Syllabus for HU2700
Introduction to Philosophy
Summer 2005, Track A (CRN # 51666)

Mo., Tu., We., Th., 8:05 to 9:20 a.m.

Instructor
Prof. Dr. Dieter Wolfgang Adolphs

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Home Page
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Office
Walker Arts and Humanities Center, Room 308

Office Hours
Tuesday and Thursday, 11:00 a.m. to 11:30
(other times by appointment)

Course Objectives
The principle purpose of this class is to acquaint students with the basic
issues and approaches of philosophy. This course will also expose students to
some of the most influential authors and texts in the Western philosophical
tradition. Students will be actively involved in examining the impact of various
philosophical stances on their own lives and the lives of others.

We will base our discussions on close reading of the assigned texts as
well as oral reports on historical and critical information. We also will aim to
investigate the impact of philosophical principles on the depiction of life in one
novel and three (international and US) movies.

Every class member is strongly encouraged to voice his or her personal
opinion and to actively participate in class discussions.

Required Books and Readings
0156421356)

Philosophy in a Time of Terror: Dialogues with Jürgen Habermas and
Jacques Derrida, edited by Giovanna Borradori (Chicago: University of Chicago

Philosopher's Handbook: Essential Readings from Plato to Kant, edited by

Western Philosophy: An Illustrated Guide, edited by David Papineau (Oxford,

Course Requirements
a) regular attendance and active participation (20 points)
b) assigned readings; six reading responses ("log sheets;" 24 points)
d) two oral reports (16 points)
e) participation in three debates (9 points)
e) abstract for final paper (6 points)
f) final paper (4 to 6 pages; 25 points)
Grading Scale

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<td>A</td>
<td>92-100%</td>
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<td>A/B</td>
<td>87-91.9%</td>
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This course can be taken for partial fulfillment of the general education distribution requirements.

Attendance

Attendance is required. Students who miss more than two classes without university-approved excuses will lower their final grade by half a grade; those who miss more than three will lower their grade by a full grade. There will be no passing grade for students who miss more than 30% of classes without university-approved excuses. Excessive tardiness will also result in a grade reduction.

Academic Integrity

MTU's Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as "knowingly copying another's work and calling it one's own or not giving proper credit or citation." The penalties for plagiarism or other forms of cheating range from receiving a failure grade on work in question to expulsion from the university. Students who have any questions about the issue, or who have questions about whether they have cited their sources properly, should consult the instructor or a coach in the Writing Center.

MTU's Policy on Discrimination and Harassment

MTU complies with all federal and state laws regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). If you have a disability and need a reasonable accommodation for equal access to education or services at MTU, please call Dr. Gloria Melton, Associate Dean of Students (487-2212). For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department chair, or the Affirmative Action Office (487-3310).

This course description and all schedules are tentative and may be changed. If any such changes are made, you will receive a printed update during our regular class meetings.
Tentative Schedule

Rooms:
2 May: Fisher Hall, Room 127
3 May-23 June: Walker AH Center, Room 109

Week 1

Monday, 9 May
A. Fisher Hall, Room 127: Introduction to HU2700
B. Walker AH Center, Room 109
Beginning of film: Nowhere in Africa

Tuesday, 10 May
Discussion of Western Philosophy, pp. 6-15:
"What is reality?" – Aristotle
Discussion of Philosopher's Handbook, pp. xiii-xxviii
Discussion of Borradori's preface to Phil. In a Time of Terror
(pp. ix-xiv)

Wednesday, 11 May
Report 2: Hume, life and works
Discussion of Western Philosophy, pp. 16-25
The physical World – The supernatural - Cause - Hume

Thursday, 12 May
Report 3: Heidegger, life and works (esp. Being and Time)
Discussion of Western Philosophy, pp. 26-33
Idealism – Phenomenology - Heidegger
Discussion: introduction to Phil. in a Time of Terror, pp. 1-22

Week 2

Monday, 16 May
Discussion of Borradori's interview with Jürgen Habermas:
Phil. In a Time of Terror, pp. 25-43
Continuation of film, Nowhere in Africa

Tuesday, 17 May
Report 5: Leibniz, life and works
Report 6: Logic and Mathematics (Phil. Handb., pp. 577-605)
Discussion of Western Philosophy, pp. 34-41
Truth - Mathematics – The infinite - Time and space

Wednesday, 18 May
Report 6: Descartes, Life and Works
Report 7 Jerry Fodor's Language and Thought
Discussion of Western Philosophy, pp. 44-52
"What is the mind?" – Thinking – Descartes - Fodor
Discussion of Philosopher's Handbook, pp. 311-328, Introduction
to Metaphysics