

Philosophy 332.01E & 1HE—
History of Philosophy II & Honors History of Philosophy II

Spring 2024

Dr. Bill Bolin

Office & Hours: Talbot Hall 324, MW 3:30p—5:00p, T 3:00p—5:00p, and by appt.

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course, which does not require any previous study of philosophy, will introduce you to some of the most provocative thinkers from the Renaissance through the 21c as they address important issues such as the mind, existence, compassion, knowledge, and justice, to name only a few. The course will organized like a book club; we will read some good books and then discuss them. Of course, we're required to have assignments, and our assignments include several short (1-2 pages) written responses to the reading and one prepared leading of a class discussion. Students in the Honors section will also prepare a paper or a presentation. The following books are required, and e-versions are fine, if available:

- Descartes, René, and Donald A. Cress. *Meditations on First Philosophy*. 3rd ed. Indianapolis: Hackett Pub Company, 1993. ISBN: 978-0-87220-192-7 (\$10)
- Wollstonecraft, Mary, Philip Barnard, and Stephen Shapiro. *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*. Indianapolis, Indiana: Hackett Pub Company, 2013. ISBN: 978-1-60384-938-8 (\$9)
- Mill, John Stuart, and Elizabeth Rapaport. *On Liberty*. Indianapolis: Hackett Pub Company, 1978. ISBN: 978-0-915144-43-3 (\$8)
- Wiesel, Elie, Simon, Harry J. Cargas, and Bonny V. Fetterman. *The Sunflower: On the Possibilities and Limits of Forgiveness*. Rev. and Expanded ed., 2nd pbk. ed. New York: Schocken Books, 1998. ISBN: 9780805210606. (\$18)
- Midgley, Mary. *What Is Philosophy For?* London New York Oxford: Bloomsbury Academic, 2018. ISBN: 9781350051072 (\$24)

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Students will write short response papers that demonstrate an understanding of established arguments in philosophy.
- Through practice and group discussion, students will become confident in reading difficult texts about challenging but fascinating concepts.
- Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the interconnectedness of global dynamics (issues, processes, trends, and systems), and this ability will be assessed through a response paper.
- Students will be able to analyze, evaluate, or solve problems when given a set of circumstances, data, texts, or art.
- In written, oral, and/or visual communication, A&M-Commerce students will communicate in a manner appropriate to audience and occasion, with an evident message and organizational structure.
- Students will understand and practice academic honesty.
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of societal and/or civic issues.

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COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To acquire an overview of the various approaches to understanding major concepts in the discipline of philosophy.
- to acquire an overview of the various cultural and social influences on thinking about those major concepts.
- to formulate articulate responses to the reading assignments and ensuing discussions.

ASSIGNMENTS

Discussion Lead: You will be responsible for leading discussion over the assigned reading for one of our class meetings. This opportunity will require you to have done some background research into the reading, author, and philosophical issue, and it will also require you to prepare helpful discussion questions. An assignment sheet with due dates is forthcoming.

Response Papers: In addition, you'll turn in seven responses (300-400 words each) to some of the reading assignments. These responses are not designed to test how well you've read the assigned material. Rather, some will serve as opportunities for you to comment on one or two points in the reading, connecting those points to other reading and/or experiences. Some of these will be typed and submitted online; others will be written in class. Each response paper will be evaluated according to criteria outlined on each forthcoming assignment sheet.

Extra Credit: There will one extra credit opportunity, and it will involve commenting on final papers or presentations.

Honors Section Only: The Honors section will write four response papers and submit a final paper or presentation over some aspect of modern or classical philosophy. The final paper or presentation will be evaluated according to the criteria outlined in the forthcoming assignment sheet.

As a rule I do not accept late assignments, so please be attentive to deadlines. If you must miss an upcoming deadline, you will need to contact me to make *prior satisfactory* arrangements for submitting the assignment. Failure to make *prior satisfactory* arrangements will result in your forfeiting the right to turn in that assignment. An extra credit assignment to be named later will be an opportunity to restore points from a missed assignment or simply to add points to the total grade.

EVALUATION

Assignment Values	Final Grade Ranges
Discussion Lead 30 pts. Response Papers (7 @ 10 pts. each or 4 @ 10 pts. each for Honors section) 70 pts. Extra Credit 10 pts. Paper/Presentation 30 pts. (Honors section only)	A=90--100 B=80--89 C=70--79 D=60--69 F=0--59

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance is important for several reasons, but it is especially important for you to keep up with the assignments in this class. The tentative calendar below offers only the most general description of activities; more detail will be provided in class as the semester goes on. If you are absent the day an assignment is due, you must contact me and make satisfactory arrangements for turning in the assignment. In most cases, such arrangements will include your emailing the assignment to me as an attachment by the deadline. Failure to make *prior satisfactory* arrangements will result in your forfeiting the right to turn in that assignment. As per university policy, excessive absences (three weeks' worth) may result in your being dropped from the course.

PLAGIARISM/ACADEMIC DISHONESTY STATEMENT

Instructors in the Department of Literature and Languages do not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Instructors uphold and support the highest academic standards, and students are expected to do likewise. Penalties for students guilty of academic dishonesty include disciplinary probation, suspension, and expulsion. (Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 5.b[1,2,3]).

AI use in course [Draft 2, May 25, 2023] Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course. **Any use of such software must be documented.** Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism). Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed. In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

Plagiarism on one assignment in this course will result in a failing grade for the course.

TENTATIVE CALENDAR

Jan. 10 Introduction to course

Jan. 15 MLK Day

Jan. 17 Descartes, *Meditations* 1

Jan. 22 Descartes, *Meditations* 2; **RP1 Due**

Jan. 24 Descartes, *Meditations* 3

Jan. 29 Descartes, *Meditations* 4

Jan. 31 Descartes, *Meditations* 5 & 6

Feb. 5 Wollstonecraft, Intro and chapters 1-3

Feb. 7 Wollstonecraft, chapters 4-6

Feb. 12 Wollstonecraft, chapters 7-11; **RP2 Due**

Feb. 14 Wollstonecraft, chapters 12-13

Feb. 19 Wollstonecraft, select debates over revolution

Feb. 21 Wollstonecraft, select debates over women's education and rights; **RP3 Due**

Feb. 26 Mill, Chapter 1

Feb. 28 Mill, Chapter 2

Mar. 4 Mill, Chapter 3

Mar. 6 Mill, Chapter 4; **RP4 Due**

Mar. 11-15 Spring Break

Mar. 18 Mill, Chapter 5

Mar. 20 Wiesenthal, Book 1

Mar. 25 Wiesenthal, Book 1, cont.

Mar. 27 Wiesenthal, Book 2 (select at least five of those to read); **RP5 Due**

Apr. 1 Turing, "Computing Machinery and Intelligence" (pdf in course shell)

Apr. 3 Searle, "Minds, Games, and Programs" (pdf in course shell)

Apr. 8 Something related to the eclipse

Apr. 10 Peirce, "The Fixation of Belief" (pdf in course shell); **RP6 Due**

Apr. 15 Midgley, Part 1

Apr. 17 Midgley, Part 2

Apr. 22 Midgley, Part 3

Apr. 24 Midgley, Part 4; **RP7 Due**

Apr. 29 Russell, "The Value of Philosophy" (pdf in course shell)

May 1 University Study Day [Class will not meet.]

May 6 **Final Project (online meeting)** Final Exam schedule)

University Specific Procedures

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url: <http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.