**PHILOSOPHY 10: Introduction to Philosophy**

**8 Week Version**

**Fall 2009**

**Instructor: Sharon Crasnow**

**Instructor:** Dr. S. Crasnow

**Office:** LIBR 130  
9:15-10:15 TTH  
11-12 W  
12:30-1:30 TH

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(email is the best way to reach me quickly)

**Please do not contact me with computer or access problems.** If you have reviewed the tutorials and information provided in the Sample Class, have the used Check Browser tool, applied all necessary adjustments and are still experiencing difficulties, call the Open Campus Help Desk toll free at 1-866-259-7271 for 24 hour support. You can also get online support via email and chat through the [Online Learning Support Center](http://opencampus.com/index.html).

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**Welcome to the online version of PHI 10, Introduction to Philosophy.**

This class is an online class. You need to ask yourself whether this method of instruction is appropriate for you. If you have taken online classes before you are probably in pretty good shape, if you have not you need to go to the open campus website, [http://opencampus.com/index.html](http://opencampus.com/index.html) and familiarize yourself with how an online campus works.

Because you do not need to come to campus to take this class, this course will allow you more freedom than a traditional on-campus course. However with that increased freedom comes increased responsibility. You will need to be motivated to do the online portion work on your own and keep up with the assignments. The fact that you can do the work whenever it is convenient for you is a plus but you may find yourself thinking it is never convenient, that there are always other things to do. Be careful not to put the course work last! Remember this is a short term course (8 weeks) and so will move very quickly.

**Motivation and discipline are the keys to success in this course.** If you are uncertain as to whether you have these qualities to the degree the course might require, email me and we can discuss this. You might be more successful in a traditional course. Be honest with yourself.

**Online means that you can access course information and assignments in a way that may be more convenient for your schedule.** It does not mean that the course can be adjusted to fit your schedule! **Watch assignment opening and closing times! Part of being in this course is taking responsibility for meeting the clearly posted deadlines.**

**Online also means that the course is always available to you, but this does not mean that the instructor is always available.** I check the course several times a day during the week but I am not constantly online. **Remember, I am a human being and not a computer!** You might think about this particularly when we are doing Lesson 8 in Week 5.

**The general structure for the class will be as follows:**

- Usually there will be two lessons online during the week. You will see these lessons listed below in the syllabus with the dates that they will be open and
the various assignments, quizzes, or discussion board posts that go with each assignment. You access these lessons in the Learning Modules which appear on the homepage or can be accessed through the menu on the left side of the screen. Each lesson includes:

- Online reading: This is mostly historical background and context to help you with the readings in the text (Twenty Questions).
- Notes on the reading
- Occassionally additional weblinks to online material including videos or audio material.
- Links to assignments, quizzes, discussion board posting and exams

- The syllabus lists all assignments that are due and when they are due as well.
- The calendar function has all assignments and work listed with dates due also.
- Quizzes, assignments, and discussion board posts are linked through each learning module, but they are also linked through the calendar and through the links to the left of the page.

All quizzes, assignments, posts, papers, exams are due on Sunday night except for the midterm, the final exam, and other work which is due the last week. That work will all be due on October 23rd at NOON.

You will need:

A computer or regular access to one.

See the WebCT course page for the particulars of the specifications you will need for your computer.

See Open Campus: http://opencampus.com/index.html


This text has a companion website provided by the publisher. It has additional resources that we will sometimes use and you should probably bookmark it: Wadsworth Twenty Questions website. The website is also linked on our homepage.
What's this course about?
In fact, what this course is about is going to take most of the course to explain, but for a start here is the course description that appears in the catalogue.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** A survey and exploration of significant questions in the Western philosophical tradition. Questions are drawn from the various branches of philosophy: metaphysics, theory of knowledge, ethics, aesthetics, political philosophy and/or philosophy of religion. The questions that we will be working on come from the theory of knowledge, metaphysics, political philosophy, and ethics.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify some key philosophical questions that the Western tradition has addressed.
- Explain, contrast, and compare various answers that have been and/or could be offered to those questions.
- Describe the historical background of these questions and their answers.
- Analyze and assess some key philosophical texts.
- Write at least one critical essay in which the previous objectives are illustrated.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** The following are course requirements. Note that all assignments must be completed in order to satisfactorily complete the course (receive a grade of C or better). However this does not mean that the mere completion of the assignments ensures that you will receive a C. The quality of your work will determine that. All work in this course is to be YOUR individual work, not the product of a collaboration or group work. It is perfectly acceptable to DISCUSS the material, assignments, quiz questions, exam questions, and paper questions with other students in the class or others who you feel might be able to help you understand the ideas, however when it comes time to write make sure that what you write is in YOUR OWN WORDS. See the section on "plagiarism" below for further clarification.

**NOTE:** All quizzes, assignments, posts, papers are due on Sunday night. There are typically two assignments a week, one for each lesson. They will BOTH be due on Sunday night. For details see the section below.

