Instructor: T. Lockhart
Office: 326 Walker Arts and Humanities Center
Office Hours: 1-2 PM Monday, 2-3 PM Tuesday, 3-4 PM Thursday, and by appointment
Email: tlockha@mtu.edu
WWW: http://www.hu.mtu.edu/~tlockha

Course Description

In this course, we shall discuss some of the main questions and problems of philosophy including the existence of God, the nature of reality, the sources and limits of human knowledge, and the nature of value and morality. We shall study and evaluate the views of prominent philosophers who have addressed these questions.


Exams

There will be 2 exams during the semester. There will also be an optional final examination during final exam week.

Course Papers

You will write 2 course papers on topics in philosophy. For each paper, either a specific topic will be assigned or you will select your topic from a list of topics that I shall provide to you. The first paper will be due around mid-term, and the second will be due near the end of the term. Your papers should be long enough to adequately discuss your topics—and no longer. Your grades on the papers will not depend on how long or short they are. Papers for this course are typically 3-5 double-spaced typewritten pages long. Specific instructions for writing and submitting your paper will be provided later.

Final Course Grades

Your final course grade will depend on (1) your grades on the 2 in-class exams, (2) your grades on the 2 course papers, (3) your class attendance and participation grade, (4) your grade on the final exam (if you choose to take the final exam). If you take the final exam, your grade on it will determine 50% of your final course grade, and the other elements, (1), (2), and (3), will determine the other 50%. If you do not take the final exam, then your final grade will depend entirely on (1), (2), and (3). Of the portion of your grade that is determined by (1), (2) and (3), the percentages are as follows:

40%: 2 class exams
40%: 2 course papers
20%: class attendance and participation

Your class participation grade will depend on the quality and regularity of your participation in class discussions. Students who attentively follow the discussions and who contribute to them by making pertinent observations or raising pertinent questions will receive high participation grades.
This does not mean that the students who talk the most in class will receive the highest participation grades. I shall bear in mind that some people are naturally more talkative than others. It is enough for you simply to listen carefully to the discussions and to offer comments or ask questions when you believe you have something useful to say. You are expected to be present at the beginning of each class and to stay until class is dismissed. If you must leave class before the end of the period, you should inform the instructor before class begins. Whenever you have to miss class, it is your responsibility to find out what was discussed and what announcements were made. If you arrive late for a class, be sure to notify the instructor so that you may receive credit for attending.

Final course grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

A: 93-100
AB: 88-93
B: 83-88
BC: 78-83
C: 73-78
CD: 68-73
D: 60-68
F: 0-60

Neither grades nor averages will be curved.

Record-keeping

You should keep copies of all written work—returned exams and quizzes, course paper drafts, etc.—until your final course grade has been turned in at the end of the semester. This will enable us to resolve any questions that may arise about the recording and calculating of your grades.

Academic Dishonesty (University Policy)

According to University policy as stated in the university’s Student Handbook, "Academic Dishonesty is prohibited and includes the following violations:

Plagiarism—copying another's work or ideas and calling them one's own or not giving proper credit or citation.
Cheating—intentional use of any unauthorized study aids, equipment, or another's work during an academic exercise.
Fabrication—intentional falsification or invention of any information or citation during an academic exercise without proper authorization.
Facilitating academic dishonesty—allowing or helping another individual to plagiarize, cheat, or fabricate information.

Penalty: not less than academic integrity warning, not more than expulsion"

(http://www.admin.mtu.edu/docs/rights/regulations.html)

This policy (stated above) will be followed in this course. At a minimum, graded work that involves plagiarism, cheating, or fabrication (as defined above) will receive a grade of zero, and no opportunity will be afforded to make up the work. Software to detect plagiarism may be employed.

Disabilities

Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with certain medical or psychological disabilities. You must notify the course instructor at the beginning of the semester if you wish to request such accommodation.