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Office Hours: 1:30 - 2:30 MWF  
3:30 - 4:30 MTWR

### PH115: Introduction to Philosophy

**Description:** This is an introductory course in philosophy. The course surveys the ideas, lives, and times of major philosophers in Western culture from Plato to the 20th century. Thinkers include Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Epictetus, Aquinas, Bacon, Descartes, Hume, Kant, Kierkegaard, Sartre, and Russell. The ideas will be presented through both secondary and primary sources. Prior to studying the ideas and arguments of the philosophers, students will work through a short text on logic and critical thinking, with a focus on applying critical thinking skills to papers.

**Course Objectives:** Upon successful completion of this course, students will have demonstrated

1. their understanding of the major ideas of important philosophers from Plato to Sartre.
2. their ability to critically evaluate arguments and ideas found in philosophical writings.
3. their ability to write clear and persuasive prose in the form of argumentative papers.

**Papers:** Each student will construct an outline, confer with the instructor and then write a 4 to 6 page critical paper. Possible topics include: 1) Defense of \_\_\_\_\_'s philosophy against possible objections 2) the influence of the philosopher's ideas on contemporary culture, or 3) problems with \_\_\_\_\_'s argument, position, or philosophy. Each paper will include an introduction and thesis, supporting arguments and evidence, relevant objections to the thesis and replies, and a conclusion. (See the attached outline and paper grading rubric).

**Format:** The course format will be discussion. Discussion questions over each thinker will be circulated prior to going over the readings. The class time will be spent discussing the questions. Prior to class, students should write out answers to the questions and *keep them in a portfolio to be turned in during throughout the semester.*

**Grades:** Grades are determined by 4 one-hour quizzes (75 pts. each), class discussion and portfolio (100 pts), a comprehensive final (300 pts), and an outline (100) and paper (200 pts.). Tests will consist of objective questions over the material, as well as essay questions. ***If the percentage on the comprehensive final is higher than the average of the four hour exams, the final exam percentage will replace that of the two hour exams.***

**Texts:** Samuel Enoch Stumpf and James Fieser. *Socrates to Sartre and Beyond*. 8<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: McGraw Hill, 2008.

Selected readings should be downloaded from the URL's listed in the syllabus.

### Statement of Disability Resources

Any student who feels he or she may need accommodations based on the impact of a disability should feel free to contact the Coordinator of Disability Resources, at ext. 349 in the Learning Resource Center on the lower level of Collins Library.

Students with documented disabilities that will affect their work in this class should contact the LRC to discuss their needs. You should meet with the Coordinator of Disability Resources to arrange for accommodations for this course.

**Academic Policies:** The academic expectations of this course are consistent with those described in the Baker University Handbook, under "Academic Misconduct" in your campus planner, pp. 46-50. Any work

determined to be plagiarized or counterfeit in any part shall be considered academic misconduct. Students guilty of academic misconduct shall fail the course. The infraction shall then be reported to the Academic Standards and Policies Committee. Current Baker policy is that grades lowered because of academic misconduct shall be identified as such on the student's transcript.

### Schedule of Assignments

Wed. Aug. 25	Introduction to the course..
Fri., Aug 27	Plato, "Allegory of the Cave." <a href="http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/republic.8.vii.html">http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/republic.8.vii.html</a>
Mon., Aug 30	"Logic for Critical Thinkers," (LCT) CH 1 and 2. Complete exercises at the end of the chapters.
Wed. Sep 1	LCT, CH 3 and 4. Complete exercises at the end of the chapters.
Fri., Sep 3	LCT, Ch 5 and 6. Complete exercises at the end of the chapters.
Mon., Sep 6	Labor Day Celebrated
Wed., Sep 8	Quiz #1 over LCT
Fri., Sep 10	"Socrates and the Sophists," Stumpf, pp. 26-41.
Mon., Sep 13	"Socrates and the Sophists," Stumpf, pp. 29-41
Wed., Sep 15	"Plato," pp. 41-67; "Meno," <a href="http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/meno.html">http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/meno.html</a>
Fri., Sep 17	Plato, "Meno"
Mon., Sep 20	"Apology" cont. <a href="http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/html">http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/html</a>
Wed., Sep 22	Aristotle, pp. 68-92.,
Fri., Sep 24	Aristotle, cont. Selections from the "Nicomachean Ethics," <a href="http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/nicomachaen.1.i.html">http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/nicomachaen.1.i.html</a>
Mon., Sep 27	Aristotle, cont.
Wed., Sep 29	Review Plato and Aristotle
Fri., Oct 1	Quiz #2
Mon., Oct 4	Stoicism: Epictetus, pp. 97-102; the "Enchiridion." <a href="http://classics.mit.edu/Epictetus/epicench.html">http://classics.mit.edu/Epictetus/epicench.html</a>
Wed., Oct 6	Epictetus, cont.
Mon., Oct 11	Thomism: Aquinas, pp. 148 -167. "Five Proofs for the Existence of God," Handout
Wed., Oct 13	Aquinas, cont. <b>Portfolios Due</b>

