Syllabus for HU2700
Introduction to Philosophy
Summer 2008, Track A (CRN # 51694)

Mo., Tu., We., Th., 11:05 a.m. to 12:20 p.m., Fisher Hall, Room 125

Instructor           Prof. Dr. Dieter Wolfgang Adolphs
Telephone           487-3231 (work); 482-3182 (home)
E-Mail              dadolph@mtu.edu; introphilosophy-l@mtu.edu
Office               Walker Arts and Humanities Center, Room 308
Office Hours         Tuesday, 2:05 to 2:30 p.m., and
                     Thursday, 10:30 to 10:55 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 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
Western Philosophy: An Illustrated Guide, edited by David Papineau (Oxford,
Philosopher’s Handbook: Essential Readings from Plato to Kant, edited by
Rene Descartes: Discourse on Method and Meditations on First Philosophy
ISBN: 0156421356)

Course Requirements
a) regular attendance and active participation (20 points)
b) assigned readings; six reading responses ("log sheets;" 24 points)
c) two oral reports (16 points)
d) participation in two debates (6 points)
e) mid term exam (15 points)
f) final exam (25 points)
Grading Scale

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<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>92-100%</td>
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<td>A/B</td>
<td>87-91.9%</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>82-86.9%</td>
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<td>B/C</td>
<td>77-81.9%</td>
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<td>C</td>
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<td>C/D</td>
<td>67-71.9%</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>62-66.9%</td>
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<td>F</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.

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.

Laptops

You can bring your laptop to class. I may hold a few longer lectures, and during these times you may type notes. However, you may not type during class discussions. Before you use the internet, possibly to support your own or your discussion group’s point of view, you must ask me for permission. At any other time, the use of programs and files that are not related to our class is prohibited. Should you open such files or visit sites that are clearly not related to our class (such as looking up NHL scores or using programs such as My Space), you will lower your grade by half a great (for each incident).

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

Week 1

Monday, 12 May  Introduction to HU2700
Beginning of film: Run, Lola, Run (German: Lola rennt)

Tuesday, 13 May Conclusion of film: Run, Lola, Run (German: Lola rennt)
Discussion of Western Philosophy, pp. 6-15:
"What is reality?" – Aristotle
Discussion of Philosopher’s Handbook, pp. xiii-xxviii

Wednesday, 14 May Discussion of Philosopher’s Handbook, pp. 311-27
Discussion of Philosopher’s Handbook, pp. 328-342
(Aristotle, Metaphysics, Books IV, VII, and IX)
Report on Aristotle, life and works
Beginning of film, Nowhere in Africa

Thursday, 15 May Discussion of Western Philosophy, pp. 16-25
The physical World – The supernatural - Cause - Hume
Discussion of Descartes, pp. 343-48: 429-37
(Descartes, Meditations I and II)
Report on Descartes, life and works
Report on Hume, life and works
Film (further): Nowhere in Africa

Reading/viewing response 1 due on Monday (19 May)
Week 2

Monday, 19 May
Reading/viewing response 1 due
Discussion of Western Philosophy, pp. 26-33
Idealism – Phenomenology – Heidegger
Discussion of Philosopher’s Handbook, pp. 349-66; 385-92
(Hegel on the History of Philosophy; Kant, Prologomena to Any Future Metaphysics)
Report on Kant, life and works
Report on Hegel, life and works
Continuation of film, Nowhere in Africa

Tuesday, 20 May
Report on Leibniz, life and works
Report on Heidegger, life and works
Report on Wittgenstein, life and works (Cole)
Discussion of Western Philosophy, pp. 34-41
Truth – Mathematics – The infinite – Time and space
Discussion of Philosopher’s Handbook, pp. 367-84, 393-400
(Leibniz on the Common Concept of Justice and Wittgenstein, The Blue and Brown Books)
Conclusion of film. Nowhere in Africa

Wednesday, 21 May
Report: Descartes, Meditations
Report: Logic and Mathem. (Phil. Handb., pp. 577-605; Chris)
Discussion of Western Philosophy, pp. 44-52
“What is the mind?” – Thinking – Descartes – Fodor
Conclusion of film, Dark Star

Thursday, 22 May
Report: Heidegger, Being and Time
Report: Jerry Fodor’s Language and Thought
Discussion of Philosopher’s Handbook, pp. 401-14, Epistemology
Discussion of Philosopher’s Handbook, pp. 415-28
(Plato, Meno; Aristotle, Posterior Analytics)
Reading/viewing response 2 due on Tuesday (27 May)

