

Philosophy 100 - Introduction to Philosophy

Instructor: Christopher Arledge

UMBC Fall 2024

Course Details

Email: carledge@umbc.edu
Course Number: PHIL 100
Time: MW 5:30-6:45 p.m.
Room: PAHB 108
Office Hours: By appointment
Office: PAHB 465

Course Description

The course serves as an introduction to philosophical thinking and some of the perennial philosophical movements in the history of philosophy. Our emphasis will be on philosophy as a way of and guide to life. We will look at philosophies such as Ancient Greek philosophical schools, Nihilism, Existentialism, and Postmodernism to give you a sense of different ways of thinking about being in the world. Towards the end of the course we will also look at some contemporary topics in philosophy including time travel and the existence of God.

University Requirements Satisfied by the Course

General Education Requirements - Arts and Humanities (AH)

Functional Competencies - Critical Analysis and Reasoning

Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete this course should be able to:

1. Have an understanding of what philosophy is and how philosophical thinking works.
2. Be able to explain the central ideas of several philosophical movements/schools including
 - Differences between ancient Greek philosophical schools (including cynicism, stoicism, and skepticism) and how these philosophies still have relevance to our daily living
 - Ideas of Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, and Schopenhauer and how these ideas fit into the broader historical philosophical context
 - Key tenants of existentialism and how these ideas play out in our lives
 - Key tenants of postmodernism and how these ideas might apply to scientific societies
 - Paradoxes of time travel
 - Arguments for and against the existence of God
 - Different views on classifications of conspiracy theories and what makes certain conspiracy theories epistemological defective

3. Be able to identify philosophical issues in popular media.
4. Have the ability to write a paper presenting philosophical ideas and providing a critical analysis of those ideas

Readings

Required Texts

All readings will be distributed on Blackboard. Students do not need to purchase any texts.

Methods of Evaluation

Attendance (10%) - Students are required to attend the lecture and participate. Each unexcused absence will result in a loss of a percent.

Exams (20% each) - Students will be required to complete three in-class exams on the dates specified below. Each exam will consist of a series of short essay questions and will not be cumulative. More details will be given in class.

Presentation Proposal (10%) - Students will be required to submit final paper proposal. The template for this proposal will be handed out in class and students are expected to adhere to the template.

Final Paper (20%) - Students will be required to give a 4-5 page essay identifying and analyzing a philosophical issue found in media. The medium can be of the students choosing and the details of the assignment will be discussed in class.

Schedule

The precise schedule is TBD, but the course will be organized into three units.

1. Ancient Greek Philosophies
 - Virtue theory
 - Cynicism
 - Stoicism
 - Skepticism
2. Modern Philosophy
 - Kierkegaard
 - Pessimism
 - Nietzsche
 - Existentialism and Absurdism
 - Postmodernism
3. Philosophical Topics
 - Existence of God
 - Paradoxes of time travel
 - Aesthetics
 - Conspiracy theories

Assignment Due Dates

The assignment due dates are fixed, regardless of where we are in the readings. These are hard deadlines and every day they are late will deduct from your grade. If there is an issue please consult with me. I cannot be flexible unless I have some idea that an issue is going on, but I am happy to accommodate once we have a discussion.

Exam 1 - Due Date: **Wednesday October 2**

Exam 2 - Due Date: **Wednesday November 6**

Presentation Proposal - Due Date: **Monday November 18**

Exam 3 - Due Date: **Monday December 9**

Final Paper: Due Date: **Wednesday December 18**

Classroom Policies

Attendance - Attendance will be taken each period and will count towards your final grade. You are allotted 3 absences, plus any additional absences in the case of emergency (let me know about these and I'll be flexible)

Technology - The use of laptops and tablets is permitted on the condition that they are used for class purposes. Using a device for a non-class related purpose will distract you, and those around you, so please don't be rude and wait until after class to browse.

From the University

UMBC Statement of Values for Academic Integrity

By enrolling in this course, each student assumes the responsibilities of an active participant in UMBC's scholarly community in which everyone's academic work and behavior are held to the highest standards of honesty. Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, and helping others to commit these acts are all forms of academic dishonesty, and they are wrong. Academic misconduct could result in disciplinary action that may include, but is not limited to, suspension or dismissal. To read the full Student Academic Conduct Policy, consult the UMBC Student Handbook, or the Office of Undergraduate Education.

Sexual Assault, Sexual Harassment, and Gender Based Violence and Discrimination

UMBC Policy in addition to federal and state law (to include Title IX) prohibits discrimination and harassment on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity in University programs and activities. Any student who is impacted by sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, sexual exploitation, gender discrimination, pregnancy discrimination, gender-based harassment, or related retaliation should contact the University's Title IX Coordinator to make a report and/or access support and resources. The Title IX Coordinator can be reached at titleixcoordinator@umbc.edu or **410-455-1717**. You can access support and resources even if you do not want to take any further action. You will not be forced to file a formal complaint or police report. Please be aware that the University may take action on its own if essential to protect the safety of the community.

