



FLORIDA
ATLANTIC
UNIVERSITY

COURSE CHANGE REQUEST Undergraduate Programs

Department Philosophy

College Arts and Letters

UUPC Approval 2/26/24

UFS Approval _____

SCNS Submittal _____

Confirmed _____

Banner Posted _____

Catalog _____

Current Course Prefix and Number PHI 2010

Current Course Title
Introduction to Philosophy

Syllabus must be attached for ANY changes to current course details. See Template. Please consult and list departments that may be affected by the changes; attach documentation.

Change title to:

Change description to:

Change prefix

From: _____ To: _____

Change course number

From: _____ To: _____

Change credits*

From: _____ To: _____

Change grading

From: _____ To: _____

Change WAC/Gordon Rule status**

Add Remove

Change General Education Requirements***

Add Remove

*See Definition of a Credit Hour.

**WAC/Gordon Rule criteria must be indicated in syllabus and approval attached to this form. See WAC Guidelines.

***GE criteria must be indicated in syllabus and approval attached to this form. See Intellectual Foundations Guidelines.

In this course, students will be introduced to the nature of philosophy, philosophical thinking, major intellectual movements in the history of philosophy, including topics from the western philosophical tradition, and various problems in philosophy. Students will strengthen their intellectual skills, become more effective learners, and develop broad foundational knowledge.

Change prerequisites/minimum grades to:

Change corequisites to:

Change registration controls to:

Please list existing and new pre/corequisites, specify AND or OR and include minimum passing grade (default is D-).

Effective Term/Year for Changes: ~~2024~~ 2024 SUMMER

Terminate course? Effective Term/Year for Termination:

Faculty Contact/Email/Phone

Approved by

Department Chair Nicholas R. Baima

College Curriculum Chair Eric Hume

College Dean _____

UUPC Chair Korey Sorge

Undergraduate Studies Dean Dan Meeroff

UFS President _____

Provost _____

Date
1/12/2024

5 FEB 2024

2/8/24

2/26/24

2/26/24

Email this form and syllabus to mjenning@fau.edu seven business days before the UUPC meeting.



FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

PHI 2010-017 11743

Introduction to Philosophy

Date: Wednesday, Friday 2:00 PM - 2:50 PM

Building: General Classroom South Boca **Room:** 120

3 Credit(s)

Spring 2024 - 1 Full Term

Instructor Information

Samuel Director

Email: sdirector@fau.edu

Office: Social Sciences 281A

Office Hours: 9-11AM (Tuesdays) or by appointment

Phone: 561-297-4653

Section	Location	Time	Teaching Assistant
018	Social Science 370	M (12pm-12:50pm)	Hailie Crowder (hcrowder2022@fau.edu)
019	Social Science 390	M (12pm-12:50pm)	Hallie Colonna (hcolonna2021@fau.edu)
020	Social Science 370	M (1pm-1:50pm)	Hailie Crowder
021	Social Science 385	M (1pm-1:50pm)	Alexis Bunce (abunce2019@fau.edu)
022	Social Science 385	M (2pm-2:50pm)	Alexis Bunce
023	Social Science 370	M (2pm-2:50pm)	Hallie Colonna

Course Description

Introduction to Philosophy

Writing Across Curriculum (Gordon Rule)

Prerequisites: ENC 1101 and ENC 1102 (or substitute) with grades of "C" or better

In this course, students will be introduced to the nature of philosophy, philosophical thinking, major intellectual movements in the history of philosophy, including topics from the western philosophical tradition, and various problems in philosophy. Students will strengthen their intellectual skills, become more effective learners, and develop broad foundational knowledge.

