

Philosophy 101 Introduction to Philosophy and Values

Spring Semester 2015 / Schedule #22443

Araceli Peñafuerte Neuner

We shall try to abide by the conditions set forth in this syllabus; however, we reserve the right to make changes as needed to ensure that we fulfill our course objectives. You will be given fair notice about such changes.



COURSE INFORMATION

Class Days: Monday and Wednesday

Class Times: 11:00-11:50 am

Class Location: Hardy Tower 140

Instructor Email: aneuner1@mail.sdsu.edu

Office Hours Times: Mon and Wed 1-1:45 pm
and Tues 10:00 am to 12:00 noon.

Office Hours Location: Arts and Letters 444

aneuner@att.net (non-course related question)

COURSE OVERVIEW

In this ethics course, we shall explore a wide variety of classical ethical theories and learn how philosophers both past and present have approached fundamental ethical questions. In addition, we shall apply the ethical theories and valid moral principles we have learned to analyze current moral problems in our society. Specific goals of this course include:

- To present central moral theories and most influential ideas in Western philosophy: divine law theory, hedonism, ethical egoism, utilitarianism, deontology, virtue ethics, feminist ethics, and existentialism
- To introduce students to original writings of classical and present day philosophers: Plato, Aristotle, Hobbes, Augustine, Mill, Kant, Nietzsche, Sartre, Beauvoir, etc.
- To compare and contrast opposing philosophical points of views and understand the similarities and differences in light of cultural and historical factors
- To broaden students' perspectives and help them appreciate well-structured arguments and significant conceptual distinctions
- To teach students to apply ethical theories to controversial moral issues and practical situations such genetic cloning, abortion, euthanasia, etc.
- To train students to criticize the reasoning of others and to develop some analytic and logical skills
- To challenge students to think about what kind of life to live, what kind of person to be, and what things are worth living or dying for

ENROLLMENT OVERVIEW

- Prerequisites: None
- Deadline to add, drop or change grading basis: February 3 (11:59 pm)

COURSE MATERIALS

- Required Book: *Introduction to Philosophy and Values Reader* (only available at SDSU bookstore)
- On Reserve: A copy of this reader will be available at SDSU Library Circulation/Course Reserves) for 24-hour check out.
- For exams, each student will need five green scantrons (#882) for the semester.

GENERAL EDUCATION OUTCOMES

Philosophy 101 is a General Education course aimed at “providing the breadth of knowledge necessary for meaningful work, life-long learning, socially responsible citizenship, and intellectual development. Among the “seven essential capacities” emphasized by San Diego State’s General Education program, Philosophy 101 develops in students the ability to

1. Construct, analyze, and communicate arguments;
2. Apply theoretical models to the real world;
3. Contextualize phenomena;
4. Negotiate differences;
5. Integrate global and local perspectives;
6. Illustrate relevance of concepts across boundaries;
7. Evaluate consequences of actions.

Philosophy 101 fulfills the goals for GE Courses in the Humanities and Fine Arts. Students will acquire “capacities for reflection, critique, communication, [and] cultural understanding.”

Goal 1: Analyze written, visual, or performed texts in the humanities and fine arts with sensitivity to their diverse cultural contexts and historical moments.

Goal 2: Develops a familiarity with various aesthetic and other value systems and the ways they are communicated across time and cultures.

Goal 3: Argue from multiple perspectives about issues in the humanities that have personal and global relevance.

Goal 4: Demonstrate the ability to approach complex problems and ask complex questions drawing upon knowledge of the humanities.

