This is a sample syllabus for PHI2010. Students should reference the section syllabus provided at the beginning of the semester for specifics regarding assignments and grade assignments.
COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will be an introduction to some of the main questions in philosophy. We will begin with a survey of some critical thinking basics: logical principles, intellectual virtues, and fallacies. We will then move to an examination of some core questions in epistemology – the study of knowledge. After that, we’ll tackle some of the big question in metaphysics – the study of the nature of reality. Finally, in the Ethics section of the course, we’ll take a look at the nature of right and wrong, good and bad, along with some issues in applied ethics.

Students will be introduced to longstanding philosophical problems and to competing views on the issues we address. An emphasis will be placed on understanding and assessing arguments for and against various positions. Philosophical issues are complex and difficult; you will have to think hard!

The course will provide students with an opportunity to critically examine and develop their own views.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, students will demonstrate the ability to:

• recognize philosophical problems;
• identify major philosophical theories;
• understand the main ideas of various philosophical theories; and
• articulate and evaluate philosophical arguments for and against these theories.
This course has been approved to meet FSU’s Liberal Studies Ethics requirement and is designed to help you become an ethically engaged citizen and a logical thinker. By the end of the course, students will:

- evaluate various ethical positions; and
- describe the ways in which historical, social, or cultural contexts shape ethical perspectives.

**COURSE MATERIALS**


*Any other required readings will be accessible via the course Canvas site.

**CLASS MEETINGS**

*Since there will often be graded quizzes during class, you will not be able to do well in this course unless you regularly attend class.*

To take quizzes, you should have a laptop, tablet, or phone with which you can access the course Canvas site.

**COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION**

**Assignments**

1. Reading assignments are given in the schedule for class meetings (below). Students are expected to have read the assignment for a given meeting *before* that class. Graded pop quizzes will sometimes be given on the assigned reading material. There will be no make-ups of the quizzes. However, your six lowest quiz grades, including missed quizzes, will be dropped.

2. There will be two writing assignments, one in the middle of the semester and one near the end.

3. There will be three graded exams, each covering approximately one-third of the course. The exams will be open-book. Exams are non-cumulative, but concepts learned in the first section of the course will be relevant in the second and third sections.

4. On all of the graded assignments, the work must be your own. You are not allowed to work with others during the assignments.
GRADE CALCULATION

Quizzes ........................................................................................................ 10%
Writing Assignments .................................................................................. 30%
  Writing Assignment #1 – 10%
  Writing Assignment #2 – 20%
Exams .......................................................................................................... 60%
  First Exam – 15%
  Second Exam – 15%
  Final Exam – 30%

ABSENCES

If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed and get notes/handouts from a classmate or relevant information from the instructor/TA.

GRADING SCALE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93-100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-92.99</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87-89.99</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>83-86.99</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-82.99</td>
<td>B-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-79.99</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>73-76.99</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>70-72.99</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<tr>
<td>60-62.99</td>
<td>D-</td>
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<tr>
<td>0-59.99</td>
<td>F</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

SCHEDULE FOR CLASS MEETINGS (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Part I: Preliminaries

M Aug. 22        Course Introduction/Syllabus Day
W Aug. 24        Preface + Ch. 1: What is Philosophy? Read xii-xvi, 1-9
F Aug. 26        Ch. 2: Logic. Read 10-17.
M Aug. 29  Ch. 2: Logic. Read 18-24.
F Sept. 2  Ch. 3: Critical Thinking, 1: Intellectual Virtue. Read 36-45.
M Sept. 5  NO CLASS – Labor Day
W Sept. 7  Ch. 4: Critical Thinking, 2: Fallacies. Read 46-53.
F Sept. 9  Ch. 4: Critical Thinking, 2: Fallacies. Read 54-63.
M Sept. 12  Ch. 5: Absolute Truth. Read 64-70.
W Sept. 14  Ch. 5: Absolute Truth. Read 71-78.
F Sept. 16  FIRST EXAM