Prerequisites/Corequisites

Prerequisite(s): One of the following:

- ENC 1101 Graduate / Undergraduate (Minimum Grade of C)
and
ENC 1102 Graduate / Undergraduate (Minimum Grade of C)
- ANT 1471 Graduate / Undergraduate (Minimum Grade of C)
- ENC 2452 Graduate / Undergraduate (Minimum Grade of C)
- ENC 1930 Graduate / Undergraduate (Minimum Grade of C)
- NUR 1016 Graduate / Undergraduate (Minimum Grade of C)
- NSP 1195 Graduate / Undergraduate (Minimum Grade of C)
- ENC 1939 Graduate / Undergraduate (Minimum Grade of C)
- HIS 2050 Graduate / Undergraduate (Minimum Grade of C)
- HIS 2934 Graduate / Undergraduate (Minimum Grade of C)

Instructional Method

In-Person

Traditional concept of in person. Mandatory attendance is at the discretion of the instructor.

Required Texts/Materials

No required book

Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will develop critical thinking skills.
2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of classical western philosophical views.
3. Students will analyze, explain, and evaluate foundational concepts of epistemology, metaphysics, and ethics.

Intellectual Foundation (General Education) Program Outcomes.

This course partially fulfills the course requirements for the Humanities Foundation area in the FAU general education program. Through literature, the creative and performing arts, philosophy, and architecture, individuals and cultures interpret, express, and define

their values and ideals. They also explore human potential, the human condition, and the imagination.

Students fulfilling the Humanities requirement will be able to:

- Reflect critically on the human condition.
- Demonstrate the theory or methods behind forms of human expression

Faculty Rights and Responsibilities

Florida Atlantic University respects the rights of instructors to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires classroom conditions that do not impede their exercise. To ensure these rights, faculty members have the prerogative to:

- Establish and implement academic standards.
- Establish and enforce reasonable behavior standards in each class.
- Recommend disciplinary action for students whose behavior may be judged as disruptive under the Student Code of Conduct [University Regulation 4.007](#).

Disability Policy

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and follow all SAS procedures. SAS has offices across three of FAU's campuses – Boca Raton, Davie and Jupiter – however disability services are available for students on all campuses. For more information, please visit the SAS website at www.fau.edu/sas/.

Writing Across the Curriculum Designated Course

This is a writing-intensive course that satisfies the state's "Gordon Rule" requirements. You must take and pass two 1000-level WAC courses (ENC 1101 and 1102 or their equivalents) before you may take two additional required 2000-4000 level writing intensive courses. You must achieve a grade of "C" (not C-minus) or better to receive credit. Furthermore, this class meets the University-wide Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) criteria, which expect you to improve your writing over the course of the term. The University's WAC program promotes the teaching of writing across all levels and all disciplines. Writing-to-learn activities have proven effective in developing critical thinking skills, learning discipline-specific content, and understanding and building competence in the modes of inquiry and writing for various disciplines and professions.

If this class is selected to participate in the university-wide WAC assessment program, you will be required to access the online assessment server, complete the consent form and survey, and submit

electronically a first and final draft of a near-end-of-term paper.

Course Evaluation Method

Grading:

I grade on the following scale:

Letter Grade

A	94 - 100%
A-	90 - 93%
B+	87 - 89%
B	83 - 86%
B-	80 - 82%
C+	77 - 79%
C	73 - 76%
C-	70 - 72%
D+	67 - 69%
D	63 - 66%
D-	60 - 62%
F	Below 60

Your grade will be determined by the following categories:

- Short paper 1 rough draft (15%)
- Short paper 1 final draft (20%)
- Short paper 2 rough draft (15%)
- Short paper 2 final draft (20%)
- Attendance (10%)
- Final Exam (20%)

I realize that there are extenuating circumstances each semester for many people. If you find yourself in an extreme situation that affects your ability to perform well in this class, please talk to me about it. I cannot guarantee that I will be able to accommodate you, but I may be able to.

I do all of my grading anonymously, meaning that I don't know whose exam or paper I'm grading until the very end. When you turn in any assignment, I will give you instructions on how to make it anonymous. My goal is to grade as fairly as I can, and I believe that this policy helps with that.

Code of Academic Integrity

Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the university mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see [University Regulation 4.001](#).

