

PHIL 102: INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY II

Term 2, Spring 2010 (Sect. 001)

Meets: MW 9-9:50 GEOG 100 (plus one of six discussion sections on Fridays)

Instructor:

Dr. Christina Hendricks

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Teaching Assistants

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Office Hours: please feel free to come to any of the following

* Philosophy Department, Buchanan E375:

Mondays 12:30-1:30pm

* Arts One, Ike Barber Learning Centre, Rm 377

Thursdays 9-11am

* Also by appointment

Office Phone:

822-2520 (PHIL office, BUCH E375—best place to leave a message)

822-8617 (Arts One office, IBLC 377—I'm only there during office hours, and otherwise very rarely)

Description

Introduction to Philosophy II is broadly about “value theory,” which includes topics such as ethics, political philosophy, aesthetics, and issues such as what is the best way to live, individually and in groups, so as to flourish/achieve happiness? This particular course focuses on happiness: we will discuss what theorists in Western Philosophy have said over the past millennia about what happiness is, how to achieve it, its relationship to morality (Is being moral necessary for being happy? What does making self or others happy have to do with acting morally?), and whether or not communities and governments have a responsibility to promote the happiness of their citizens.

Learning Objectives (and their relationship to course activities)

Students who successfully complete the course will be able to:

1. Outline a complex argument in an assigned text (argument analyses done in groups in discussion sections)
2. Assess the strength of arguments in assigned texts, in oral or written work by other students, and in their own writing (papers, peer review of other students' papers, group discussion, presentation, exams)
3. Write and revise papers that provide clear, coherent, well-organized arguments for a specific thesis (papers)
4. Compare/contrast the views of at least three philosophers on the relationship between happiness and morality, and on the responsibility of governments to promote happiness in their citizens (exams)
5. Discuss and defend one's own view on one or more of the main questions in the course: What constitutes a happy life? What is the relationship between happiness and morality? What is the responsibility of governments to promote happiness in citizens? (papers)

Required Readings

- * Plato, *The Republic*. Trans. GMA Grube, Revised by CDC Reeve. Indianapolis, Indiana: Hackett, 1992.—this should be in the UBC bookstore.
- * Cahn and Vitrano, Eds, *Happiness: Classic and Contemporary Readings in Philosophy*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.—this should be in the UBC bookstore.
- * Readings available online on our Vista course site: some readings for the course will be posted online on our Vista site (in PDF format, so be sure to get the free PDF reader: <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>)
- * The readings on the course web site may be purchased as hard copies, if you wish. A sign up sheet for this will be given in class. You will need to bring cash to class to pay for the copies.

Course Website

The course website is on the UBC Vista system. Go to www.vista.ubc.ca and log in with your Campus Wide Login ID and password. On the website you will find copies of the syllabus, assignments, and handouts, as well as some of the course readings. There will also be discussion boards available for you to discuss aspects of the course with other students if you wish. You will also be able to check your grades on the website.

Evaluation/Assignments

15%: Attendance and participation

Attendance & oral participation in discussion sections, including peer review of other students' papers: 10%
Presentation to a small group in discussion section: 5%

40%: Papers

1. preliminary paper on happiness (approx. 2-3 pp.): unsatisfactory or not completed means 5%-10% off the mark for your second paper (can be rewritten to get satisfactory mark)
2. second paper on happiness (approx. 4-5 pp.): 20%
3. final paper on happiness (approx. 5-6 pp.): 20%

45%: Exams

1. Midterm exam Wed. Feb. 10 (20%)
2. Final exam during April exam period (25%)

Explanations of assignments

* Attendance and Participation: From the UBC calendar, 2008/2000: "Regular attendance is expected of students in all their classes (including lectures, laboratories, tutorials, seminars, etc.). Students who neglect their academic work and assignments may be excluded from final examinations. Students who are unavoidably absent because of illness or disability should report to their instructors on return to classes. Any request for academic concession must be clearly expressed (see *Academic Concession*)."
(<http://www.students.ubc.ca/calendar/index.cfm?tree=3,36,0,0>)

Attendance will be taken only in discussion sections. You may miss **ONE** discussion section meeting without excuse and without penalty. After that, your absences will lead to penalties on your attendance mark. Beyond your one free absence, *missing one of the days for presentations by other members of your group counts as missing two days* (i.e., you can miss one of these days as your one free absence without penalty, but after that missing a presentation day counts as missing two days), so be sure to be there for the days your fellow group members are giving their presentations.

