

FYS2010: – What is Philosophy? Global Perspectives on Philosophical History

T/F 2:30–3:50 ACE 115

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Office Hours: TBD and by appointment

Course Description:

What is philosophy? What does a philosopher look like and what is it that they do? Is philosophy a specifically “Western” or European phenomenon or is it something in which all human beings (or all intelligent life forms) participate? In this course, you will think about these questions as you investigate similarities, differences, and points of contact between world philosophical traditions. In addition to studying figures, texts, and ideas from the classical Indian, Chinese, and Ancient Greek traditions (among others), you will examine more recent case studies of cross-cultural philosophical interaction and investigate the role philosophy has played in global struggles for justice. In your final project, you will collaborate with other students to develop and apply your own approach to studying the history of philosophy from a global perspective

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

As a first-year seminar, this course aims to help students will establish connections with a community of peers and professionals at New College; foster their agency as learners and develop transferable academic skills such as the active and critical readings of texts. Students will also develop an understanding of philosophy as a global phenomenon and hone your ability to analyze and discuss philosophical arguments as well as learn how to conduct research in the history of philosophy.

Course Evaluation Criteria

Expectations for a “satisfactory” evaluation include regular attendance (no more than 3 absences during the semester), exhibition of an understanding of course material, participation in class discussion and community building activities, and on-time completion of assignments.

Assignments:

Regular short written reflections upon reading material (format TBD).

Completion of reflections, surveys, and activities related to the FYS/Set Sail program.

Group project involving original research on a philosophical figure.

Disability Services:

New College of Florida is committed to creating a learning environment that meets the needs of its student body. Students are welcome to privately discuss any concerns related to barriers to both fully participating and learning in this course. I highly encourage students with accommodations to meet with me as soon as possible.

If you have a disability, or think you may have a disability, you may contact the office of Student Disability Services (SDS) in order to request official accommodation(s). Students may contact SDS in-person (HCL3), at 941-487-4496 OR disabilityservices@ncf.edu. Additional information regarding SDS can be accessed here: <https://www.ncf.edu/student-disability-services/>

Academic Dishonesty Policy:

Students are expected to be familiar with the college's academic dishonesty policy, as described in the General Catalog. Any violation of this policy may result in academic sanctions, up to and including dismissal from the college.

Required Books:

The Bhagavad Gita, transl. Laurie L. Patton Penguin Classics, 1st edition (October 28, 2008)
ISBN: 9780140447903

Plato: *Five Dialogues: Euthyphro, Apology, Crito, Meno, Phaedo*; Hackett Publishing Company 2nd Ed. (October 1, 2002); ISBN: 9780872206335

Mengzi; translated by Bryan Van Norden; Hackett Publishing Company, Incorporated Edition; ISBN: 9780872209138

Justin E. H. Smith: *The Philosopher: A History in Six Types*; Princeton University Press; ISBN: 9780691178462

Additional course materials will be posted as PDFs on the course Canvas page.

Schedule of Readings (Tentative and subject to Change)

Tuesday 8/24 Introductions

Friday 8/27 Prologue to Diogenes Laërtius: *Lives of the Eminent Philosophers*. Agency as Learner assignment due.

Tuesday 8/30 Bryan Van Norden: "A Manifesto for Multicultural Philosophy." What is a philosophical argument?

Friday 9/3 Plato: *Euthyphro*. Student Success Coach ("SSC") class visit. Students should make an appointment to meet with an SSC in person

Tuesday 9/7 Plato: *Crito*. Visit from Madeline Tympanick, Assistant Director of the Career Center/CEO.

Friday 9/10 Plato *Phaedo*. "Analyze an Argument" assignment due.

Tuesday 9/14 Plato: *Phaedo*. Visit from Dr. Jenn Wells, director of Writing and of the Writing Center at New College.

Friday 9/17 Mengzi Books 1A–2A

Tuesday 9/21 Mengzi Books 2B–3B Growth Mindset” in Mengzi.

Friday 9/24 Mengzi Books 4A–5B Active Reading Strategies Assignment due.
SSC class visit.

Tuesday 9/28 Mengzi 6A–7B

Friday 10/1 Bhagavad Gita, Discourses 1–6. Student Success Plan Reflection due

Tuesday 10/5 Bhagavad Gita Discourses 7–12

Friday 10/8 Bhagavad Gita Discourses 13–18 Letter to a Future Student Assignment due

Fall Break Week of 10/11-10/15

Tuesday 10/19 Selections from De Las Casas/Sepulveda debate.

Friday 10/22 Mohandas Gandhi, Selections on Satyagraha/Non-Violence.

Tuesday 10/26 St. Thomas Aquinas, MLK Jr. on Natural Law and Non-Violence.

Friday 10/29 Frantz Fanon: “On Violence” from *The Wretched of the Earth*, “Analyze an Argument” Assignment due.

Tuesday 11/2 Helene Gold visit/Library Research Methods

Friday 11/5 David Haekwon Kim: “What is Asian-American Philosophy”

Tuesday 11/9 Linda Martín Alcoff, “On Being Mixed,” from *Visible Identities: Race, Gender, and the Self*.

Friday 11/12 Justin E. H. Smith: *The Philosopher: A History in Six Types*, Introduction + & Chapter 1

Tuesday 11/16 Justin E. H. Smith: *The Philosopher*, Chapter 2: “The Sage,” class visit from the CEO.

Friday 11/19: Justin E. H. Smith: *The Philosopher*, Chapter 3 & 4.

Tuesday 11/23. Justin E. H. Smith: *The Philosopher*, Chapter 5, Group final Project session.

Friday **No Class Thanksgiving Holiday**

Tuesday 11/30 Justin E. H. Smith: *The Philosopher*, Chapter 6 & Conclusion

Group Final Project Due Friday 12/10