Attendance Policy Statement

Students are expected to attend all their scheduled University classes and to satisfy all academic objectives as outlined by the instructor. The effect of absences upon grades is determined by the instructor, and the University reserves the right to deal at any time with individual cases of non-attendance. Students are responsible for arranging to make up work missed because of legitimate class absence, such as illness, family emergencies, military obligation, court-imposed legal obligations, or participation in University-approved activities. Examples of University-approved reasons for absences include participating on an athletic or scholastic team, musical and theatrical performances, and debate activities. It is the student's responsibility to give the instructor notice prior to any anticipated absences and within a reasonable amount of time after an unanticipated absence, ordinarily by the next scheduled class meeting. Instructors must allow each student who is absent for a University-approved reason the opportunity to make up work missed without any reduction in the student's final course grade as a direct result of such absence.

- ♦ Attendance:
 - Attendance in class is mandatory. We learn best in philosophy if we are heavily focused on discussion and debate. You cannot accomplish this if you don't come to class, even if you can understand the material without coming to class.
 - You may have 3 absences for any reason. You do not need to tell me that you are missing class or why you are missing class. You also do not need a note for missing a class. Any absence in addition to these 3 absences will count as unexcused.
 - For each unexcused absence, you will receive a full letter grade deduction from your attendance grade. So, 1 unexcused absence can move your attendance grade from an A to a B, and so on.
 - Of course, if you have some incredibly extenuating circumstance that requires you to miss more than 3 classes, please talk to me. For example, if you are on a university athletics team that travels frequently, have a severe illness, etc. that pushes your attendance past this point, we can figure out a solution.
 - But, this means that any otherwise excused absences that do not rise to the level of extreme extenuating circumstances will have to count as 1 of your 3 absences. So, if you get sick and miss a day, then that counts as 1 of your absences.
 - If you miss a quiz on the day of your absence, it is your responsibility to come to my office hours and take an alternate quiz. Missed quizzes from days that are beyond your 3 absences cannot be made up.
 - IMPORTANT: if you miss more than 10 classes, you will automatically fail the class.

Religious Accommodation Policy Statement

In accordance with the rules of the Florida Board of Education and Florida law, students have the right to reasonable accommodations from the University in order to observe religious practices and beliefs regarding admissions, registration, class attendance, and the scheduling of examinations and work assignments. University Regulation 2.007, Religious Observances, sets forth this policy for FAU and may be accessed on the FAU website at www.fau.edu/regulations.

Any student who feels aggrieved regarding religious accommodations may present a grievance to the executive director of The Office of Civil Rights and Title IX. Any such grievances will follow Florida Atlantic University's established grievance procedure regarding alleged discrimination.

Time Commitment Per Credit Hour

For traditionally delivered courses, not less than one (1) hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction each week for fifteen (15) weeks per Fall or Spring semester, and a minimum of two (2) hours of out-of-class student work for each credit hour. Equivalent time and effort are required for Summer Semesters, which usually have a shortened timeframe. Fully Online courses, hybrid, shortened, intensive format courses, and other non-traditional modes of delivery will demonstrate equivalent time and effort.

Course Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Letter Grade
A	93 - 100%
A-	90 - 93%
B+	87 - 89%
B	83 - 86%
B-	80 - 82%
C+	77 - 79%
C	73 - 76%
C-	70 - 72%
D+	67 - 69%
D	63 - 66%
D-	60 - 62%
F	Below 60

Grade Appeal Process

You may request a review of the final course grade when you believe that one of the following conditions apply:

- There was a computational or recording error in the grading.
- The grading process used non-academic criteria.
- There was a gross violation of the instructor's own grading system.

[University Regulation 4.002](#) of the University Regulations contains information on the grade appeals process

Policy on Make-up Tests, Late work, and Incompletes

- Late Work:
 - My policy is that for every day that your assignment is late, you will lose a full letter grade on it.

Special Course Requirements

Additional Course Information:

Course Structure: This class will involve a mix of lecture and discussion. On a typical day in class, you will have done a pre-assigned reading on a topic, and I will begin with a summary of that reading and the crucial issues involved in it. At various points in my lecture, we will pause for discussion and questions. The goal is for lecture to take up about 40% of each class with discussion being the remaining 60% of the class.

