

## **PHI 2000: The History of Ideas**

Florida Gulf Coast University

Spring 2016

TR: 6:30 - 7:45 PM | Merwin 115

Instructor: Tim Hsiao

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Office hours: After class, otherwise by  
appointment / email.

### **Course description**

PHI 2000 is a historically-based survey course designed to introduce you to the great ideas of philosophy. Topics that will be covered include the existence of God, the nature of reality, the basis of human knowledge, morality, and the foundations of a just society.

### **Learning objectives**

The purpose of this class is to equip you with the knowledge and skills needed to think critically and rationally about some of life's biggest questions. By the conclusion of this class, you should be able to (a) understand the great ideas and (b) formulate a coherent worldview.

### **Textbook**

Ed L. Miller and Jon Jensen, *Questions that Matter: An Invitation to Philosophy* (6th Edition). McGraw-Hill: 2009. Primary source readings are integrated into the textbook.

### **Coursework**

*This is a writing intensive course.* You will be graded on the basis of five short writing assignments (275-350 words, worth 30%), one long research paper (2200-2400 words, worth 40%), and one cumulative final exam (matching/multiple choice, worth 25%). There will also be two pop quizzes (worth 5%) that will be given *at random* during the semester. There *may* be opportunities for extra credit throughout the semester.

### **Course Schedule**

The schedule is outlined below. If I decide that it is necessary to change the schedule, I will let you know well in advance via email.

1/7/16	Introduction	N/A
1/12/16	What is Philosophy?	QTM, 5-15
1/14/16	Logic and Argumentation	QTM, 15-31
1/19/16	The Existence of God (cosmological argument)	QTM, 245-259

1/21/16	The Existence of God (teleological argument)	QTM, 259-274
1/26/16	The Existence of God (moral argument)	QTM, 279-296
1/28/16	The Existence of God (problem of evil)	QTM, 307-333
<b>2/2/16*</b>	Metaphysics	QTM, 39-47
2/4/16	Metaphysics	QTM, 51-79
2/9/16	Philosophy of Mind: Dualism	QTM, 83-103
2/11/16	Philosophy of Mind: Materialism	QTM, 131-153
<b>2/16/16*</b>	Epistemology: Skepticism	QTM, 161-180
2/18/16	Epistemology: Rationalism	QTM, 182-202
2/23/16	Epistemology: Empiricism	QTM, 205-227
<b>2/25/16*</b>	Ethics: Relativism, Egoism, Nihilism	QTM, 341-370
3/1/16	Ethics: Utilitarianism	QTM, 373-393
3/3/16	Ethics: Deontology	QTM, 397-314
3/8/16	SPRING BREAK	
3/10/16	SPRING BREAK	
3/15/16	Ethics: Natural Law / Virtue Theory	QTM, 417-432
3/17/16	Applied Ethics: The Morality of Abortion	TBA (Canvas)
<b>3/22/16*</b>	Aesthetics	No reading
3/24/16	Political Philosophy: Liberty	QTM, 429-459
3/29/16	Political Philosophy: Social Contract Theory	QTM, 463-478
3/31/16	Political Philosophy: Justice	QTM, 481-506
<b>4/5/16*</b>	RESERVED	TBA
4/7/16	RESERVED	TBA
4/12/16	RESERVED	TBA
4/14/16	Exam review / Final paper drafts due	

4/19/16	Free day to study / work	
4/21/16	<b>Final exam / Final paper due</b>	

### **Academic Behavior Standards and Academic Dishonesty**

All students are expected to demonstrate honesty in their academic pursuits. The university policies regarding issues of honesty can be found in the FGCU Student Guidebook under the Student Code of Conduct and Policies and Procedures sections. All students are expected to study this document which outlines their responsibilities and consequences for violations of the policy. The FGCU Student Guidebook is available online at <http://studentservices.fgcu.edu/judicialaffairs/new.html>

### **Disability Accommodations Services**

Florida Gulf Coast University, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the university's guiding principles, will provide classroom and academic accommodations to students with documented disabilities. If you need to request an accommodation in this class due to a disability, or you suspect that your academic performance is affected by a disability, please contact the Office of Adaptive Services. The Office of Adaptive Services is located in Howard Hall 137. The phone number is 239-590-7956 or TTY 239-590-7930

### **Student Observance of Religious Holidays**

All students at Florida Gulf Coast University have a right to expect that the University will reasonably accommodate their religious observances, practices, and beliefs. Students, upon prior notification to their instructors, shall be excused from class or other scheduled academic activity to observe a religious holy day of their faith. Students shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up the material or activities covered in their absence. Students shall not be penalized due to absence from class or other scheduled academic activity because of religious observances. Where practicable, major examinations, major assignments, and University ceremonies will not be scheduled on a major religious holy day. A student who is to be excused from class for a religious observance is not required to provide a second party certification of the reason for the absence.

### **Resources for Faculty General Education**

Information on General Education program requirements is available online at [http://www.fgcu.edu/General\\_Education/index.html](http://www.fgcu.edu/General_Education/index.html)

### **Service-Learning**

Information on integrating service-learning into the course and course syllabus is available online at <http://www.fgcu.edu/Connect/>

### **Distance-Learning**

Information on distance learning courses is available online at <http://itech.fgcu.edu/distance/>

### **Online Tutorials**

Information on online tutorials to assist students is available online at <http://www.fgcu.edu/support/>

### **ANGEL Learning Management System and Demonstration Site**

Information on ANGEL is available online at <http://elearning.fgcu.edu/frames.aspx> and <http://elearning.fgcu.edu/section/default.asp?id=xxxDemoonlinecoursestudent>

### **Library Resources**

Main page: <http://library.fgcu.edu/>

Tutorials & Handouts: <http://library.fgcu.edu/RSD/Instruction/tutorials.htm>

Research Guides: <http://fgcu.libguides.com/>

Faculty Support: [http://library.fgcu.edu/faculty\\_index.html](http://library.fgcu.edu/faculty_index.html)

Contact Us: <http://library.fgcu.edu/LBS/about/contactus.htm>