Syllabus for HU2700
Introduction to Philosophy
Summer 2010, Track A (CRN #51509)

Mo., Tu., We., Th., 11:05 a.m. to 12:20 p.m., Walker A&HC, Room 109

Instructor  
Prof. Dr. Dieter Wolfgang Adolphs

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

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Office  
Walker Arts and Humanities Center, Room 308

Office Hours  
Tuesday, 2:00 to 2:30 p.m., and Thursday, 10:30 to 11:00 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

Rene Descartes: Discourse on Method and Meditations on First Philosophy (online)


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>Range</th>
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<tbody>
<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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<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 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 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, 10 May**  Introduction to HU2700

**Tuesday, 11 May**  Discussion of Philosophy, pp. 1-10: “What is reality?”

Beginning of film: Run, Lola, Run (German: Lola rennt)

**Wednesday, 12 May**  Discussion of Philosophy, pp. 10-25

The physical World – The supernatural - Cause - Hume

Report on Descartes, life and works (esp. Discourse)

**Thursday, 13 May**  Discussion of Philosophy, pp. 10-25

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)

Reading/viewing response 1 due on Monday (17 May)

**Week 2**

**Monday, 17 May**  Reading/viewing response 1 due

Discussion of Philosophy, pp. 26-33

Idealism – Phenomenology - Heidegger

Discussion of Descartes, Meditations

Report on Hegel, life and works (esp. Phenomenology)

Report on Heidegger, life and works (esp. Being and Time)

**Tuesday, 18 May**  Report on Leibniz, life and works

Report on Heidegger, life and works

Report on Wittgenstein, life and works

Discussion of Western Philosophy, pp. 34-41

Truth - Mathematics – The infinite - Time and space

**Wednesday, 19 May**  Report: Descartes, Meditations

Discussion of Western Philosophy, pp. 44-52

“What is the mind?” – Thinking – Descartes – Fodor

**Thursday, 20 May**  Report: Heidegger, Being and Time

Report: Jerry Fodor’s Language and Thought
Tentative HU2700 Schedule for Weeks 3-7

Week 3

Monday, 24 May  
Reading/viewing responses 1 due  
Further discussion of group questions; report sign-up

Tuesday, 25 May  
Reports  
Discussion of Philosophy, pp. 53-61  
Consciousness – Feelings and emotions – Language  
Wittgenstein - Derrida - Deconstruction  
Film (beginning): The Physicists

Wednesday, 26 May  
Report: Kant  
More Reports  
Discussion of Philosophy, pp. 63-71  
Free will (and justice), Spinoza, The self, Sanity/insanity  
Life and death  
Discussion of The Physicists, pp. 9-31

Thursday, 27 May  
Reports  
Report: Hegel  
Discussion of Philosophy, pp. 134-45  
Discussion of The Physicists, pp. 32-56  
Preparation for debates

Week 4

Tuesday, 1 June  
Reading/viewing response 2 due  
Report: Simone de Beauvoir  
Report: Hannah Arendt  
Discussion of Philosophy, pp. 146-159  
Discussion of The Physicists, pp. 57-79  
Preparation for debates

Wednesday, 2 June  
Report on Nietzsche, life and work  
Report on Heidegger, life and works  
Debates; for example:  
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?

Thursday, 3 June  
Report: Marx  
Report on Sartre  
Report on Locke  
Discussion of Philosophy, pp. 160-177  
Final Discussion of The Physicists  
Sample Mid-Term
Week 5

Monday, 7 June  
Mid-Term Exam

Tuesday, 8 June  
Reading/viewing response 3 due
Reports: Plato and Aristotle
Report: Max Frisch, Life and Works
Report: Plato
Discussion of Philosophy, pp. 190-97
Discussion of Max Frisch, Homo Faber, pp. 3-20
Beginning of film, Voyager

Wednesday, 9 June  
Report: Augustine
Group Report; Augustine’s Confessions
Group Report: Descartes’ Discourse
Discussion of Philosophy, pp. 198-209
Discussion of Max Frisch, Homo Faber, pp. 20-70

Thursday, 10 June 
Group Report: Hume’s Enquiry
Group Report: Kan’s essays on enlightenment and peace
Discussion of Philosophy, pp. 210-215
Discussion of Max Frisch, Homo Faber, pp. 70-127
Continuation of the film, Voyager

Week 6

Monday, 14 June  
Reading report 4 due
Group report on Hegel (Phenomenology or Phil. of History)
Discussion of Philosophy, pp. 106-115
Discussion of Max Frisch, Homo Faber, pp. 129-166

Tuesday, 15 June  
Group report on the Communist Manifesto
Discussion of Max Frisch, Homo Faber, pp. 167-214
End of the film, Voyager
(at my house, 304 Harris Ave., Hancock)

Wednesday, 16 June  
Group Report on Nietzsche (on history OR tragedy OR Zarathustra)
Final discussion of Homo Faber and Voyager

Thursday, 17 June  
Group Report on Heidegger’s Being and Time
Discussion of Philosophy, pp. 116-131
Reading report 5 due on Monday, 21 June

**Week 7**

**Monday, 21 June**
- Reading report 5 due
- Discussion of *Philosophy*, pp. 72-83
- Film (beginning): *The Edukators*
- Sample Exam

**Tuesday, 22 June**
- Final Exam

**Wednesday, 23 June**
- Discussion of *Philosophy*, pp. 84-95
- Film

**Thursday, 25 June**
- Discussion of *Philosophy*, pp. 96-105
- Film (conclusion)