To get high marks for participation, you must actually speak in discussion section. If you do not wish to do so, you may make up for this by contributing your thoughts on the course material to the discussion board for your section on the Vista course web site. You should do so at least twice before reading break, and twice after reading break, to get high marks for participation. Your comments should be at least 150 words long each. You must also participate in the peer review of other students' papers (instructions given in class): you must read their papers and be in class on the day scheduled to discuss them. Failure to do so means 10% off your participation mark for each peer review session missed.

* Presentation in discussion section: Each student will be required to give a short presentation in a small group in discussion section once during the term (groups will be decided randomly, and you will be notified of your groups at the beginning of the term). You will sign up for dates on which to do this. Basically you will need to give a brief presentation on some issue or question we've been discussing in class, and then provide a few questions for the group to discuss (and you'll be responsible for leading the group discussion on these). There will be around 5 groups per discussion section, and there will be presentations in each group going on at the same time (you'll be speaking only to about 4-5 students in your small group). You will need to turn in a summary of your presentation to discussion section leader; your mark will be based on this summary only, since we can't hear all the presentations when they are going on at the same time.

* **Papers:** You will be required to write three papers for this course, the later ones building on the one(s) before, and the first two subject to review by members of your small group in discussion section.

Preliminary paper on happiness: This paper (approx. 2-3 pages) will focus on your own views on one of the three questions of the course: what is the nature of happiness for humans, what is the relationship between happiness and morality, and what is the responsibility of governments towards promoting the happiness of their citizens? This paper will be peer reviewed and also marked by the Instructor or your T.A. It will receive only a (+) (satisfactory), a (-) (unsatisfactory), or a (0) (not completed). If you receive a (-) you will get 5% taken off the mark for the second paper, and if you get a (0), you will get 10% off of the mark for the second paper. You may have the option to rewrite this essay to get a (+).

Second paper on happiness: In this paper (4-5 pages) you will revise your first paper, respond to objections to your view, and incorporate the view of at least one philosopher we have studied in the course up to that point (either as support for your view or as offering an objection that you respond to). This paper will be peer reviewed and also marked by the Instructor or your T.A. for a letter grade.

Final paper on happiness: In this paper (5-6 pages) you will revise your second paper and incorporate the views of at least two philosophers we have studied in the course (one of them could be the same as in the second paper). There will be no peer review of this paper; it will be marked by the Instructor or your T.A. for a letter grade.

* **Exams:** The midterm and the final exam will both be made up mostly of essay questions that you will have in advance of the exam, so you can prepare your answers. The final exam will be held during the exam period in April.

Course Policies

Class Etiquette: Please make every effort to arrive on time, and do not leave class early without letting me know first that you must do so (and sit towards the back of the room in that case). Late arrivals and people getting up to leave (even to go to the washroom) are disruptive for everyone (if you MUST take a washroom break, do so as quietly as possible and don't make it a habit to do so during class very often). Please don't come to class if you are going to spend class time doing something else (e.g., surf the web, read material for other classes, etc.). Avoid talking to others during class while someone else is speaking, and if you wish to contribute to discussion, please raise your hand first.

General info re: assignments: Students should retain a copy of all submitted assignments and should also retain all their marked assignments in case they wish to apply for a Review of Assigned Standing. Students have the right to view their marked (final) examinations with their instructor, providing they apply to do so by Jan 31 for Term 1 courses, and May 20 for Term 2 courses. This review is for pedagogic purposes. The examination remains the property of the university, and must remain in the possession of the University for one year from the date of the examination. See UBC 2008/2009 calendar:
<http://www.students.ubc.ca/calendar/index.cfm?tree=3,41,93,0>

Policies on late or missed assignments

* All **papers** are due in class on the day noted on the schedule below. Hard copies of papers are required, unless explicit instructions for turning in papers via the course web site or email are given in class or to a student individually. Late papers must be accompanied by a "late paper form," available on the Vista course web site. Late papers are subject to a 5% -per-weekday reduction in points (starting after the end of class time on the due date), unless due to an excused absence (may require documentation). If you know you are going to miss a due date, the sooner you talk to the Instructor or T.A., the more amenable we will be to grant an exception (providing, of course, that your excuse is a valid one that makes turning work in on time very difficult or impossible).