SUCCESS IN A HYBRID COURSE

This hybrid course offers the advantage of two class meetings during the week (Mon and Wed) with a third meeting held online. This third meeting will consist of either a prerecorded lecture available through blackboard or an online quiz. Students will typically be given a 57-hour window and a 2-hour time limit to work on the online quiz. To succeed in this hybrid course, students should attend Monday and Wednesday lectures as well as meet the following requirements:

- A computer - PC or Macintosh- with a stable Internet connection. Higher speed Internet connections (cable modem, DSL) are strongly recommended.
- Basic computer skills - email, surf the Internet, and create basic word processor files.
- Microsoft Office 2010, or higher (Must include Word and PowerPoint).
- Complete readings and assignments by the dates indicated on the syllabus.
- Check email on a daily basis.
- A "technology back-up" plan. Students should plan out an alternative location to do assignments and quizzes in the event their computer or Internet connection is not working! Students may utilize the computers in the [Library Computing Center](http://scc.sdsu.edu/home.php) at (<http://scc.sdsu.edu/home.php>); call 619-594-3189; or email scc@rohan.sdsu.edu.

For computer help call Library Computing Center (619) 594-3189

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Course Grades will be determined by

- **FOUR IN-CLASS EXAMS: Each exam is worth 100 points. Total = 400 points**

Four out of five exams will count (Exam 1, 2, 3, 4 and the final). Thus, a given exam counts as 20% of the course grade. If students take all five exams, then the lowest score will automatically be dropped. Students may omit taking one of the five exams. Students also have the option of writing a final essay in lieu of the final exam. The final essay can also replace one of the earlier exams, if permission is granted by the instructor.

Most exams will test on materials covered since the last major exam. Exams will usually be closed-notes and closed-book. Exams will take place in class on the date indicated on the course syllabus. Please see Course Schedule Table for these exam dates. Exam dates are fixed, but the content tested may change depending on time constraints. Please bring a green scantron #882 and a no. 2 pencil to an exam unless directed otherwise.

- **FOUR ONLINE QUIZZES: Each quiz is worth 25 points. Total 100 points**

Each online quiz will consist of 15 to 25 multiple choice questions. Four out of six quizzes will count, with the two lowest or missing quiz scores being dropped. Accordingly, quiz is weighted as 5% of a student's course grade. Students will be given a 57-hour window and a 2-hour time limit to submit an online quiz. Generally, an online quiz will be made available Thursday 3:00 pm and the deadline to submit all quiz answers is Saturday 11:59pm, by midnight. Please see Course Schedule Table for quiz dates.

- **BORDERLINE CASES:** When deciding borderline cases, the instructor may take into consideration participation in optional surveys or questionnaires, improvement throughout semester, online activity, overall class distribution, and other special circumstances.

TOTAL POINTS = 500 points

GRADING SCALE

Table 1: Grading Scale

By Point Scale	B+ 449-435 points	C+ 399-385 points	D+ 349-335 points
A 500-470 points	B 434-420 points	C 384-370 points	D 334-320 points
A- 469-450 points	B- 419-400 points	C- 369-350 points	D- 319-300 points
By Percentage	B+ 89.9-87%	C+ 79.9-77%	D+ 69.9-67%
A 100-94%	B 86.9-84%	C 76.9-74%	D 66.9-64%
A- 93.9-90%	B- 83.9-80%	C- 73.9-70%	D- 63.9-60%

COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

Table 2: Schedule, Assignments and Readings

DATES (subject to revision)	TOPICS	READINGS
WEEK ONE		
Wed 1/21	Syllabus and Introduction	
Fri 1/23 Online Lecture	Presocratics: Empedocles, Democritus	Chapter 1, pp. 1-9
WEEK TWO		
Mon 1/26	The Presocratics: Pythagoras	Chapter 1 (continued)
Wed 1/28	The Sophist Protagoras	Chapter 1, pp. 9-12
Fri 1/30 Online Quiz	Quiz 1	
WEEK THREE		
Mon 2/2	Socrates and Crito	Chapter 2, pp. 13-25
Wed 2/4	Exam One	
Fri 2/6 Online Lecture	Socrates and Euthyphro	Chapter 2 (continued)
WEEK FOUR		
Mon 2/9	Plato's Myth of Gyges	Chapter 2, pp. 26-28
Wed 2/11	Plato's Theory of Forms, Myth of Cave	Chapters 1-3, pp. 29-32
Fri 2/13 Online Lecture	Divine Law Theory: Augustine	Chapter 3, pp. 33-41
WEEK FIVE		
Mon 2/16	Augustine's Confessions & City of God	Chapter 3 (continued)
Wed 2/18	Aquinas's Doctrine of Double Effect	Chapter 3, pp. 41-44
Fri 2/20 Online Quiz	Quiz 2	
WEEK SIX		
Mon 2/23	Hedonism: Epicurus	Chapter 4, pp. 45-49
Wed 2/25	Exam Two	
Fri 2/27 Online Lecture	Ethical Egoism: Hobbes or Rand	Chapter 4, pp. 50-60
WEEK SEVEN		
Mon 3/2	Utilitarianism: Bentham	Chapter 5, pp. 61-72
Wed 3/4	Utilitarianism: Mill	Chapter 5 (continued)
Fri 3/6 Online Quiz	Quiz 3	
WEEK EIGHT		
Mon 3/9	Deontological Ethics: Kant	Chapter 6, pp. 73-82
Wed 3/11	Kant's Categorical Imperative	Chapter 6 (continued)
Fri 3/13 Online Lecture	Deterrence vs. Retributive Justice	See Blackboard Documents
WEEK NINE		
Mon 3/16	Death Penalty: David Gelernter	See Blackboard Documents

Wed 3/18	Exam Three	See Blackboard Documents
Fri 3/20 Online Lecture	Death Penalty: Jeffrey Reiman	See Blackboard Documents
WEEK TEN		
Mon 3/23	Abortion: Pro-Choice View (Warren)	See Blackboard Documents
Wed 3/25	Abortion: Pro-Life View (Marquis)	See Blackboard Documents
Fri 3/27 Online Quiz	Quiz 4	
SPRING BREAK		
Mon 3/30 Wed 4/1, Fri 4/3	HOLIDAY – NO CLASSES.	
WEEK ELEVEN		
Mon 4/6	Abortion: Moderate View (English)	See Blackboard Documents
Wed 4/8	Feminist Ethics of Care: Gilligan	Chapter 7, pp. 83-91
Fri 4/10 Online Lecture	How To Write Argumentative Essays	
WEEK TWELVE		
Mon 4/13	Aristotle’s Virtue Ethics	Chapter 7 (continued)
Wed 4/15	Exam Four	
Fri 4/17 Online Lecture	Nietzsche’s Parable of the Madman	Chapter 8, pp. 92-98
WEEK THIRTEEN		
Mon 4/20	Nietzsche’s Slave vs. Master Morality	Chapter 8 (continued)
Wed 4/22	Kierkegaard’s Religious Existentialism	See Blackboard Documents
Fri 4/24 Online	Quiz 5	
WEEK FOURTEEN		
Mon 4/27	Sartre’s Atheistic Existentialism	Chapter 9, pp. 99-108
Wed 4/29	Beauvoir’s Ethics of Ambiguity	Chapter 10, pp. 109-116
Fri 5/1	Existentialism (continued)	
WEEK FIFTEEN		
Mon 5/4	Review for Final	
Wed 5/6 Online	Quiz 6	
FINAL EXAM or ESSAY	Monday, May 11, 10:30am-12:30 pm	

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EMAIL REMINDERS

We shall do our best to send email reminders about quizzes and assignments. However, please note that failure to receive a reminder email will not excuse a student from completing assignments by the deadlines noted in the syllabus.



CONTACT INFORMATION

I will try to respond within 24-48 hours to emails sent to aneuner1@mail.sdsu.edu or aneuner@att.net. For quick questions, the turnaround time may be much shorter. You may also contact TA's directly via SDSU.Phi.101@gmail.com with your questions.

