Spring 2019
Syllabus for Philosophy 1113.26592: Introduction to Philosophy
MWF 11:30, CLB 102

Professor: Dr. Justin Horn
   Office: 248 Murray Hall
   Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 1-2 pm, or by easily arranged appointment
   Email: justin.horn@okstate.edu

Required Texts:
Introduction to Philosophy: Classical and Contemporary Readings, 8th ed., by Perry, Bratman, Fischer
Additional Readings (marked with **) will posted to D2L

Course Description:
What is the world really like? Are our choices in life ever truly free, or are our actions entirely
caused by our genes and our environment? Is there a God? How do we know? Are human beings
simply complex physical organisms, or might we have immaterial souls that could survive our bodily
death? How should we live our lives? Every single one of us has opinions about these (and other)
fundamental questions. And yet, for a variety of reasons, many people go their whole lives without
seriously thinking through why they hold the opinions they do, or carefully considering opposing
views. Philosophy is the attempt to think deeply and critically about questions like these—questions
about the fundamental nature of reality, our knowledge about the world, and how we ought to live.

   This course will provide a general introduction to philosophy. We’ll cover a range of issues in
metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, and philosophy of religion. (And by the end of the semester, you
will at least know what all these fancy terms mean!) Our key tools for examining these issues will be
philosophical arguments; consequently, the course will also provide an introduction to philosophical
argumentation.

Course Requirements
Seven Pop Quizzes 5% each, lowest two will be dropped
Two Papers (3-4 pages each) 15% each
Midterm Exam 20%
Final Exam 25%

Grading Scale
A: 90-100
B: 80-89.9
C: 70-79.9
D: 60-69.9
F: 0-59.9
On the readings:

Reading philosophy can be difficult. The assigned reading is often pretty short, but it always requires close study. Read it slowly, read it again, and if you don’t understand something, please don’t hesitate to ask. (That’s why I’m here!) Let me also recommend the following sites, which are very helpful resources:

- Jim Pryor’s Guidelines for Reading Philosophy: www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/reading.html
- Jim Pryor’s Intro to Philosophical Terms & Methods: www.jimpryor.net/teaching/vocab/glossary.html

Some class policies

- In the absence of special circumstances, I don't allow the use of laptops/tablets/mobile devices in class. If you think that an exception might be warranted in your case, you may come talk to me about it. Otherwise, **if I see you using an electronic device during class, I reserve the right to deduct a point from your next pop quiz.**

- **Pop quizzes will be given on seven Fridays throughout the semester.** These will not be announced in advance. Make-up quizzes and exams will be given only in cases where a) you talk with me in advance and we agree on an alternative arrangement (which will occur only if you have a sufficiently good reason for rescheduling) or b) in cases of documented emergency.

- **All papers must be turned in to the appropriate dropbox on D2L in .doc or .docx format.** It is your responsibility to make sure that you have submitted the correct file, and that it has fully uploaded. Late work will be accepted with a penalty of ten points per day. Work that is turned in later than one week from the due date will receive a zero. Extensions will be granted on a case-by-case basis and only for a sufficiently good reason (I reserve the right to judge whether a given reason is sufficiently good).

- Any time you miss class, it is your responsibility to obtain lecture and discussion notes from your fellow classmates, and to visit me or your TA during office hours if you require further assistance. All lecture slides will be posted on D2L.

- **I urge any student who has physical or learning disabilities that will affect class attendance or performance to speak with me during the first week of class.** We will work with the Student Disability Services to accommodate your needs.

A note on plagiarism

Plagiarism is a very serious offense and will not be tolerated. If you are at all uncertain whether something constitutes plagiarism, please come see me or consult this document from the University: (http://academicintegrity.okstate.edu/content/violations-academic-integrity-0)
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Assignments Due</th>
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<td>Week 1 (1/14 – 1/18)</td>
<td>What is Philosophy? W: Introduction (pp. 1-7) F: Logical Toolkit (8-13)</td>
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<td>Week 2 (1/23, 1/25)</td>
<td>How to do Philosophy W: “The Value of Philosophy” (17-20)</td>
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<td>Week 3 (1/28 – 2/1)</td>
<td>Knowledge and Skepticism M: Meditation 1 (170-172) W: Meditation 2 (172-175)</td>
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<td>SPRING BREAK (3/18-3/22)</td>
<td><strong><strong>NO CLASS</strong></strong></td>
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<td>Pre-Finals Week (4/29 – 5/3)</td>
<td>Summary and Review M: “Death” (790-794)</td>
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<td>FINAL EXAM (5/8)</td>
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<td>FINAL EXAM: Wednesday, May 8th, 10 am</td>
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