Course Materials: All of our assigned readings will be excerpts from books or journal articles. Each reading will be posted to Canvas. You do not need to buy any books for this class. I will not be printing any of this material for you, but I highly recommend that you print a physical copy of each reading. There is good evidence that you will learn and retain more from the reading if you have a physical copy of it in front of you as you read.

Topics Covered: we will have 5 units in our class. They are the following:

- Unit 1: Ethics
 - Metaethics:
 - Key Questions:
 - Are moral truths objectively or subjectively true?
 - Can cultures be wrong about morality?

- Normative Ethics:
 - Key Questions:
 - What is the correct normative theory?
 - What is the most important thing in morality, rights, consequences, or our characters?
- Applied Ethics:
 - Key Questions:
 - Are we obligated to donate to charity?
 - Can parents choose for their children?
- ◆ Unit 2: Political Philosophy
 - Key Questions:
 - Should we have any government at all?
 - Is political authority ever justified?
 - Would anarchy be desirable?
 - If we are going to have a state, what principles of justice should it follow?
- ◆ Unit 3: Epistemology
 - Key Questions:
 - How can we know anything at all?
 - What is knowledge?
 - What do we do when rational people disagree with us?
 - Should we trust experts?
 - Is partisanship justified?
- ◆ Unit 4: Metaphysics
 - Key Questions:
 - Do we persist over time?
 - What is disability?
 - What is horror as a genre?
 - Etc.
- ◆ Unit 5: Philosophy of Religion
 - Key Questions:
 - Does God exist?
 - Are there good arguments in support of God's existence?

- Can practical or experiential evidence support belief in God's existence?
- What is faith?

Assignments:

This is a Writing Across the Curriculum designated class. As such, the class must meet certain requirements about how much writing is included.

I will give you detailed assignment sheets and requirements for each separate paper. In general, I am evaluating your ability to write clearly, concisely, and persuasively. I'm also evaluating your ability to explain and critique philosophical content.

Short Papers: we will write two short papers (2,000 words minimum for each). This paper summarizes and critiques the argument in one paper we have read in class. I will give you detailed assignment sheets and requirements for the paper. In general, I am evaluating your ability to write clearly, concisely, and persuasively. I'm also evaluating your ability to explain and critique philosophical content.

Short Paper Revisions: for each of the short papers, you will submit them to your TA, receive feedback, and submit a revised paper.

Exam: there will be a final exam. The goal of this exam is to test how well you understand the material covered in class. This will be a multiple choice exam about each author's arguments, theses, and counter-arguments.

Class Policies:

- ♦ Participation:
 - Our goal is to get closer to the truth. We do this by discussing the issues with each other. So, it's very important that we all actively participate in the discussion.
- ♦ Discussion Etiquette:
 - We will be discussing a lot of important and often controversial issues of justice and morality. Given this, we should try to be charitable to our fellow classmates and not jump to harsh conclusions about their views. If a fellow classmate says something that strikes you as false, or even offensive, try to interpret his or her claim in the best possible light. The same goes for the authors that we will be reading.
 - However, even though we should be charitable to our classmates and authors, we should still voice disagreement with each other. In philosophy, it is not rude to disagree with someone; to disagree with someone's reasoning is to acknowledge that person as a peer who is worthy of being debated. Disagreeing with someone does not mean that you are dismissing their views. Rather, it means that you are engaging with their views. This policy extends to me. I heavily encourage you to disagree with me.