* You must turn in the **small group presentation summary** on the day you've signed up to present to your group. A hard copy of this essay is required, unless explicit instructions to turn this in via the course website or email have been given in class or in person by the Instructor or TA. You must be in class on the day you are scheduled to give your presentation to the small group. If you cannot be in class that day, talk to the

Instructor at least one week in advance to reschedule. If you miss class due to an emergency, contact the Instructor as soon as you can to discuss whether and how a make-up will be possible.

- * **Midterm exam:** If you miss the exam on Wednesday, Feb. 10, you must speak with the Instructor (Christina) to see if a make-up is possible (you will need a valid excuse, and likely also documentation).
- * **Final exam:** According to the UBC Calendar, if you miss a final exam during the official examination periods in December or April, you must follow the procedures to request “Academic Concession” (see <http://www.students.ubc.ca/calendar/index.cfm?tree=3,48,0,0>).

Grading Standards (from: <http://www.arts.ubc.ca/faculty-amp-staff/resources/courses-and-grading/grading-guidelines.html>)

The following guidelines offer a broad-brush characterization of the type of work that might be associated with various ranges of grades. The intent here is to encourage general consistency across the faculty [of Arts] rather than to provide precise specifications.

80% to 100% (A- to A+) *Exceptional* performance: strong evidence of original thinking; good organization; capacity to analyze and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter with sound critical evaluations; evidence of extensive knowledge base.

68% to 79% (B- to B+) *Competent* performance: evidence of grasp of subject matter; some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; evidence of familiarity with the literature.

50% to 67% (D to C+) *Adequate* performance: understanding of the subject matter; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material; acceptable but uninspired work, not seriously faulty but lacking style and vigour.

00% to 49% (F) *Inadequate* performance: little or no evidence of understanding of the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited or irrelevant use of the literature.

Scaling of Grades: From the Calendar: “Faculties, departments and schools reserve the right to scale grades in order to maintain equity among sections and conformity to University, faculty, department, or school norms. Students should therefore note that an unofficial grade given by an instructor might be changed by the faculty, department or school. Grades are not official until they appear on a student's academic record.”

(<http://www.students.ubc.ca/calendar/index.cfm?tree=3,42,96,0>). From Faculty of Arts web site: “Marks in this course may be scaled (see Calendar, under Grading Practices). If scaling is required, it will be carried out after each assignment, so that students will know where they stand going into the final examination. If scaling is done on the final examination, students will be informed if they ask to review their examination according to the usual policy.”

Equity and special arrangements

I will work to ensure that all students have a fair and equitable opportunity for participation and success in the course. The University accommodates students with disabilities who have registered with the Disability Resource Centre. The University accommodates students whose religious obligations conflict with attendance, submitting assignments, or completing scheduled tests and examinations. See the university policy on religious holidays at: <http://www.universitycounsel.ubc.ca/policies/policy65.pdf>. Please let me know in advance, preferably in the first week of class, if you will require any accommodation on these grounds (you must notify your instructor at least two weeks in advance, according to the university policy cited above). Students who plan to be absent for varsity athletics, family obligations, or other similar commitments, cannot assume they will be accommodated, and should discuss their commitments with the instructor before the drop date.

Academic Dishonesty

I take academic dishonesty very seriously, because ensuring that your grades reflect your own work is so crucial to your own learning experience, to fairness to the rest of the students, and to those who expect your transcript to reflect your own efforts. Accordingly, I am vigilant about preventing, detecting, and deterring academic misconduct whenever possible, and to punishing cases of it to the fullest extent allowed by university policy. Please review the UBC Calendar Academic regulations for the university policy on cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty (See the UBC Calendar, under “Academic Regulations,” and “Student Conduct and Discipline”: <http://www.students.ubc.ca/calendar/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,0>). Also visit the academic integrity section of the Faculty of Arts website for useful information on avoiding plagiarism and on correct documentation: <http://www.arts.ubc.ca/arts-students/plagiarism-avoided.html>. The course website on Vista also has some links on how to cite sources correctly and avoid plagiarism.

Schedule of Readings and Assignments: Readings should be done before class on the day listed below

Note that the Plato readings are all from the separate *Republic* book, readings on the course web site are labeled as (course website), and the other readings are labeled as (C&V), for Cahn and Vitrano (the *Happiness* textbook).

