



# INTRODUCTION TO WESTERN PHILOSOPHY

*Fall 2012 Syllabus*

PHILOSOPHY 100  
Section 002  
CRN: 10355  
MWF 11:00-11:50 AM  
UCB 118

Dr. Timothy J. Freeman  
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*Office Hours: MWF 1:00 - 1:50 PM and TR 2:00 - 3:00 PM  
and by appointment*

## CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION

### **Phil 100 Introduction to Western Philosophy**

Major philosophers, methods, and issues in Western philosophy. Discussion of such problems as our knowledge of reality, the freedom of the will, the relations between mind and body, morality, ethics, the meaning of life, and the existence of God.

## REQUIRED TEXT

*The Story of Philosophy*. Bryan Magee. New York: DK Publishing, Inc., 2001.

## COURSE WEB PAGE

<http://tfreeman.net/Philosophy/100a.html>

## COURSE CONTENT

This course will provide both an overview of the history of Western Philosophy as well as an exploration of some of the most important philosophical questions. While the primary textbook provides the broad overview of that history, supplemental readings of key texts from such important figures as Plato, Descartes and Nietzsche will be the focus of the course.

## STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

[Philosophy courses for GE purposes]: (As with all Philosophy courses) Students who successfully complete the course will be able to:

- respond clearly, logically and critically to examination questions and discussion questions about some important philosophical issues relevant to the course;
- read, comprehend, and discuss philosophical texts relevant to the course;
- compose effective written materials that assimilate, synthesize and reflect on course information;
- identify and describe in writing and in class discussion some important aspects of the cultural heritage and contributions of Western philosophy.

## COURSE FORMAT

Classroom sessions will be both lecture and discussion.

## CLASSROOM POLICIES

- \* All students are expected to come to class on time and to bring their books as well as paper and pen suitable for taking notes of class lectures.
- \* No laptop computers are to be used during class time.
- \* Active cellular telephones or paging devices are not permitted in class.
- \* No consumption of food is allowed during the class period.

## GRADING POLICY

The final grade will be based on the following:

1.	2 take-home short essay assignments	25% each
2.	Mid-term exam	25%
3.	Final exam	25%

*Attendance is important! More than 3 unexcused absences will negatively impact your grade for the course. Every fourth unexcused absence will result in 10 points deducted from the final grade average.*

### Grading will be determined according to the following scale:

A	95-100 Excellent	C +	77-79
A -	90-94	C	74-76 Satisfactory
B +	87-89	C -	70-73 Poor
B	84-86 Good	D	60-70 Failure
B -	80-83	F	below 60

**ADVISING STATEMENT**

Advising is a very important resource designed to help students complete the requirements of the University and their individual majors. Students should consult with their advisor at least once a semester to decide on courses, check progress towards graduation, and discuss career options and other educational opportunities provided by UH-Hilo. Advising is a shared responsibility, but students have final responsibility for meeting degree requirements.

**SPECIAL NEEDS**

Any student with a documented disability who would like to request for accommodations should contact the Disability Services Office at (808) 933-0816 (Voice), 808) 933-3334 (TTY), or [uds@hawaii.edu](mailto:uds@hawaii.edu), Hale Kuanoe A Wing Lounge, as early in the semester as possible.

**STUDENT CONDUCT CODE**

All students are expected to adhere to the Student Conduct Code as explained in the *University of Hawaii at Hilo 2011-2012 Undergraduate Catalog*:

*Course Schedule***Week 1: The Love of Wisdom**

- M 08/20      *Course Introduction and Orientation*  
 W 08/22      Early Greek Philosophy: The Pre-Socratics  
 F 08/24      Early Greek Philosophy: The Sophists  
                     Read Magee (pages 12-19) and the online handout *Early Greek Philosophy*

**Week 2: Plato: The Apology**

- M 08/27      The oracle at Delphi story (*The Apology* 17-24b)  
 W 08/29      The Socratic method (*The Apology* 24b - 28)  
 F 08/31      Socrates' defense of philosophy (*The Apology* 28-42)  
                     Read Magee (pages 20-23) and *The Apology*  
                             \* last day to completely withdraw from courses without owing tuition. \*