- Technology:
 - Laptops, cellphones, etc. will not be allowed in class. There is lots of evidence that we (and the people around us) learn better when technology is absent and when we have to write things by hand.
 - Of course, if you receive an urgent phone call, please feel free to step out of class to take it.
 - On test review days, I will allow people to use laptops. Also, we will be taking quizzes online, and you will be allowed to use your computer for this.
 - For disability accommodation exceptions, please talk to me directly. I am happy to accommodate disabilities that require the use of technology.
- Office Hours:
 - My office hours are listed above. If you would like to talk about philosophy, clarify a point from class, get help with an assignment, talk about your grade, etc., feel free to make an appointment with me. You are also welcome to drop by, but I can't guarantee that I won't have already scheduled an appointment with someone else.
 - Please, please, please come to office hours if you need help with anything. It's part of my job to help you study for the exams.
- Plagiarism:
 - Anything that you submit to me can be eligible for plagiarism. In other words, if you submit a draft of a paper for comments, and that draft has plagiarism, this will count as plagiarism.
 - For a full statement of FAU's policies regarding academic integrity, see the syllabus statements below.
 - My policy is a zero tolerance, zero strike policy. If you plagiarize at all, I will pursue the full penalty of reporting you to the academic integrity office.
 - The use of AI (such as Chat GPT) in the process of writing your paper constitutes plagiarism.

Policy on the Recording of Lectures

Students enrolled in this course may record video or audio of class lectures for their own personal educational use. A class lecture is defined as a formal or methodical oral presentation as part of a university course intended to present information or teach students about a particular subject.

Recording class activities other than class lectures, including but not limited to student presentations (whether individually or as part of a group), class discussion (except when incidental to and incorporated within a class lecture), labs, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving student participation, test or examination administrations, field trips, and private

conversations between students in the class or between a student and the lecturer, is prohibited. Recordings may not be used as a substitute for class participation or class attendance and may not be published or shared without the written consent of the faculty member. Failure to adhere to these requirements may constitute a violation of the University's Student Code of Conduct and/or the Code of Academic Integrity.

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center

Life as a university student can be challenging physically, mentally and emotionally. Students who find stress negatively affecting their ability to achieve academic or personal goals may wish to consider utilizing FAU's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center. CAPS provides FAU students a range of services – individual counseling, support meetings, and psychiatric services, to name a few – offered to help improve and maintain emotional well-being. For more information, go to <http://www.fau.edu/counseling/>

Student Support Services and Online Resources

- ♦ [Center for Learning and Student Success \(CLASS\)](#)
- ♦ [Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#)
- ♦ [FAU Libraries](#)
- ♦ [Math Learning Center](#)
- ♦ [Office of Information Technology Helpdesk](#)
- ♦ [Center for Global Engagement](#)
- ♦ [Office of Undergraduate Research and Inquiry \(OURI\)](#)
- ♦ [Science Learning Center](#)
- ♦ [Speaking Center](#)
- ♦ [Student Accessibility Services](#)
- ♦ [Student Athlete Success Center \(SASC\)](#)
- ♦ [Testing and Certification](#)
- ♦ [Test Preparation](#)
- ♦ [University Academic Advising Services](#)
- ♦ [University Center for Excellence in Writing \(UCEW\)](#)
- ♦ [Writing Across the Curriculum \(WAC\)](#)

Course Topical Outline

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Unit 1: Ethics		
1/8 (discussion section)	No Class This Day	No reading. But, you have to watch the introduction to the course video that explains the syllabus.
1/10	Meta-ethics	<p>Justin Weinberg. "Philosophy Majors Make More Money Than Majors in any other Humanities Field." Daily Nous: https://dailynous.com/2019/01/03/philosophy-majors-make-money-majors-humanities-field/Links to an external site.</p> <p>UNC Philosophy Department. "Why Major in Philosophy?" https://philosophy.unc.edu/undergraduate/the-major/why-major-in-philosophy/Links to an external site.</p> <p>James Rachels. "The Challenge of Cultural Relativism."</p> <p>Selections from Michael Huemer, Ethical Intuitionism.</p>
1/12	Normative Ethics: Utilitarianism	James Rachels. "The Debate Over Utilitarianism."
1/15 (no discussion section-MLK Day)		
1/17	Normative Ethics: Deontology	Onora O'Neill. "A Simplified Account of Kant's Ethics."
1/19	Normative Ethics: Virtue Ethics	Rosalind Hursthouse. "Normative Virtue Ethics."
1/22 (discussion section)	Discussion of meta-ethics and normative ethics.	
1/24	Applied Ethics: Famine Relief	Peter Singer. "Famine, Affluence, and Morality."
1/26	Applied Ethics: Family Ethics	Robert Sparrow, "Defending Deaf Culture: The Case of Cochlear Implants."