Part II: Epistemology
M Sept. 19  Ch. 6: Skepticism About the External World. Read 80-88.
W Sept. 21  Ch. 6: Skepticism About the External World. Read 89-98.
F Sept. 23  Ch. 7: Global Skepticism vs. Foundationalism. Read 99-104.
M Sept. 26  Ch. 7: Global Skepticism vs. Foundationalism. Read 104-113.
W Sept. 28  Ch. 8: Defining “Knowledge”. Read 114-121.
F Sept. 30  Ch. 8: Defining “Knowledge”. Read 125-132.

Part III: Metaphysics
M Oct. 3  Ch. 9: Arguments for Theism. Read 135-136 + Cosmological Argument Readings (Canvas) 50-55.
F Oct. 7  Ch. 9: Arguments for Theism. Read 146-155.
M Oct. 10  Ch. 9: Arguments for Theism. Read 155-159.
W Oct. 12  Ch. 10: Arguments for Atheism. Read 160-166.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F Oct. 14</td>
<td>Ch. 10: Arguments for Atheism.</td>
<td>167-173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M Oct. 17</td>
<td>Ch. 10: Arguments for Atheism.</td>
<td>173-179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W Oct. 19</td>
<td>Ch. 11: Free Will.</td>
<td>180-187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F Oct. 21</td>
<td>Ch. 11: Free Will.</td>
<td>187-195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M Oct. 24</td>
<td>Ch. 12: Personal Identity.</td>
<td>196-205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W Oct. 26</td>
<td>Ch. 12: Personal Identity.</td>
<td>205-211</td>
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<tr>
<td>F Oct. 28</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>SECOND EXAM</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Part IV: Ethics</strong></td>
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<td>M Oct. 31</td>
<td>Ch. 13: Metaethics.</td>
<td>213-220</td>
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<td><em>Writing Assignment #1 Due at midnight</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>W Nov. 2</td>
<td>Ch. 13: Metaethics.</td>
<td>220-230</td>
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<tr>
<td>F Nov. 4</td>
<td>Ch. 13: Metaethics.</td>
<td>230-238</td>
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<tr>
<td>M Nov. 7</td>
<td>Ch. 14: Ethical Theory, 1: Utilitarianism.</td>
<td>240-247.</td>
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<tr>
<td>W Nov. 9</td>
<td>Ch. 14: Ethical Theory, 1: Utilitarianism.</td>
<td>247-256.</td>
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<tr>
<td>F Nov. 11</td>
<td>NO CLASS – Veterans’ Day observed</td>
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<tr>
<td>M Nov. 14</td>
<td>Ch. 15: Ethical Theory, 2: Deontology.</td>
<td>257-264.</td>
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<tr>
<td>W Nov. 16</td>
<td>Ch. 15: Ethical Theory, 2: Deontology.</td>
<td>264-269.</td>
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<tr>
<td>F Nov. 18</td>
<td>Ch. 16: Applied Ethics, 1: The Duty of Charity.</td>
<td>270-276.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M Nov. 21</td>
<td>Ch. 16: Applied Ethics, 1: The Duty of Charity.</td>
<td>276-282.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W Nov. 23</td>
<td>NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>F Nov. 25</td>
<td>NO CLASS – Thanksgiving Holiday</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M Nov. 28</td>
<td>Ch. 17: Applied Ethics, 2: Animal Ethics.</td>
<td>283-293.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W Nov. 30</td>
<td>Ch. 17: Applied Ethics, 2: Animal Ethics.</td>
<td>293-301.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
F Dec. 2
Ch. 18: Concluding Thoughts. Read 302-304.