<u>Week/Date</u>	<u>Readings/Assignments/Class activities</u>
Mon., Jan. 4	Intro to theme for this term
Wed., Jan. 6	Plato, <i>Republic</i> Book I: beginning (p. 1) to 331d (p. 6), 336b (p. 12) to end of Book I (p. 31)
Mon., Jan. 11	Plato, <i>Republic</i> Book II: beginning (p. 32) to 376c (top of p. 52)
Wed., Jan. 12	Plato, <i>Republic</i> Book II: 376d (p. 52) to end of Book II (p. 59); Book III: beginning (p. 60) to 392c (top of p. 69), 412b (p. 88) to end of Book III (p. 93)
Mon., Jan. 18	Plato, <i>Republic</i> Book IV: 427d (p. 102) to end of Book IV (p. 121)
Wed., Jan. 20	Plato, <i>Republic</i> Book V: 471c (p. 146) to end of Book V (p. 156); Book VII: beginning (p. 186) to 521b (p. 193); <i>optional: Book VI: beginning (p. 157) to 496e (p. 170)</i>
Fri., Jan. 22	Presentations in discussion sections; <u>preliminary paper on happiness due Fri. Jan. 22</u>
Mon., Jan. 25	Plato, <i>Republic</i> Book IX: 573c (bottom of p. 243) to end of Book IX (p. 263);
Wed., Jan. 27	Epicurus, “Letter to Menoeceus” and “Leading Doctrines” (C&V pp. 34-40)
Fri., Jan. 29	Peer review of first paper in discussion sections
Mon., Feb. 1	Epicurus, cont’d; Seneca, selections from <i>On the Happy Life</i> (C&V pp. 41-51)
Wed., Feb. 3	Seneca, cont’d; Epictetus (course website)
Fri. Feb. 5	Presentations in discussion sections
Mon., Feb. 8	Epictetus, cont’d (course website)
Wed., Feb. 10	<u>Midterm exam Wed. Feb. 10</u>
<u>Fri. Feb. 12</u>	<i>no discussion sections</i>
<u>Feb. 15-Feb. 26</u>	<i>Reading Break – no classes</i>
Mon., Mar. 1	Annas, “Virtue and Eudaimonism” (C&V pp. 245-261); <i>optional: Cahn and Murphy “Happiness and Immorality” (C&V pp. 261-266)</i>
Wed., Mar. 3	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> : selections from Chpts. 6, 11, 13 (C&V pp. 68-74)
Fri. Mar. 5	<u>second paper on happiness due Fri. Mar. 5</u>
Mon., Mar. 8	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> : selections from Chpts. 14, 15, 17 (C&V pp. 74-76)
Wed., Mar. 10	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> : selections from Chpts. 15, 18, 21 (course website)
Fri. Mar. 12	Peer review of second paper in discussion sections
Mon., Mar. 15	Bentham, selections from <i>Introduction to Principles of Morals...</i> (C&V pp. 99-103); Mill, <i>Utilitarianism</i> , beginning of Chpt. II (C&V 121-top of 125)
Wed., Mar. 17	Mill, <i>Utilitarianism</i> , rest of Chpt. II (C&V 125-133)
Fri. Mar. 19	Presentations in discussion sections
Mon., Mar. 22	Mill, <i>Utilitarianism</i> Chpt. IV (C&V 139-143); Nozick, “The Experience Machine” (C&V 236-237); <i>optional: Utilitarianism Chpt. III (C&V pp. 134-139)</i>
Wed., Mar. 24	Mill, <i>On Liberty</i> Chpts. I & III (course website, pp. 1-9)
Fri. Mar. 26	Presentations in discussion sections
Mon., Mar. 29	Mill, <i>On Liberty</i> Chpt. IV (course website, pp. 9-14)
Wed., Mar. 31	Camus, “Myth of Sisyphus” (course website, pp. 1-15)
<u>Fri. Apr. 2</u>	<i>University closed—no discussion sections</i>
<u>Mon., Apr. 5</u>	<i>University closed—no class</i>
Wed., Apr. 7	Camus, “Myth of Sisyphus” (course website, pp. 15-23)
Fri., Apr. 9	Presentations in discussion sections (if anyone hasn’t yet presented)
Mon., Apr. 12	Nussbaum, selections from “Human Functioning and Social Justice” (course website); <u>final paper on happiness due Mon. Apr. 12</u>
Wed., Apr. 14	“Gross National Happiness” (course website)
<u>Fri., April 10</u>	<i>No discussions sections—last day of class is Thurs. April 15</i>

Final exam: during exam period, April 19-May 1