If you are interested in making a report, please use the Online Reporting/Referral Form. Please note that, if you report anonymously, the University's ability to respond will be limited. Notice that Faculty and Teaching Assistants are Responsible Employees with Mandatory Reporting Obligations.

All faculty members and teaching assistants are considered Responsible Employees, per UMBC's Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Sexual Harassment, and Gender Discrimination. Faculty and teaching

assistants therefore required to report all known information regarding alleged conduct that may be a violation of the Policy to the Title IX Coordinator, even if a student discloses an experience that occurred before attending UMBC and/or an incident that only involves people not affiliated with UMBC. Reports are required regardless of the amount of detail provided and even in instances where support has already been offered or received.

While faculty members want to encourage you to share information related to your life experiences through discussion and written work, students should understand that faculty are required to report past and present sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic and dating violence, stalking, and gender discrimination that is shared with them to the Title IX Coordinator so that the University can inform students of their rights, resources, and support. While you are encouraged to do so, you are not obligated to respond to outreach conducted as a result of a report to the Title IX Coordinator.

If you need to speak with someone in confidence, who does not have an obligation to report to the Title IX Coordinator, UMBC has a number of Confidential Resources available to support you:

Retriever Integrated Health (Main Campus): 410-455-2472; Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.; For After-Hours Support, Call 988.

Center for Counseling and Well-Being (Shady Grove Campus): 301-738-6273; Monday-Thursday 10:00a.m. – 7:00 p.m. and Friday 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (virtual) Online Appointment Request Form

Pastoral Counseling via The Gathering Space for Spiritual Well-Being: 410-455-6795; **i3b@umbc.edu**; Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Other Resources: Women’s Center (open to students of all genders): 410-455-2714; **women-scenter@umbc.edu**; Monday – Thursday 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and Friday 10:00 a.m. – 4 p.m. Shady Grove Student Resources, Maryland Resources, National Resources.

Child Abuse and Neglect

Please note that Maryland law and UMBC policy require that faculty report all disclosures or suspicions of child abuse or neglect to the Department of Social Services and/or the police even if the person who experienced the abuse or neglect is now over 18.

Pregnant and Parenting Students

UMBC’s Policy on Sexual Misconduct, Sexual Harassment and Gender Discrimination expressly prohibits all forms of discrimination and harassment on the basis of sex, including pregnancy. Resources for pregnant, parenting and breastfeeding students are available through the University’s Office of Equity and Civil Rights. Pregnant and parenting students are encouraged to contact the Title IX Coordinator to discuss plans and ensure ongoing access to their academic program with respect to a leave of absence – returning following leave, or any other accommodation that may be needed related to pregnancy, childbirth, adoption, breastfeeding, and/or the early months of parenting. In addition, students who are pregnant and have an impairment related to their pregnancy that qualifies as disability under the ADA may be entitled to accommodations through the Office of Student Disability Services.

Accessibility and Disability Accommodations, Guidance and Resources

Accommodations for students with disabilities are provided for all students with a qualified disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA & ADAAA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act who request and are eligible for accommodations. The Office of Student Disability Services (SDS) is the UMBC department designated to coordinate accommodations that creates equal access for students when barriers to participation exist in University courses, programs, or activities. If you have a documented disability and need to request academic accommodations in your courses,

please refer to the SDS website at sds.umbc.edu for registration information and office procedures.

SDS email: disAbility@umbc.edu

SDS phone: 410-455-2459

If you will be using SDS approved accommodations in this class, please contact the instructor to discuss implementation of the accommodations. During remote instruction requirements due to COVID, communication and flexibility will be essential for success.

Religious Observances and Accommodations

UMBC Policy provides that students should not be penalized because of observances of their religious beliefs, and that students shall be given an opportunity, whenever feasible, to make up within a reasonable time any academic assignment that is missed due to individual participation in religious observances. It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor of any intended absences or requested modifications for religious observances in advance, and as early as possible. For questions or guidance regarding religious observances and accommodations, please contact the Office of Equity and Civil Rights at ecr@umbc.edu.

Hate, Bias, Discrimination and Harassment

UMBC values safety, cultural and ethnic diversity, social responsibility, lifelong learning, equity, and civic engagement. Consistent with these principles, UMBC Policy prohibits discrimination and harassment in its educational programs and activities or with respect to employment terms and conditions based on race, creed, color, religion, sex, gender, pregnancy, ancestry, age, gender identity or expression, national origin, veterans status, marital status, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, or genetic information. Students (and faculty and staff) who experience discrimination, harassment, hate, or bias based upon a protected status or who have such matters reported to them should use the online reporting/referral form to report discrimination, hate, or bias incidents. You may report incidents that happen to you anonymously. Please note that, if you report anonymously, the University's ability to respond may be limited.