Syllabus for HU2700
Introduction to Philosophy
Summer 2006, Track A

Mo., Tu., We., Th., 9:35 to 10:50 a.m.

Instructor
Prof. Dr. Dieter Wolfgang Adolphs

Telephone
487-3231 (work); 482-3182 (home)

E-Mail
dadolph@mtu.edu, philosophy-i@mtu.edu

Home Page
http://www.hu.mtu.edu/7Edadolph/

Office
Walker AHC, Room 308

Office Hours
Tuesday, 12:30-55 p.m.; Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 9:25 a.m. (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 a number of (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
Course Requirements

a) regular attendance and active participation (20 points)
b) assigned readings; six reading responses ("log sheets;" 24 points)
d) two oral reports (20 points)
e) abstract for final paper (6 points)
f) final paper (4 to 6 pages; 30 points)

Grading Scale

A  92-100%  
A/B  87-91.9%  
B  82-86.9%  
B/C  77-81.9%  
C  72-76.9%  
C/D  67-71.9%  
D  62-66.9%  
F  0-61.9%

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.

Cell Phone Free Environment

This class room is a "cell phone free environment" from 9:35 to 10:50 p.m. Students who use their cell phones during class will lower their final grade by half a grade.

Academic Integrity

MTU's Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as "knowingly copying another's work and calling it ones 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

**Week 1**

**Monday, 8 May**
Introduction to HU2700
Beginning of film: *Nowhere in Africa*

**Tuesday, 9 May**
Discussion of *Western Philosophy*, pp. 6-15:
“What is reality?”
Continuation: *Nowhere in Africa*

**Wednesday, 10 May**
Discussion of Aristotle
Discussion of *Western Philosophy*, pp. 16-25
The physical World – The supernatural - Cause – Hume
Continuation: *Nowhere in Africa*

**Thursday, 11 May**
Discussion of Descartes
Discussion of *Western Philosophy*, pp. 26-33
Idealism – Phenomenology – Heidegger
Conclusion: *Nowhere in Africa*

Reading/viewing response 1 due on Monday (15 May)

**Week 2**

**Monday, 15 May**
Reading/viewing response 1 due
Discussion of Hegel
Discussion of *Western Philosophy*, pp. 31-33
Phenomenology – Continental philosophy -- Heidegger
Film: *The Lost Honor of Katharina Blum*

**Tuesday, 16 May**
Report 1: Hume, life and works
Report 2: Leibniz, life and works
Discussion of Nietzsche,
Discussion of *Western Philosophy*, pp. 34-41
Truth - Mathematics – The infinite - Time and space
Film: *The Lost Honor of Katharina Blum*

**Wednesday, 17 May**
Report 3: Descartes, life and works
Report 4:
Discussion of Kant
Discussion of *Western Philosophy*, pp. 44-52
“What is the mind?” – Thinking – Descartes – Fodor
Film: *The Lost Honor of Katharina Blum*

**Thursday, 18 May**
Report 5: Heidegger, life & works (esp. *Being and Time*; Rachel)
Report 6: Jerry Fodor’s *Language and Thought*
Discussion of Descartes pp.
Discussion of *Western Philosophy*, pp. 52-61
Consciousness – Feelings and emotions – Language
Wittgenstein - Derrida - Deconstruction