EMAIL: The TA's and I will be communicating with you by email. You should check your email once a day and log in to our Blackboard announcement page at least every other day. Please be sure that you can **receive email from Blackboard**. Make sure that your email address within the system is **correct**. Some email systems block Blackboard mailings as if they are spam. Either fix this, or obtain an SDSU email account (<http://www-rohan.sdsu.edu/newstudacct.shtml>.) If you do not hear back from us in due time, please email us again with a different heading (in case the original was recognized as spam).

CAMPUS OFFICE HOURS Dr. Neuner's office hours at the SDSU campus will be held in AL 444. Dr. Neuner's will hold regular office hours on Mon and Wed 1-1:45 pm and Tues 10-12noon. Additional office hours may be offered prior to exams. TA's may also post office hours or hold study groups prior to a given assignment or upon request. TA contact information will be posted in our Blackboard announcement page.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE AND LECTURE NOTES

Students who miss class are responsible for acquiring the material and keeping pace with the course. Although regular attendance and keeping up with the reading does not contribute to a student's course grade, students will find that these things have a positive impact on their exams and papers. On the other hand, disruptive behavior or misuse of technological devices during class may negatively affect borderline grades.

Use of laptop computers in class is allowed for the purposes of note-taking only; other computer activities can prove distracting. Students should also refrain from any behavior that may be disturbing to other students who are making the effort to be attentive. Cell phones and other electronic devices should be turned off and stored away. PLEASE **RESPECT** OTHER STUDENTS by **NOT TALKING** to one another during class. Certain students may be asked to leave the lecture hall due to their disruptive behavior or technological devices may be taken away.



Students should try to be punctual, but are encouraged to show up to class even if they may be a little late due to unforeseen circumstances. The instructor will never keep the class beyond the allotted class period and requests that students wait until class has been dismissed before they begin closing notebooks and packing away their school gear. If class must be cancelled on a given date, an announcement will be made by the instructor or a note will be posted on the classroom door or via Blackboard. If the instructor is more than 15 minutes late, please assume that the class is cancelled and that advance notice was not possible.

Powerpoint slides shown during class lectures will not be made available in Blackboard. However, for many of the readings and lectures, students will be provided a short outline, brief lecture notes or review slides (notes contained in powerpoint slides). These documents represent most but not all of the lecture material presented in a given in-class meeting.

ABOUT QUIZZES

Not Cumulative: Most quizzes will not be cumulative and will test you on the material presented in the previous two weeks. The announcement page will state which articles and lectures will be tested in an upcoming quiz. For example, the announcement may say that a given quiz will cover articles by Augustine and Plato and lectures March 2-16.

More Text-Dependent: You are provided with more time on a quiz than a 50 minute in-class exam, even though a quiz has one-third the number of questions and is worth less than an exam. Answering quiz questions will involve a close reading of philosophical articles which we may or may not have discussed in class. It is recommended that you read the articles prior to taking the quiz, but you should have ample time to reread some text passages to answer quiz questions.

Time constraints: A given quiz will be available during a **57-hour window**, usually starting Thursday at 3:00 pm and ending Sat night at 11:59 pm. Once you open up the quiz, you will have **2 hours** to submit all your answers. This should be more than plenty of time; however, this will probably not be enough time to begin and complete all the prep work needed for a quiz.

Only Objective Questions: A quiz will contain about 15-25 multiple choice questions with each question varying in point value from 1-2 points. Each quiz will be worth a total of 25 points.

Open Up Every Quiz: Even if you don't plan to take a particular quiz, you should open it up anyway. If you don't open the quiz you will not be able to access the test questions. Seeing the quiz questions can help you to prepare for the upcoming exam. It is also possible that one or two of these quiz questions will later reappear on an in-class exam.

TIME CLOCK DURING QUIZZES



When you take a quiz, you will be given a 2-hour time limit to submit your test. While you are taking your test, you can opt to save your answers, take a break, and resume your test later. However, keep in mind that the **time clock continues to tick** and you will be using your valuable time if you decide to take a break. Once you open your test, there is no stopping the time clock. It is your responsibility to watch your time; your test will not be automatically submitted once you have reached the time limit. For any given quiz, the 57-hour window will usually start on Thursday at 3:00 pm and end at 11:59pm Saturday night. So, to avail yourself of the maximum allotted time for a test, you should open up a quiz two hours prior to 11:59 pm (i.e. Saturday night at 9:59 pm). All your answers must be **submitted by midnight**. This does not mean that you may open the test at Saturday at 11:59 pm and continue to work on the questions past midnight.