Writing Assignment #2 Due at midnight

FINAL EXAM: TBA
UNIVERSITY POLICIES

UNIVERSITY ATTENDANCE POLICY

Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid written excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

ACADEMIC HONOR POLICY

The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University’s expectations for the integrity of students’ academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to “. . . be honest and truthful and . . . [to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University.” Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at http://fda.fsu.edu/Academics/Academic-Honor-Policy

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Your academic success is a top priority for Florida State University. University resources to help you succeed include tutoring centers, computer labs, counseling and health services, and services for designated groups, such as veterans and students with disabilities. The following information is not exhaustive, so please check with your advisor or the Department of Student Support and Transitions to learn more.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Office of Accessibility Services; and (2) request a letter from the Office of Accessibility Services to be sent to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type; and (3) meet (in person, via phone, email, skype, zoom, etc...) with each instructor to whom a letter of accommodation was sent to review approved accommodations. This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request. For the latest version of this statement and more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the:

Office of Accessibility Services
874 Traditions Way
CONFIDENTIAL CAMPUS RESOURCES

Various centers and programs are available to assist students with navigating stressors that might impact academic success. These include the following:

Victim Advocate Program
University Center A,
Room 4100, (850) 644-7161,
Available 24/7/365,
Office Hours: M-F 8-5
https://dsst.fsu.edu/vap

Counseling & Psychological Services
Askew Student Life Center,
2nd Floor,
942 Learning Way
(850) 644-8255
https://counseling.fsu.edu/

University Health Services
Health and Wellness Center
(850) 644-6230
https://uhs.fsu.edu/

FREE TUTORING FROM FSU

On-campus tutoring and writing assistance is available for many courses at Florida State University. For more information, visit the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) Tutoring Services’ comprehensive list of on-campus tutoring options—see http://ace.fsu.edu/tutoringor contacttutor@fsu.edu. High-quality tutoring is available by appointment and on a walk-in basis. These services are offered by tutors trained to encourage the highest level of individual academic success while upholding personal academic integrity.

LIBERAL STUDIES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

The Liberal Studies for the 21st Century Program at Florida State University builds an educational foundation that will enable FSU graduates to thrive both intellectually and
materially and to support themselves, their families, and their communities through a broad and critical engagement with the world in which they live and work. Liberal Studies thus offers a transformative experience. This course has been approved as meeting the Liberal Studies requirements for Ethics and thus is designed to help you become an ethically engaged and socially responsible citizen.

SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY

Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.

HEALTH PROTOCOLS

There is no COVID-19 testing, vaccination, social distancing, or masking requirement to visit, live, work, or study on campus.

However, full vaccination against COVID-19 is still the best, most effective way to protect yourselves and others from getting COVID-19 and preventing disruption of your studies, social activities, teaching, research, and work.

Face coverings are encouraged but not required on campus except in designated healthcare locations. Medical grade face masks, such as N95 or KN95 masks, are more effective against the highly transmissible coronavirus variants such as Omicron.

Please stay home when sick. Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19, or monkeypox, must isolate immediately. Due to the broad availability of COVID-19 vaccines and personal protective items such as face coverings, Florida State University has adopted a position like other State University System institutions to no longer offer COVID-19 isolation spaces for students who test positive for COVID-19.

For more, see: https://news.fsu.edu/announcements/covid-19/2022/08/12/health-guidance-for-fall-2022/

RECORDING LECTURES

In this class, consistent with state law and university policy, students are permitted to make recordings of class lectures for personal use only. However, sharing, posting, or publishing classroom recordings may subject you to honor code violations and legal penalties associated with theft of intellectual property and violations of other state law. Moreover, students and educators have expressed concern that recording classroom activities may negatively impact the learning experience for others, especially in classes that involve questions, discussion, or participation. To protect a learning environment in which everyone feels free to experiment with ideas, we ask you refrain from recording in ways that could make others feel reluctant to ask questions, explore new ideas, or
otherwise participate in class. Students must monitor their recording so that they do not include participation by other students without permission. Students with disabilities will continue to have appropriate accommodations for recordings as established by the Office of Accessibility Services.