

**PROFESSOR:** Timothy Hsiao

**PHONE NUMBER:** Email preferred

**OFFICE LOCATION:** L-107

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**OFFICE HOURS:** By appointment

**SEMESTER:** Fall 2016

**I. COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE, CATALOG DESCRIPTION, CREDITS:**

**PHI 2010 INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY (3 CREDITS)**

This is a basic course in philosophical thinking. Selected readings from Socrates to Sartre are included.

**II. PREREQUISITES FOR THIS COURSE:**

None

**CO-REQUISITIES FOR THIS COURSE:**

None

**III. GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION: Topic Outline.**

- The nature of philosophy and philosophical inquiry;
- The nature of philosophy in contrast to science, religion, and politics;
- Major areas of philosophy historically;
- Philosophical questions of contemporary concern;
- Important figures in the history of philosophy and their views;
- Major philosophical movements from the history of philosophy;
- Questions concerning the nature of humanity and meaning
- Contrasting views on reality, knowledge, values, or political systems
- Critiques of or alternatives to traditional western philosophy

**IV. LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ASSESSMENT:**

**GENERAL EDUCATION COMPETENCIES:**

General education courses must meet at least four out of the five following outcomes. All other courses will meet one or more of these outcomes.

*Communication (COM):* To communicate effectively using standard English (written or oral).

*Critical Thinking (CT):* To demonstrate skills necessary for analysis, synthesis, and evaluation.

*Technology/Information Management (TIM):* To demonstrate the skills and use the technology necessary to collect, verify, document, and organize information from a variety of sources.

*Global Socio-cultural Responsibility (GSR):* To identify, describe, and apply responsibilities, core civic beliefs, and values present in a diverse society.

*Scientific and Quantitative Reasoning (QR):* To identify and apply mathematical and scientific principles and methods.

**ADDITIONAL COURSE COMPETENCIES:**

At the conclusion of this course, students will be able to demonstrate the following additional competencies:

Learning Outcomes	Assessments	General Education Competencies
Recognize major figures from the history of philosophy and appraise their views.	Students will demonstrate these outcomes through documentable student interactions or presentations, exams, short reflective writings or essays	COM, CT, TIM
Summarize major movements and positions from the history of philosophy.		GSR, COM, TIM
Recognize and evaluate critiques or alternatives to traditional western philosophy.		CT, GSR, COM, TIM
Identify contemporary issues of philosophical concern.		COM, TIM, GSR
Infer connections between philosophy and everyday life.		CT, COM
Analyze and evaluate beliefs and attitudes in a diverse society.		CT, GSR, TIM, COM
Resist the urge for quick and easy answers.		CT, GSR
Demonstrate willingness to inhabit the position of another.		CT, GSR
Relate the course material to life outside the classroom.		CT, GSR
Engage with the course material on a personal level.		CT, GSR

**V. DISTRICT-WIDE POLICIES:**

**PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Florida SouthWestern State College, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the College’s guiding principles, offers students with documented disabilities programs to equalize access to the educational process. Students needing to request an accommodation in this class due to a disability, or who suspect that their academic performance is affected by a disability should contact the Office of Adaptive Services at the nearest campus. The office locations and telephone numbers for the Office of Adaptive Services at each campus can be found at <http://www.fsw.edu/adaptiveservices>.

**REPORTING TITLE IX VIOLATIONS**

Florida SouthWestern State College, in accordance with Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act, has established a set of procedures for reporting and investigating Title IX violations including sexual misconduct. Students who need to report an incident or need to receive support regarding an incident should contact the Equity Officer at [equity@fsw.edu](mailto:equity@fsw.edu). Incoming students are encouraged to participate in the Sexual Violence Prevention training offered online. Additional information and resources can be found on the College’s website at <http://www.fsw.edu/sexualassault>.

**VI. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE STUDENTS:**

Students are expected to attend all classes, participate in discussion, and submit all assignments on time. The required readings should be completed before the student comes to class.

The use of electronic devices is discouraged but permitted for note-taking purposes. I reserve the right to prohibit electronic devices if they are deemed a distraction. Students who use laptop computers or tablets must sit towards the front of the class.

**VII. ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. While attendance is not mandatory, it is *strongly encouraged* for a student’s class participation grade. Attendance will be taken into consideration in cases where a student’s final grade is borderline (one point) to a higher letter grade. Absences that result in missed or late assignments *must* require an excuse, otherwise a grade of zero will be awarded. Excused absences must require written documentation and include, but are not limited to illness, religious holidays, medical emergencies, family emergencies, or school events.