LATE OR CRASHED QUIZZES

If your online quiz is late, we may still accept it but the following late penalty may apply:

1-2 minutes late – No penalty. Maybe transmission time takes that long?

3-5 minutes late – 5% penalty

5-10 minutes late – 10% penalty.

More than 10 minutes – No longer acceptable. Student will receive 0 (F)

Sometimes technology problems occur during an online test. If your computer crashes during a test, **email us right away**. We can reset the crashed test for you at our discretion. We will judge the conditions and circumstances and decide what course of action is justified. It may be possible to retrieve some of your saved answers, but if not, your newly opened test will contain different questions. Every test is unique as the questions are **randomly drawn from a pool** or larger set of questions. Electronic failure or human error on the student's part is not a legitimate excuse for missing or late test submissions. Neither are conflicts with work schedules, family vacations or loss internet (because you are in Mexico or on a road trip) acceptable excuses.

If you pass the quiz deadline and email us within 24 hours, we may **reopen the quiz** for you. If we grant this exception and you don't have a legitimate or documentable excuse for being late, then we will apply a **late penalty** to your quiz (usually 10% off). If you miss a quiz and are not able to contact us soon after, you will probably have to count it as one of the assignments you can drop. Remember you are allowed to drop two out of six quizzes.

ABOUT IN-CLASS EXAMS

Objective and Written Questions: Most exams will test you on material covered since the last major exam. An exam is worth 20% of your course grade as compared to a quiz which is weighted as 5%. Exams will be closed-notes and closed-book. Some exams will be totally objective and contain 50 multiple choice questions. If there is a written component to an exam, then it will include fewer objective questions. So, you might have an exam with one short essay question that requires you to write a couple of paragraphs. An announcement will be placed in Blackboard about a week before an exam to let you know what you can expect. This announcement will specify which articles and lectures will be covered on a test and what study guide questions you are responsible for.

Test Conditions: Exams will take place in class on the date indicated on the course syllabus. We will not change this date but may adjust the materials covered on an exam because of time constraints. Please bring a green scantron #882 and a no. 2 pencil to an exam.

MAKEUP EXAMS

If a student can offer good reason for missing an in-class exam, then a **makeup exam** will be given during the semester. Sometimes, students do not have documentation to prove that they have a legitimate reason for missing an exam. In such cases, Dr. Neuner may still allow a makeup exam but may add a late penalty to the unexcused makeup exam.

As a rule, makeup tests will be different in format from those taken by the rest of the class and may consist of more written answers. Due to the format, makeup tests will probably be more difficult than the regular exam, but students needing makeups will have been given additional time to prepare for it. Makeup tests can be deferred until the end of the semester, if students want to see how well they do with their other scores before determining whether a makeup test is necessary.

GRADING OF TEST QUESTIONS

GRADE FEEDBACK: After you have successfully submitted your online quiz, you will see a gold exclamation point in My Grades. After you take an online test, it is a good idea to view My Grades and check whether you have a gold exclamation mark indicating that you have successfully submitted your test. When we are in the process of grading a test, we will temporarily hide that grade column and then you will neither be able to see the exclamation point nor your score. Once all the test grades for the class have been determined, then we will make the scores visible to you.

GRADING CURVE: Despite how challenging a given test or paper might be, we expect that there is usually at least one student who earns a 100%. An assignment whose average falls around the B-/C+ range seems fair. If the average falls below this range, then a curve may be applied to raise the average.