**Week 3: Plato: The Crito**

- M 09/03      \*Holiday: Labor Day\*  
 W 09/05      Crito tries to convince Socrates to escape (*The Crito* 43a-50)  
 F 09/07      Socrates' response to Crito (*The Crito* 50-54e)  
                     Read *The Crito*

**Week 4: Plato: The Phaedo**

- M 09/10      Philosophy as liberation for the soul (*The Phaedo* 57-68c)  
                     \*\*last day to withdraw from courses without "W"  
 W 09/12      Arguments for the immortality of the soul (*The Phaedo* 73b-84d)  
 F 09/14      Socrates' last words (*The Phaedo* 114c-118)  
                     Read Magee (pages 24-31) and the selections from *The Phaedo*

Week 5: Plato: *The Republic*

- M 09/17 The divided line (*The Republic VI 507b-511e*)  
 W 09/19 The myth of the cave (*The Republic VII 514-518d*)  
 F 09/21 The myth of the cave (*The Republic VII 514-518d*)  
 Read the selections from *The Republic*

Week 6: Descartes: *Meditations on First Philosophy*

- M 09/24 The Quest for Certainty (*Meditation One*, pp. 59-63)  
 W 09/26 "I Think, therefore, I am" (*Meditation Two*, pp. 63-69)  
 F 09/28 \*No Class: PACT Conference\*  
 Read Magee (pages 62-89) and *Meditations I & II*

Week 7: Descartes: *Meditations on First Philosophy*

- M 10/01 The Mind/Body Problem (*Meditation Six*, pp. 92-103)  
 W 10/03 The Mind/Body Problem (*Meditation Six*, pp. 92-103)  
 F 10/05 The Mind/Body Problem (*Meditation Six*, pp. 92-103)  
 Read *Meditation VI*

Week 8: Empiricism: Locke, Berkeley & Hume

- M 10/08 Locke: The starting point of Empiricism  
 W 10/10 Berkeley's Idealism  
 F 10/12 Hume's Skepticism  
 Read Magee (100-117) and selections from Locke, Berkeley & Hume  
 \*\*\*Last Day to Withdraw from Courses with "W"\*\*\*

Week 9: Kant: The Copernican Revolution in Philosophy

- M 10/15 \*Mid-term exam\*  
 W 10/17 Kant's Copernican Revolution  
 F 10/19 Kant's Copernican Revolution  
 Read Magee (pages 132-137) and the selections from Kant

Week 10: Dostoevsky: "The Grand Inquisitor"

- M 10/22 *The Grand Inquisitor*  
 W 10/24 *The Grand Inquisitor*  
 F 10/26 *The Grand Inquisitor*

Week 11: Nietzsche

- M 10/29 The death of God  
 W 10/31 The philosopher as artist  
 F 11/02 Perspectivism  
 Read Magee (pages 172-179) and the selections from Nietzsche

Week 12: Nietzsche

- M 11/05 *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*  
 W 11/07 *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*  
 F 11/09 *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*  
 Read the selections from *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*

**Week 13: The Ethics of War and Peace**M 11/12      *\*Holiday: Veteran's Day\**W 11/14      *The Ethics of War and Peace*F 11/16      *The Ethics of War and Peace*Read the selections on *The Ethics of War and Peace***Week 14: The Ethics of War and Peace**M 11/19      Film: *The Fog of War*W 11/21      Film: *The Fog of War*F 11/23      *\*No Class: Non-Instructional Day\****Week 15: Thoreau: "On Civil Disobedience"**

M 11/26      The highest form of patriotism

W 11/28      Civil disobedience

F 11/30      Discussion: The key to democracy?

Read "On Civil Disobedience"

**Week 16: King: "Letter from a Birmingham Jail"**

M 12/03      "Letter from a Birmingham Jail"

W 12/05      Film: "The Promised Land"

Read King's "Letter from a Birmingham Jail"

**Final Exam**

W 12/12 (9:40 am —11:40 am)

\*\*schedule is subject to revision\*\*