



Philosophy 1 - T, W, Th Classroom: NEA 231
Office Hours: 12:30-1pm or by appointment
Office: Fine Arts 102

Instructor: Jonathon Klyng
Email: Klyngj@lahc.edu

Textbook:

1. (Required) Edward Craig. Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction.
9780192854216

Readings and Website:

JonathonKlyng.com

Course Overview:

This course is a preliminary survey of philosophical discourse and argumentation. The course is designed to present you with several important philosophers responsible for developing threads of thought which have shaped human society. Of course, the same can be said for many individuals who are not considered philosophers. The characteristic which makes philosophers unique from other great minds is the ability to generate a deep level of introspection and self-exploration. So philosophy is not only an investigation of the world around oneself, but our inner worlds as well.

We'll start by covering the early philosophers from the Greek and Medieval period. These early philosophers questioned the meaning of ultimate truth, and tried to answer questions like "What should I do?" and "What is the good life?".

Second, we will move to look towards Renee Descartes. This next section leads us on a quest concerning knowledge and what it means to have knowledge.

Third, we will focus on the self and what it means to be (or not be) a person.

Fourth, we'll cover several social-political and ethical philosophers (starting with Karl Marx) who will provide commentary on social welfare, human interaction, oppression, and the various institutions which exert influence over our lives.

Finally, we will cover several theories in aesthetics - the philosophy of art. The popularity of social media and digital sharing has remixed our standard interpretations of what art is and who artists are.

Student Learning Outcomes

- **SLO #1** - Students will demonstrate the ability to identify several core philosophers in conjunction with their philosophical arguments, theories, and positions. (Matches with ISLO #1)
- **SLO #2** - Student will demonstrate the ability to clearly and concisely evaluate core philosophical arguments. (Matches with ISLO #2)
- **SLO #3** - Students will understand, comprehend, and evaluate several responses and counter-arguments to philosophical problems in regards to social, historical, and present contexts. (Matches with ISLO #4)

What to expect and how to succeed:

As it were, the readings in this course may seem difficult for those unfamiliar with philosophy. The readings are not long, though they can be dense. If you are struggling with a certain passage or paragraph, simply make note of it and move on. The next time you come to class, we will discuss the readings as a group and you'll be able to bring up any difficulties you had.

Do not hesitate to raise your hand to ask a question. There really are no stupid questions in philosophy and chances are someone else is having problems understanding the same thing you are. Try your best with the readings and they will become easier to understand over time.

I will try my best to challenge you all without directly giving you a specific "answer". These texts can be interpreted in several ways and several philosophers have made careers focusing on a specific interpretation. I invite you all to interpret these texts in ways which make sense to you. It is not my goal to make you believe anything, only to encourage you to question how and why you arrive at certain beliefs.

5 Study Habits to Succeed in this course:

1. Come to office hours and attend the study/writing workshops.
2. Don't force yourself to read and think simultaneously, take your time. Read a little then think a little - it is okay to let your mind wander sometimes. "Not all those who wander are lost"
3. Take notes on the page or in a notebook
4. Discuss with your classmates!
5. Challenge yourself

Discussion:

Discussion is an essential part of philosophy and I cannot stress this enough. Please come to class with questions from the readings to discuss. The lectures will be far more rewarding when you have attempted the readings before class (even if you are confused!). It is OK to be confused.

Our job is to offer some analysis towards whatever we are currently reading. Please try to keep your comments focused on the topic at hand. By topic at hand I mean the lecture and/or the reading. Philosophy is both very general and very specific. I will not hesitate to bring the topic back on track.

Grade Breakdown:

Journal: 30% (60 points)
Tests and Quizzes: 50% (100 points)
Essay 20%: (40 points)

Journal (30%):

Any Notebook will work! If you want to print them out and put them in a binder, that is fine. However, I will not accept Journals via Email. Sometimes during class and sometimes at the end of class (for homework), I will give you a journal prompt. I will collect your journals at the beginning of every week to grade them.

How long does it need to be????

Your Journal entries should be around a page. Each entry will have an analysis and creative portion. So the first half of your entry will be about the topic/prompt/argument/reading and the second half will contain your thoughts on it. In philosophy, writing clearly and concisely is the most important characteristic.

Tests and Quizzes (50%):

There will be 6 Quizzes and 2 Tests. Mostly Multiple Choice and True/False. Some fill in the blank and short answer.

Essay (20%):

There will be one 4-6 page essay assigned during the third week. We will discuss this further when I hand out the rubric.

Participation and Discussion (10% Extra Credit):

You can share your journal entry for Extra Credit! You will be awarded participation points for engaging yourself with me and the rest your colleagues. An essential feature of doing philosophy is discussing it amongst others. You can also earn P&D points by attending office hours and study sessions.

Grade Scale:

A: 88-100%, B: 77-87%, C: 68-76%, D: 50-67%, F: <50%

Academic Dishonesty/Cheating/Plagiarism:

I will not tolerate any level of plagiarism. If you do the work in this course you will have no issues passing on your own accord. *If I catch any plagiarised work I will immediately document it, present your case to the Dean of Academic Affairs, and you will automatically receive an F on that assignment.* This goes for purchased work, copied work, or any case of work which you have not authored yourself.

Cell Phones:

There will be no cell phone use allowed. If you want to use your cell phone you can step outside of class. For emergencies or special circumstances see me.

Distraction:

If I have reason to believe you are behaving inappropriately during lecture (sleeping, chatting/whispering), I will issue a warning. The next time I will ask you to leave until the end of class. If I can hear you then others around you can. This is distracting.

Additional Assistance:

Anyone with a learning disability (dyslexia, test-taking anxiety, attention deficit, etc.) should see me immediately to discuss any special accommodations which need to be made. **You deserve to have your learning needs accommodated!**

Three Attempts Policy:

Familiarize yourself with the new statewide policy regarding how many times you may attempt a class before you are 'locked out' of further attempts in the LACCD. See the Harbor College Schedule of Classes, the Counseling Center, **or come see me for more info**

Academic Freedom:

Both students and faculty have a constitutionally protected right of freedom of expression, which deserves to be protected! For a fuller discussion, see me.

Paying for Books and Other College expenses:

Call the Financial Aid office at (310)-233-4320 or go find them at the college services building. <http://www.lahc.edu/student-services/financial-aid/index.html>

When all else fails, please do not hesitate to see me at office hours. I would be more than happy to speak with you about your educational plans/goals and how you might go about achieving them. I want nothing more than to see you all succeed at the highest level.

**SAFE
ZONE**

The logo consists of the words "SAFE" and "ZONE" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letter "A" in "SAFE" is replaced by a triangle filled with the colors of the rainbow: purple at the top, followed by blue, green, yellow, orange, and red at the bottom.