Syllabus for HU2700
Introduction to Philosophy
Summer 2008, Track A (CRN # 51598)

Mo., Tu., We., Th., 11:05 a.m. to 12:20 p.m., Fisher Hall, Room 127

Instructor
Prof. Dr. Dieter Wolfgang Adolphs

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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 literary works 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


Friedrich Nietzsche: On the Advantage and Disadvantage of History for Life (ISBN: 0915144948; Hackett, 1980);

Optional Readings
Course Requirements
a) regular attendance and active participation (25 points)
b) assigned readings; five reading responses ("log sheets;" 20 points)
c) oral report (10 points)
d) participation in two debates (10 points)
e) mid term exam (15 points)
f) final exam (20 points)

Grading Scale

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>92-100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A/B</td>
<td>87-91.9%</td>
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<tr>
<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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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>72-76.9%</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>
<td>0-61.9%</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 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 11:00 to 12:25 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, 11 May  
Introduction to HU2700
Beginning of film: Run, Lola, Run (German: Lola rennt)

Tuesday, 12 May
Conclusion of film: Run, Lola, Run (German: Lola rennt)
Discussion of Western Philosophy, pp. 6-15:
"What is reality?"

Wednesday, 13 May
Discussion of Western Philosophy, pp. 16-25
The physical World – The supernatural - Cause - Hume
Report on Aristotle, life and works (esp. Metaphysics)
Report on Descartes, life and works (esp. Discourse)

Beginning of film, Nowhere in Africa

Thursday, 14 May
Discussion of Western Philosophy, pp.
Discussion of Descartes, Meditations I and II
Report on Hume, life and works (pick one in particular)
Report on Kant, life and works (esp. Cr. of Pure Reason)
Film (further): Nowhere in Africa

Reading/viewing response 1 due on Monday (18 May)

Week 2

Monday, 18 May
Reading/viewing response 1 due
Discussion of Western Philosophy, pp. 26-33
Idealism – Phenomenology - Heidegger
Discussion of Descrates, Meditations
Report on Hegel, life and works (esp. Phenomenology)
Report on Heidegger, life and works (esp. Being and Time)