

World Philosophy II (PHIL 09213)

Fall 2016

T/R 11:00 Wilson 105

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Office Hours: TBD

Course Description

This course is an introduction to World Philosophies of from the Modern to Contemporary Periods. We will examine how philosophers from different cultures conceived of the relation between philosophy and religion, the nature of the self and its knowledge of the world, as well as the constitution of an ethical society. Of particular interest will be the question of how different modern European philosophers understood the non-European world and how their legacy shaped later philosophical conceptions of, and approaches to, the history of philosophy, decolonialization, identity, and freedom.

Learning Goals:

1. Develop an understanding of the History of Philosophy that adopts a Global perspective.
2. Gain familiarity with a range of philosophical ideas, approaches, and goals.
3. Cultivate an understanding of the way that geopolitical developments influence philosophical activity.
4. Improve the ability to understand, interpret, and take a critical stand toward difficult philosophical texts, complex philosophical ideas, and philosophical arguments.
5. Improve the ability to articulate and defend philosophical ideas and concepts in class discussions.

Communication

I will regularly use email to make announcements about the course. This is also the best way to contact me.

Grading Policy:

Class Participation (20%),

The participation grade consists of attendance and participation in classroom discussion. To receive full credit, students must attend class regularly, be attentive during class and actively contribute to classroom discussion.

Two 5-6 page papers (50%).

Students will write two papers on particular topics of interest to them. The instructor will distribute prompts well in advance of the due dates.

Final exam (30%).

Final: Two and a half hour exam (though it need not take the full time to complete). This exam will be cumulative, meaning that all the material from the semester will be fair game. Students will be given five short essay questions, and must respond to three of them.

Course Policies:**Attendance:**

Attendance will be taken regularly. Students may be excused from a class meeting in the event of a sports trip, illness or family emergency. Please submit of a proper excuse form to the instructor. More than two unexcused absences during the semester will result in a reduction in the student's participation grade.

Academic Integrity: You will be held to Rowan's standards of academic integrity without exception. The policy can be found at <http://www.rowan.edu/provost/policies/AcademicIntegrity.htm>. You must document any sources you use, whether quoting them directly or paraphrasing. If you are ever in any doubt about what is acceptable, please ask.

Late Work:

Work turned in after the due date will be penalized one-third of a letter grade per day. This means that, e.g., a B+ paper turned in one day late will be awarded a B.

Disabilities:

Your academic success is important. If you have a documented disability that may have an impact on your work in this class, please contact me. Students must provide documentation of their disability to the Academic Success Center in order to receive official University services and accommodations. The Academic Success Center can be reached at 856-256-4259 or successcenter@rowan.edu. The Center is located on the 3rd floor of Savitz Hall. The staff is available to answer questions regarding accommodations or assist you in your pursuit of accommodations.

Cell Phone and Computer Use:

All cell phones must be turned off and put away during class meetings. If the instructor notes a student using a cell phone during class, it will affect the student's participation grade. Computers/Tablets are allowed only for the purposes of taking notes and referring to assignments. If the instructor notices students using devices for any other purposes, it will affect the student's participation grade.

Grade Change Requests

If you want to formally discuss a grade you have received, please send me an email regarding why you think you should have received a different grade and return the assignment to me. No grade changes will be made in person. I will take the time to properly review your assignment and then consider your comments. ***Note*** I will never lower your grade because of this process.

Readings:

All readings for the course will be posted to the course Blackboard Page.

Schedule

Thursday, 9/1 Syllabus Review/Introduction

Reading World Philosophy Today

Tuesday, 9/6 Justin E. H. Smith: "Philosophy's Western Bias"

Thursday, 9/8 Brian Van Norden and Jay Garfield "If Philosophy won't Diversify, Let's Call it What it Really is."

The Philosopher and the Prophet

Tuesday 9/13 Al-Razi: "The Philosopher's Way of Life"

Thursday 9/15 Moses Maimonides: Selections from *Guide of the Perplexed*

Tuesday 9/20 Baruch Spinoza: Selections from *Theologico-Political Treatise*

Thursday 9/22 Pierre Bayle Selections from *Diverse Thoughts on the Occasion of a Comet*

Asian Philosophical Traditions: Confucianism, Hinduism, Buddhism

Tuesday 9/27 Wang Yangming: "Questions on the Great Learning"

Thursday 9/29 Wang Yangming: "A Record for Practice"

Tuesday 10/4 R.D. Ranade: "The Problem of Ultimate Reality in the Upanishads"

Thursday 10/6 D.T. Suzuki: Selections from *An Introduction to Zen Buddhism* **First Paper Due by 5PM***

European Philosophers Encounter the World

Tuesday 10/11 *Controversy between Sepúlveda and De las Casas*

Thursday 10/13 *Controversy between Sepúlveda/De las Casas debate*

Tuesday 10/18 G.W. Leibniz: *Discourse on the Natural Theology of the Chinese*

Thursday 10/20 G.W. Leibniz: *Discourse on the Natural Theology of the Chinese*

Tuesday 10/25 John Locke: Selections from *Second Treatise on Government*

Thursday 10/27 Jean-Jacques Rousseau: Selections from *Second Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*

Tuesday 11/1 G.W.F. Hegel: *Selections from Lectures on the History of Philosophy*

Thursday 11/3 G.W.F. Hegel: *Selections from Lectures on the History of Philosophy*

Decoloniality, Existentialism, Identity

Tuesday 11/8 – Election Day No Class

Thursday 11/10 Aimé Césaire *Discourse on Colonialism*

Tuesday 11/15 Frantz Fanon Selections from *The Wretched of the Earth*

Thursday 11/17 Frantz Fanon Selections from *The Wretched of the Earth*

Tuesday 11/22 Martin Luther King Jr. “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” ***Second Paper Due by 5PM***

Thursday 11/24 – Thanksgiving, No Class

Tuesday 11/ 29 Simone de Beauvoir Selections from *Ethics of Ambiguity*

Thursday 12/1 Simone de Beauvoir Selections from *Ethics of Ambiguity*

Tuesday 12/6 Kwame Anthony Appiah: Selections from: *The Ethics of Identity*

Thursday 12/8 Linda Alcoff: “Mestizo Identity”

Tuesday 12/13 – Review for Final Exam