

## PHL 2040 Master Course Syllabus

### I. College/Dept. Information

College:	College of Liberal Arts
Department:	Philosophy

### II. Course Information

Course Title:	Great Books: Philosophy
Course Abbreviation and Number:	PHL 2040
Course Credit Hours:	3.0 Semester Hours
Course Cross Listing(s):	N/A
General Education Course:	Yes
Writing Intensive Course:	Yes
Service Learning Course:	No
Laboratory Course:	No
Ohio TAG Course:	Yes
Ohio Transfer Module Course:	Yes

### III. Course Registration

Prerequisites:	N/A
Corequisites:	PHL 2040W
Restrictions:	N/A

### IV. Student Learning Outcomes

PHL 2040 satisfies Area 4 of the Wright State Core Requirements. This area is described as follows:

Area 4 requirements will help students develop an intellectual and aesthetic appreciation of significant artistic works and of important literary, religious, and philosophical texts. Students will explore how such works express both personal vision and cultural concerns. They will also examine the specific means writers, composers and creative and performing artists adopt to communicate with their audience.

More specifically, we can divide the goals into two broad categories: familiarizing students with certain important philosophical ideas on the one hand (the *content* of the course), and on the other developing in students important *skills* needed to be productive, self-aware, and flourishing people.

In terms of the goals focusing on the *content* of the philosophical ideas we will consider, this course will allow students to:

- Learn about the ideas and arguments of historically important philosophers
- Discover the interconnections between these ideas and arguments
- Appreciate how these ideas and arguments are relevant to the concerns of any intelligent person

In terms of the goals focusing on the *skills* gained by doing philosophy, this course will allow students to:

- Develop their critical thinking skills by forcing them to search for *reasons* for various beliefs and to evaluate the *strength* of those reasons
- Sharpen both their written and oral communication skills
- Increase *precision* and *rigor* in thinking and writing
- Extend their imaginations of what is possible

#### V. Suggested Course Materials

- A.) Plato. The Republic.
- B.) Epicurus. The Epicurus Reader.
- C.) J. S. Mill. On Liberty.
- D.) Nietzsche. On The Genealogy of Morals.
- E.) T. Nagel. Mortal Questions.

#### VI. Suggested Method of Instruction

PHL 2040 is a lecture course.

#### VII. Suggested Evaluation and Policy

A.) Short Writing Assignments:.....5% of class grade

These short writing assignments will be used to ensure students are keeping up with the reading, to foster class discussion, and to aid in the comprehension of the material. They are graded as either satisfactory or unsatisfactory.

B.) Reading Comprehension Quizzes:.....5% of class grade

The unannounced quizzes are designed to test whether students have read the required material. They will be given letter grades. The lowest two will be dropped, and the rest will be averaged.

C.) Midterm Exams (2):.....40% of class grade

Two in-class exams with a mixture of multiple-choice questions, short answer questions, and essay questions.

D.) Final Exam:.....25% of class grade

A comprehensive exam covering the entire semester. The test will consist of multiple choice questions, short answer questions, and essay questions.

E.) Argumentative Essay:.....25% of class grade

Students are required to write a six to eight page argumentative essay defending a thesis relevant to the topic discussed in the course. A rough draft is required to receive a passing grade on the paper.

### VIII. Suggested Grading Policy

To determine the letter grade for PHL 2040:

I use Grade Points in order to determine your final grade. For each assignment you will receive a letter grade (anywhere from an A+ to an F). I will convert each letter grade to a grade point using the following scale:

A+ = 4.3	B+ = 3.3	C+ = 2.3	D+ = 1.3
A = 4.0	B = 3.0	C = 2.0	D = 1.0
A- = 3.7	B- = 2.7	C- = 1.7	D- = .7

I will then multiply each grade point by its relative weight in determining the overall class grade. I will add these numbers together, and the result will be a number between 0 and 4.3. I will then convert this number back to a letter grade using the following scale:

3.5 or higher = A; 2.5-3.49 = B; 1.5-2.49 = C; .5-1.49 = D; .49 or less = F

### To Determine the Grace for the Writing Intensive Portion of PHL 2040

In order to receive a "Pass" on the writing intensive portion of the class you must (a) turn in all parts of the argumentative essay assignment, turn in the majority of the short writing assignments, and complete the midterms and the final and (b) you must have at least a "C" average for those parts. Notice that there are two parts to this requirement, and that you must satisfy both parts in order to receive a P.

## IX. Suggested Assignments and Course Outline

Weeks 1-4:

Plato's *Republic*

Week 5:

Epicurus

End of Week 5: Midterm #1

Weeks 6-8:

Mill's *On Liberty*

Weeks 9-11:

Nietzsche's *On The Genealogy of Morals*

End of Week 11: Midterm #2

Weeks 12-14:

Nagel's *Mortal Questions*

Beginning of Week 12: Rough Drafts Due

End of Week 14: Final Drafts Due