Fri., Oct 15	<b>Fall Break</b>
Mon., Oct 18	The Origins of Scientific Thinking: Bacon, pp. 191-193. "The Four Idols." <a href="http://www.olearyweb.com/classes/philosophyS2/readings/bacon/Idols.pdf">http://www.olearyweb.com/classes/philosophyS2/readings/bacon/Idols.pdf</a>
Wed., Oct 20	Bacon, cont.
Fri., Oct 22	<b>Quiz #3</b>
Mon., Oct. 25	Rationalism: Descartes, pp. 204-221;
Wed., Oct 27	Descartes, cont. "Discourse on Method." <a href="http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/f_descarte.html">http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/f_descarte.html</a>
Fri., Oct 29	Empiricism: Hume, pp. 244-253
Mon., Nov 1	Hume, cont.
Wed., Nov 3	Hume, cont.
Fri., Nov 5	Kant, pp. 271 -289;
Mon., Nov 8	Kant, cont.
Wed., Nov 10	Kant, cont
Fri., Nov 12	<b>Quiz #4</b>
Mon., Nov 15	Existentialism: Kierkegaard, pp. 340 - 345,
Wed., Nov 17	Sartre, pp. 431- 438. "Existentialism is a Humanism," <a href="http://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/sartre/works/exist/sartre.htm">http://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/sartre/works/exist/sartre.htm</a>
Fri., Nov 18	Sartre, cont. <b>Outlines Due.</b> Groups Assigned. Sign up for conference time.
Mon., Nov 22	<b>Thanksgiving Break</b>
Wed., Nov 24	"
Fri., Nov 26	"
Mon., Nov 29	Outline Conferences Group A
Wed., Dec 1	Outline Conferences Group B. <b>Portfolios Due</b>
Fri., Dec 3	Analytic Philosophy: Logical Atomism and Logical Positivism, pp. 398 - 408.
Mon., Dec 6	Analytic Philosophy cont.; Review sheet for final handed out. <b>Papers Due Group A</b>
Wed., Dec 8	<b>Papers Due Group B;</b> Review for Final.
Thu., Dec 16	Comprehensive Final (1:00 - 4:00) (300 pts.)

### **Websites for Classic Philosophy Texts**

Plato's Meno

<http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/meno.html>

Plato's Republic

<http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/republic.8.vii.html>

Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics, BK. I

<http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/nicomachaen.1.i.html>

Epictetus's Enchiridion and Discourses

<http://classics.mit.edu/Epictetus/epicench.html>

<http://classics.mit.edu/Epictetus/discourses.1.one.html>

Bacon's Four Idols

<http://www.olearyweb.com/classes/philosophyS2/readings/bacon/Idols.pdf>

Descartes

[http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/f\\_descarte.html](http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/f_descarte.html)

Hume

[http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/f\\_hume.html](http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/f_hume.html)

Locke

[http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/f\\_locke.html](http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/f_locke.html)

<http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/pdf/loctol.pdf>

Kant

<http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/pdf/kantgw.pdf>

Mill

[http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/f\\_mill.html](http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/f_mill.html)

Marx and many others

<http://www.marxists.org/reference/subject/philosophy/index.htm>

Sartre, "Existentialism is a Humanism"

<http://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/sartre/works/exist/sartre.htm>

## OUTLINE EVALUATION SHEET

Thesis and reasons: (10)

Clear, manageable, w/ sufficient reasons and major objections

Support (30)

Arguments are clear and adequately support thesis.

Evidence is sufficient to support all claims.

Objections and replies (20)

No obvious objections are omitted.

Replies adequately answer the objections.

Bibliography (20)

Sources are numerous enough to satisfy the requirements for the project.

Sources show an honest evaluation of the issue.

Sources are reputable.

Proper MLA or APA format is followed

## Critical Paper Evaluation Sheet

1. **Adequacy of introduction of the issue** (summary of issue and establishes its importance): **5 pts.**
2. **Clarity of thesis** (objection-position-reasons) **and important concepts: 10 points**
3. **Quality of support and argumentation** (evidence, quotes from relevant texts, etc.): **20 points**
4. **Quality of objections** (to position and/or arguments) **and replies: 20 points**
5. **Grammar, spelling, and punctuation:** fragments, run-ons, comma splice, noun/pronoun agreement, subject-verb agreement, apostrophe use, sexist language: **10 points**
6. **Quality of expression:** clarity, paragraph development, transitions, word choice, syntax etc. **20 pts**
7. **Originality of ideas:** Not a commonplace thesis, objections were substantive and hard to answer well, or a clever critique of a position. **10 points**
8. **Quality of research:** number and quality of sources, integration of research into paper. **10 points**

All papers should contain the following parts: an introduction to the issue to be treated concluding with

**your thesis, arguments to support your thesis, objections and replies to the objections, and a summation and conclusion. Papers should be four to six pages. Proper documentation is required and may be MLA, APA, or Chicago Manual of Style.**