1/29 (discussion section)	Discussion of applied ethics.		
Unit 2: Political Philosophy			
1/31	Political Philosophy: Anarchy and Authority	Selections from Michael Huemer. The Problem of Political Authority. 3-14 and 20-38.	
2/2	Political Philosophy: Distributive Justice	Selections from John Rawls. A Theory of Justice. 1971.	
2/5 (discussion section)	Discussion of Huemer and Rawls.		
2/7	Political Philosophy: Distributive Justice	Selections from Robert Nozick. Anarchy, State, and Utopia. 1974. 149-153 (first paragraph), 174-182. 153 (second paragraph)-164, 167-173 (first paragraph).	Short paper 1 rough draft due
Unit 3: Epistemology			
2/9	Epistemology: Skepticism	Rene Descartes. Meditations 1 and 2.	
2/12 (discussion section)	Discussion of Descartes and skepticism.		
2/14	Epistemology: Disagreement	Richard Feldman. "Epistemological Puzzles About Disagreement."	
2/16	Epistemology: Expert Testimony	Alvin Goldman. "Experts: Which Ones Should You Trust?"	
2/19 (discussion section)	Discussion of epistemology so far.		
2/21	Epistemology: Echo	Yuval Avnur. "What's Wrong with the Online	Short

	Chambers	Echo Chamber: A Motivated Reasoning Account."	paper 1 final draft due
2/23	Epistemology: Partisanship	Rishi Joshi. "What are the chances you're right about everything? An epistemic challenge for modern partisanship."	
2/26 (discussion section)	Discussion of echo chambers and partisanship.		
Unit 4: Metaphysics			
2/28	Metaphysics: Personal Identity	1,000 Word Philosophy, "Personal Identity."	
3/1	Metaphysics: Personal Identity	Derek Parfit. "Personal Identity."	
Spring Break (3/2-3/8)			
3/11 (discussion section)	Discussion of personal identity.		
3/13	Metaphysics: Sports	Bernard Suits. "The Elements of Sport." The library doesn't have a copy. I posted a link to the book on Google Books in Modules. The page numbers are 9-19.	
3/15	Metaphysics: Horror	Andrea Sauchelli. "Horror and Mood."	
3/18 (discussion section)	Discussion of sports and horror.		
3/20	Metaphysics: Disability	Julian Savulescu and Guy Kahane. "Disability: A Welfarist Approach."	
3/22	Metaphysics: Sandwiches		

		Josh Scherer. "A Bro And A Philosopher Debate The True Meaning Of A Sandwich." https://firstwefeast.com/eat/2015/04/philosophy-of-meat-bread Links to an external site.	
3/25 (discussion section)	Discussion of previous metaphysics topics.		
Unit 5: Philosophy of Religion			
3/27	Philosophy of Religion	William Rowe, "The Cosmological Argument."	
3/29	Philosophy of Religion	William Lane Craig, "The Kalam Cosmological Argument."	
4/1 (discussion section)	Discussion of the cosmological argument.		
4/3	Philosophy of Religion	Anselm of Canterbury. The Ontological Argument for God's Existence. Guanilo's Response to Anselm.	
4/5	Philosophy of Religion	Alvin Plantinga. "The Modal Ontological Argument."	Short paper 2 rough draft due
4/8 (discussion section)	Discussion of the ontological argument.		
4/10	Philosophy of Religion	Robin Collins, "The Teleological Argument: An Exploration of the Fine-Tuning of the Universe."	
4/12	Philosophy of Religion	Blaise Pascal, "The Wager."	
4/15 (discussion section)	Discussion of Collins and Pascal.		
4/17	Philosophy of Religion	William James, "The Will to Believe."	

4/19	Philosophy of Religion	Daniel Howard Snyder, "Propositional Faith: What It Is and What It Is Not."	Short paper 2 final draft due
Final Exam	W (May 1) 1:15pm - 3:45pm		