Exams are due on the specific dates noted. The Midterm will be due on Sept. 30 at 11:59 PM and the final will be due on October 23rd at noon.

**CONSULT THE CALENDAR and SYLLABUS FOR DUE DATES**

5 Online Discussion Board posts (when the lesson specifically asks for it) - 25 points.

*Directions for posts:* Each of your posts should connect one of the readings to something that is currently happening in the world or something that the reading made you think differently about in your own life. The posts should be at least a full paragraph and should make clear reference to the ideas in the reading in a way that would clearly indicate that you have done the reading from the text (Twenty Questions) and understood it. I will be looking for specific reference to at least one of the readings (a quote and an explanation, a detailed discussion or one or more of the ideas presented in a reading. I will also be looking for some way that you have taken the ideas beyond merely explaining the readings. You will not receive full credit unless you have done all of this.
3 Writing Assignments - 1-2 page writing assignments. 15 points each, 45 points total. These assignments should be written in a word processing document (preferably Microsoft Word) and then uploaded and submitted on through the Turnitin link on the homepage. They should be double-spaced about you should have your name in the upper right hand corner. Though you are turning these in online, treat them as if they were papers submitted in a regular class. After you submit the paper through Turnitin go to the assignments submissions page in WebCT and note that you have submitted the paper and click submit. You do not need to resubmit the actual paper there however. Please note that these writing assignments are available at the assignments page. On that page you will also find a grading grid. This rubric shows you what you need to do in order to receive full marks on the paper. Use it as a guide to assess whether you have done what you need to do for this paper. I use these grading grids to grade the papers and return them to you with the paper so that you can see where you have been successful and where you need to improve.

2 Responses to Comments - I make detailed comments on your writing assignments and return them to you through WebCT. You will find them as attachments on the Assignments page in WebCT. You must download these returned assignments and respond to the comments by 1) rewriting a section of the paper (you will find which section to rewrite in the comments) OR 2) Discussing what you have learned from the comments by mentioning them specifically. This is a requirement from Assignments 1 and 2. 5 points each; 10 points total.

6 Online quizzes - 10 points each; 60 points total. These are multiple choice quizzes (occasional short answers). The correct answers and comments will be released after the due date but are not available until that time.

2 Tests - There will be two tests (midterm and final). 50 points each, 100 points total. These tests will have two parts. The first part is short answer questions which will involve writing paragraphs in which you explain the meanings and relevance of terms that we have used in the course. The second part of the exam will require that you write 2 essays in response to prompts. This section is very similar to the writing assignments that you are doing for the course and the same kinds of criteria will apply to these that apply to the writing assignment. You should plan on making each essay one to one and a half pages long.

GRADING: There are 240 points possible in this course.
A - 215 and above (90%)
B - 192 and above (80%)
C - 168 and above (70%)
D - 144 and above (60%)
F - below 144

Other important policies:
IMPORTANT! You may be dropped for non-attendance! If you miss a week of work, I may drop you. This includes not going online for a week. I can see whether you have been online or not and if you fail to participate online I will consider that sufficient indication that you are not able to satisfactorily complete the course.

Make-up exams and other late work:
- Late work will be graded down 1/2 grade for each day that it is late (an A becomes an A-, an A- becomes a B+ etc.)
- There will be no make-up quizzes or exams except in the case of emergencies. If such an emergency arises you are to let me know as soon as possible that you will be unable to take the regular exam.
- A zero will be assigned if the work is not complete by the agreed upon time.

Absences - You should be online at least twice a week. I can track when you go on line and will take attendance in that way. If special circumstances arise that prevent you from being online, please let me know.
Cheating - An automatic "F" will be given for cheating. Repeated offenses will be dealt with in accordance with the policies stated in the student handbook. Cheating is a violation of the norms of academic work. When you cheat you step outside of the boundaries of what is acceptable if we are to have integrity and honesty in intellectual pursuits. You are in effect signalling a lack of desire to participate in the activities that mark your pursuit as an academic one. So what you do simply does not count as academic work when you cheat and so will be treated accordingly.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating. It is the unattributed use of someone else's work. One of the most common forms of plagiarism occurs when you cut and paste pieces of information that you find on the web. This is unacceptable if you do not attribute the source and even if you attribute the source it is unacceptable if this is the primary way in which you have written your work. Quoted material should be used to illustrate a point, provide evidence for a position, provide a passage that is subsequently explicated, or for similar purposes. It should not be used as a substitution for your own writing.

One important way to avoid inadvertent plagiarism is to be very careful when you are doing research. When you make notes from web sources by cutting and pasting make sure that you put those copied notes in quotation marks (to remind yourself that they are not your words but someone else's) and list the source in proper citation form (either MLA, APA, or Chicago Manual of Style) so that you can sort the source if you use the material.