Week 3

Tuesday, 27 May
Reading/viewing responses 2 due
Report: Derrida, Life and Works
Report: Spinoza, Life and Works
Discussion of Western Philosophy, pp. 53-61
Consciousness – Feelings and emotions – Language
Wittgenstein - Derrida - Deconstruction
Wednesday, 28 May
Report: Wittgenstein, *Tractatus*
Report: Spinoza, *Ethics*
Discussion of *Western Philosophy*, pp. 63-71
Free will (and justice), Spinoza, The self, Sanity/insanity
Life and death
Beginning of film, *Silkwood*

Thursday, 29 May
Report: Stoicism
Report: Mill
Report: Kant's Categorical Imperative
Discussion of *Western Philosophy*, pp. 134-45
Continuation of film, *Silkwood*

Thursday, 29 May
Report on Nietzsche, life and works
Report on Sartre, life and works
Discussion of *Western Philosophy*, pp. 146-59
Preparation for debates

Reading/viewing response 3 due on Monday (2 June):

**Week 4**

Monday, 2 June
Reading/viewing response 3 due
Report on Nietzsche, life and works
Report on Sartre, life and works
Discussion of *Western Philosophy*, pp. 146-59
Preparation for debates

Tuesday, 3 June
Further discussion of *Western Philosophy*, pp. 60-71
Continuation of film, *Silkwood*
Debate 1: Is everything, including our mind, part of the material world and to be explained by cause and effect; or is the mind all there is, and the material world a mere illusion?
Debate 2: Do we have free will?

Wednesday, 4 June
Report: Schopenhauer
Reports: Phil. Of Art and Culture
Discussion of *Western Philosophy*, pp. 172-77
Discussion of Max Frisch, *Homo Faber*,

Thursday, 5 June
Mid-Term Exam

Report 15: Kant's Ethics and definitions of the "categorical imperative"
Further discussion of *Western Philosophy*, pp. 134-143, esp. Kant
Discussion of *Western Philosophy*, pp. 144-150
Lying, Conscience, Altruism and egoism
Conclusion of film, *Silkwood*
Reading/viewing response 4 due on Monday (9 June):

**Week 5**

**Monday, 9 June**
Reading/viewing response 4 due
Discussion of *Western Philosophy*, pp. 180-89

Discussion of Kierkegaard, *Fear and Trembling* (*Phil. Handb*, pp. 171-182)

**Tuesday, 10 June**
Report 18: Max Frisch, *Life and Works*
Discussion of *Western Philosophy*, pp. 190-97
Discussion of Max Frisch, *Homo Faber*, pp. 3-20
Beginning of film, *Voyager*

**Wednesday, 11 June**
Report: Schiller: *Aesthetic Education*, (*Phil. Hb*, pp. 233-244)
Discussion of *Western Philosophy*, pp. 199-209
Discussion of Max Frisch, *Homo Faber*, pp. 20-70

**Thursday, 12 June**
Report: Iris Moris’ *Moral Philosophy*
Discussion of *Western Philosophy*, pp. 210-215
Discussion of Max Frisch, *Homo Faber*, pp. 70-127
Continuation of the film, *Voyager*

Reading report 5 due on Monday, 16 June

**Week 6**

**Monday, 16 June**
Reading report 5 due
Report: Schloendorf’s article on the making of *Voyager*
Discussion of *Western Philosophy*, pp. 106-115
Discussion of Max Frisch, *Homo Faber*, pp. 129-166

**Tuesday, 17 June**
Discussion of Max Frisch, *Homo Faber*, pp. 167-214
End of the film, *Voyager*
(at my house, 304 Harris Ave., Hancock)

**Wednesday, 18 June**
Report: Schopenhauer, *Life and Works*
Discussion of *Handbook*, pp. 105-24
Final discussion of *Homo Faber* and *Voyager*

**Thursday, 19 June**
Discussion of *Western Philosophy*, pp. 116-131
Week 7

Monday, 23 June  
Reading report 6 due
Report: Plato, Symposium (Phil. Handb, pp. 27-38)
Report: Karl Marx, Life and Works
Discussion of Western Philosophy, pp. 72-83
Film (beginning): The Edukators

Tuesday, 24 June  
Final Exam
Report: Machiavelli, The Prince (Phil. Handb, pp. 77-80))
Discussion of Western Philosophy, pp.
What is Society?; Authority, Hobbes, Democracy

Wednesday, 25 June  
Reading response due on Wednesday (tomorrow)
Discussion of Western Philosophy, pp. 84-95
Film (continuing): The Edukators

Thursday, 26 June  
Report: Rousseau, The First and Second Discourse (Phil. Handb, pp. 91-101)
Discussion of Western Philosophy, pp. 96-105
Film (conclusion): The Edukators