intro and RQ.docx Download</p> <p>Montaigne Custom.pdf Download</p>
F Jul 24 Friday	<p>Pioneer Day</p>
M Jul 27 Monday	<p>Kant, <i>Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals</i>, Preface and Section 1.</p> <p>Kant Intro RQ.docx Download</p> <p>Kant Groundwork Selection.pdf Download</p>
W Jul 29 Wednesday	<p>Kant, <i>Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals</i>, Section 2 (attached above).</p>
F Jul 31	<p>John Stuart Mill's <i>Utilitarianism</i></p>

Friday	<p>Mill Intro and RQ.docx Download</p> <p>Mill Utilitarianism.docx Download</p>
M Aug 03 Monday	<p>Marx's <i>Communist Manifesto</i></p> <p>Marx Intro and RQ.docx Download</p> <p>Marx Selection.pdf Download</p> <p>Nietzsche's <i>Genealogy of Morals</i></p> <p>Nietzsche Intro and RQ.docx Download</p> <p>Genealogy 1.pdf Download</p>
W Aug 05 Wednesday	<p>Kierkegaard's <i>The Present Age</i></p>
F Aug 07 Friday	<p>Peirce's <i>The Fixation of Belief</i></p> <p>James' <i>The Will to Believe</i></p>
M Aug 10 Monday	<p>Frege's <i>On Sense and Reference</i></p> <p>Final Exam Review</p>
T Aug 11 Tuesday	<p>Summer Exam Preparation (08/11/2020 - 08/11/2020)</p>
W Aug 12 Wednesday	<p>First Day of Summer Final Exams (08/12/2020 - 08/13/2020)</p> <p>Final Exam:</p> <p>B099 JFSB</p> <p>11:00am - 12:50pm</p>