Philosophy is not the sort of course where there is one "right answer" and so all right answers will look the same. (Notice that this does not mean that any answer is okay! Though there may be more than one right answer there are still wrong answers!) You are being graded on your ability to tackle a philosophical problem, understand why it is a problem, and explain the implications of difference solutions that may have been given. The paper topics, writing assignments, and questions that I ask you are all designed to elicit these sort of responses. You will not find "the answers in the book," though you will of course need to understand the text in order to answer the questions.

Plagiarism also occurs when you use a friend's work, a purchased paper, or when you are sloppy with your research and mistakenly think that you have written something that you have copied from another source. All written work for this course is submitted through Turnitin which is plagiarism checking engine. Plagiarized work will be treated as a form of cheating and you will be warned in the first instance and given an F for the assignment. Repeated instances will result in more severe disciplinary action. If you are not sure whether or not you may be plagiarizing check with the instructor. The following websites are also useful in clarifying what plagiarism is and how you can avoid it.

http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_plagiar.html
http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml
Students with Disabilities - If you have a documented disability requiring accommodation for this class, please see me OR contact the office of Disabled Students Programs and Services at 222-8060 on the City Campus; 571-6138 on the Moreno Valley Campus; 372-7070 on the Norco Campus.

SCHEDULE OF LESSONS AND READINGS

WEEK 1: August 31 - Sept. 6
Lesson 1
Introduction to Philosophy
1. Read introduction from book, vii-x
Read the Crito online: http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/crito.html
Assignment 1 (due Sunday night)

Lesson 2
Chapter 6. What Do I Know?
1. Introduction, 202-204.
2. Plato, 205-207.
3. Plato, Meno (online) http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/meno.html
Quiz 1 (due Sunday night)

WEEK 2: Sept. 7 - 13
Lesson 3
Chapter 6. How Can We Know It?
1. NOTE: This reading is from Chapter 5! Descartes, 163-167. The reading is from Meditations I and II and is not about the distinctness of the mind and body as it says in the text. The appears to be an editorial error. The Descartes reading in Chapter 6 belongs in Chapter 5 and we will read it when we talk about mind and body.
2. Russell, 212-213
Assignment 2

Lesson 4
Chapter 6 continued
4. Berkeley, 217-221
Quiz 2
Response to comments on Assignment 1 due.

WEEK 3: Sept. 14 - 20
Lesson 5
Why Does Language Matter to Philosophy?
1. Introduction, 227-229.
Discussion Board Post 2
Quiz 3

Lesson 6
Does Language Make Me Think the Way That I Do?
5. Pinker, 246-254.
7. Carroll 262-263
Response to comments on Assignment 2 due.

**Midterm opens next week on Sept 23.**

**WEEK 4:** Sept. 21-27
Lesson 7 (*only one lesson this week because of the midterm*)
Chapter 3. What Does Science Tell Me About the World?
1. Introduction, 74-76.
2. Hempel, 77-84.
The Popper and Kuhn readings are in a different order in the book. I think it makes more sense to read them in this order.
3. Popper, 91-98.
4. Kuhn, 84-91.
Discussion Board Post 3
Quiz 4

**Midterm closes on Sept. 30th at 11:59 PM**

**WEEK 5:** Sept. 28 - Oct. 4
Lesson 8 (*only one lesson this week because of the midterm*)
Chapter 5. How Is My Mind Connected to My Body?
1. Introduction, 159-162.
2. Descartes, 207-210. NOTE! This reading is from Chapter 6. The reading from Chapter 5 belongs in Chapter 6 and we have already read it in connection with the issue of knowledge when we were discussing Descartes at that time.
5. Searle, 180-185.
Assignment 3
Discussion Board Post 4

**WEEK 6:** Oct. 5 - 11
Lesson 9
Chapter 13. How Does Racism Affect My Life?
1. Introduction, 433-434
5. Appiah, 445-449
6. Spelman, 449-454
Discussion Board Post 5

Lesson 10
Chapter 15. Can There Be Sexual Equality?
Introduction, 484-486
1. Plato, 487-491
2. Aristotle, 491
3. Kant, 491-492
4. Mill, 492-498
5. Frye, 499-505
Quiz 5


WEEK 7: Oct. 12 - 18
Lesson 11
Chapter 14. Why Shouldn't I Be Selfish?
Introduction, 456-459
2. Epicurus, 464-466.
5. Rachels, 476-480.
Quiz 6

Lesson 12
Chapter 16. What Is The Right Thing to Do?
Introduction, 516-518.
1. Aristotle, 524-531.
2. Kant, 532-535.
3. Mill, 535-539
5. de Beauvoir, 545-546.

FINAL EXAM OPENS ON OCTOBER 17th.
WEEK 8: Oct. 19 - 23 Work on Final Exam
FINAL EXAM OPENS ON OCTOBER 17th AND IS DUE ON OCTOBER 23rd AT NOON.