**VIII. GRADING POLICY:**

- Pre-test/post-test: 5%
- Class participation: 10%
- Mid-term exam: 25%
- Persuasive speech: 30%
- Short response papers: 30%

Students are required to turn in a short paper (1-2 pages) for each topic that we discuss. These are meant to be brief responses, reflections, or analyses of relevant issues pertaining to a specific topic. These papers are to be submitted electronically via Canvas.

I take plagiarism **VERY** seriously, and any student caught plagiarizing their paper will receive an automatic zero for that assignment. Further penalties will be up to my discretion.

At the end of the semester, each student will present a short persuasive speech (4-6 minutes) about one of the issues that will have been covered in the course. Topics must receive prior approval from me.

90 - 100	=	A
80 - 89	=	B
70 - 79	=	C
60 - 69	=	D
Below 60	=	F

**IX. REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS:**

Lewis Vaughn, *Philosophy Here and Now* (Oxford University Press: 2013).

**X. RESERVED MATERIALS FOR THE COURSE:**

The textbook has not been held in reserve in the library. It is your responsibility to acquire it.

**XI. CLASS SCHEDULE:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Due</b>
8/29	COURSE OVERVIEW	NA
8/31	Introduction to philosophy	Vaughn, 2-13
9/5	LABOR DAY – NO CLASS	NA
9/7	Introduction to logic	Vaughn, 13-36
9/12	Existence of God: cosmological arguments	Vaughn, 55-68
9/14	Existence of God: teleological arguments	Vaughn, 69-79
9/19	Existence of God: moral arguments and the problem of evil	Vaughn, 80-88; excerpts from C. S. Lewis, <i>Mere Christianity</i> (Canvas)
9/21	Faith and reason	Vaughn, 89-105; <b><u>SRP 1 DUE</u></b>
9/26	Philosophy of mind: dualism	Vaughn, 196-208
9/28	Philosophy of mind: materialism	Vaughn, 208-221
10/3	Metaphysics: determinism/compatibilism	Vaughn, 229-243
10/5	Metaphysics: free will	Vaughn, 243-253; <b><u>SRP 2 DUE</u></b>
10/10	Epistemology: rationalism	Vaughn, 263-280
10/12	Epistemology: empiricism	Vaughn, 281-298
10/17	EXAM REVIEW	EXAM REVIEW; <b><u>SRP 3 DUE</u></b>
10/19	MID TERM EXAM	MID TERM EXAM
10/24	Moral theory: relativism/objectivism	Vaughn, 143-149
10/26	Moral theory: utilitarianism	Vaughn, 150-162
10/31	Moral theory: deontology	Vaughn, 163-168
11/2	Moral theory: virtue ethics/natural law	Vaughn, 168-174; excerpts from Edward Feser, "Classical Natural Law Theory" (Canvas); <b><u>SRP 4 DUE</u></b>
11/7	Applied ethics: TBA	TBA
11/9	TBA	TBA
11/14	Political philosophy: justice	Vaughn, 338-346
11/16	Political philosophy: Social contract theory	Vaughn, 347-362
11/21	Political philosophy: communism/socialism	Vaughn, 362-369 <b><u>SRP 5 DUE</u></b>
11/23	The meaning of life	Vaughn, 390-407; William Lane Craig, excerpts from "The Absurdity of Life without God" (Canvas)
11/28	PRESENTATIONS	PRESENTATIONS
11/30	PRESENTATIONS	PRESENTATIONS
12/5	PRESENTATIONS	PRESENTATIONS
12/7	PRESENTATIONS	PRESENTATIONS

The class schedule may be subject to change during the semester. If this happens, I will give advance

notice within a reasonable amount of time.

**XII. OTHER INFORMATION OR CLASS PROCEDURES OR POLICIES:**

The College expects all students to be honest in their academic endeavors.

Procedures: The College Catalog prohibits:

1. Cheating on an academic exercise.
2. Plagiarizing the words, ideas, or data of others by not properly acknowledging the source.
3. Fabricating information with the intent to deceive.
4. Submitting any academic accomplishment in whole or in part for credit more than once whether in the same course or in different courses without the explicit consent of the instructor.
5. Obtaining or attempting to obtain an examination before, during, or after the exam has been given.
6. Failing to follow approved test-taking procedures by performing such acts as changing answers after the examination is scored and communicating with another person during an exam or leaving while an exam is in progress without permission.
7. Copying, editing, deleting, or intentionally damaging the College Computer files without permission.
8. Altering, changing, or forging College academic records or forging the signature of any academic officer. The academic penalty for dishonesty violations may result in a student earning a zero/"F" for the assignment or the course as indicated by the particular case."