PROBLEMATIC TEST QUESTIONS: If you see a test question that appears problematic (typo, wrong name, no correct option, too many acceptable options, etc.), go ahead and do your best to answer the question. **Do not leave it blank.** Also, do not waste your time, while you are under the time clock, to email us about it. If it is truly a problematic question, then it will be omitted or you will be given full or partial credit for your answer. However, please note that a question that seems problematic to you may reflect a confusion on your part with the course material rather than a problem with the actual question. Often a measure of whether a question is bad is not the fact that many students missed the question, but that even the best-scoring students for that given test missed it.

JUSTIFICATION OF “INCORRECT” ANSWERS: After a test is graded you will be able to view the questions, your answer, and the correct answer. After you see your test score in My Grades, there still may be a delay (24-48 hours) in seeing your old test because we must wait for some late test-takers to submit their answers. After the test questions become visible, you may have one week to justify your answer to a test question by emailing us your explanation. You should provide textual support for your justification. Reconsideration of your test, if requested, may mean that your entire record will be placed under review; this may result in lower as well as higher grades.

ESSAYS AND TURNITIN.COM

Students will have the opportunity to write an argumentative essay, approximately 4-6 pages in length. This essay will require students to apply ethical standards or moral principles related to the reading materials. Papers are expected to be well written with careful attention to grammar and spelling. Papers are to be submitted to Turnitin.com which will be located in the “Essay” folder in Blackboard. Also in the “Essays” folder, you will find paper topics, directions, guidelines, rubrics, and sample essays to help guide you through your essay writing. These essays will require that you present your main arguments, objections to your view, and your replies to these objections. You will also need to apply concepts from at least two articles that we have read.

In regard to course writing assignments, please note: By taking this course, you agree that required reports will be submitted to Turnitin for plagiarism detection. Each text submitted to Turnitin is included as a source document in SDSU's institutional archive. You may remove all personally identifying information from your reports prior to submission.



LATE ESSAYS

Papers will be marked off 5% off for every day it is late. After one week, late papers will no longer be accepted. All papers should be turned in to Turnitin.com within blackboard. Once you submit your paper, you will see a gold exclamation mark for it in My Grades. Just as for tests, you should check My Grades for the gold exclamation mark. If you have problems submitting your paper via Turnitin.com, then you should **email us your essay** in order to show us proof that it was written on time. We will then ask you to submit the same paper, which you had emailed us, to Turnitin.com at a later time.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

The University adheres to a strict [policy regarding cheating and plagiarism](http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/srr/conduct1.html). These activities will not be tolerated in this class. Become familiar with the policy (<http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/srr/conduct1.html>). Any cheating or plagiarism will result in failing this class and a disciplinary review by Student Affairs.

Examples of plagiarism or cheating include but are not limited to:

- Using sources verbatim or paraphrasing without giving proper attribution (this can include phrases, sentences, paragraphs and/or pages of work)
- Copying and pasting work from an online or offline source directly and calling it your own
- Using information you find from an online or offline source without giving the author credit
- Submitting someone else's work as your own such as copying another student's answers.
- Viewing, sharing, or discussing questions on an exam or quiz.

Please consult the [policy](http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/srr/conduct1.html) (<http://www.sa.sdsu.edu/srr/conduct1.html>) if you have questions on what is plagiarism, please consult and this [helpful guide from the Library](http://infodome.sdsu.edu/infolit/exploratorium/Standard_5/plagiarism.pdf): (http://infodome.sdsu.edu/infolit/exploratorium/Standard_5/plagiarism.pdf)

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES AND RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE/ATHLETICS



If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact Student Disability Services at (619) 594-6473. To avoid any delay in the receipt of your accommodations, you should contact Student Disability Services as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive, and that accommodations based upon disability cannot be provided until you have presented your instructor with an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services. Your cooperation is appreciated.

By the end of the first week of classes, students should notify instructor of planned absences for religious observances. This also holds for student athletes and supportive groups (like the marching band, not fans). They must inform faculty members within the first week in order to be excused from scheduled tasks on scheduled days.