Syllabus for HU2700
Introduction to Philosophy
Summer 2011, Track A (CRN #51479)

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

Instructor: Prof. Dr. Dieter Wolfgang Adolphs
Telephone: 487-3231 (work); 482-3182 (home)
E-Mail: dadolph@mtu.edu; 2700-I@mtu.edu
Office: Walker Arts and Humanities Center, Room 308
Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 2:00 to 2:30 p.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
Philosophy, edited by David Papineau (Oxford University Press, 2009;
ISBN: 0-19-536885-1)
Rene Descartes: Discourse on Method and Meditations on First Philosophy
(online)
ISBN: 0156421356)

Course Requirements
a) regular attendance and active participation (25 points)
b) assigned readings; five reading responses ("log sheets;" 20 points)
c) two oral reports (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 Range</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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<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 11:00 a.m. 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 Facebook and Twitter), you will lower your grade by half a grade (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

Tuesday, 10 May
Introduction to HU2700
Beginning of film, *Run, Lola, Run!*

Wednesday, 11 May
Overview: Themes and issues of the book, *Philosophy*
Discussion of *Philosophy*, pp. 20-25: “Cause and Effect”

Thursday, 12 May
Conclusion of film, *Run, Lola, Run!*
Further discussion of “Cause and Effects” and David Hume

Week 2

Monday, 16 May
Report: Plato
Report: Plato’s Allegory of the Cave (*Republic*, Book VII)
Discussion of *Philosophy*, pp. 74-79: “What is knowledge”
Discussion of Plato’s “Apology of Socrates.”
http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/apology.html

Tuesday, 17 May
Report: Aristotle
Report: Aristotle’s *Politics*

Wednesday, 18 May
Report: Augustine
Report: Augustine’s *Confessions*
Film (beginning): *Siddhartha*

Thursday, 19 May
Report: Thomas Aquinas
Report: Aquinas’ *Summa Theologica*
Film: *Siddhartha*

Log Sheet 1 due on Monday (23 May)

Week 3

Monday, 23 May
Report: Nicholas of Cusa and Giordano Bruno
Film (conclusion): *Siddhartha*

Tuesday, 24 May
Report: Descartes
Report: Descartes’ *Discourse*

Wednesday, 25 May
Report: Spinoza
Film (excerpts): *Dark Star*

Thursday, 26 May
Report: Leibniz
Report: Leibniz’s *Monatology*
Film (beginning): *Silkwood*
Week 4

Monday, 30 May  
MEMORIAL DAY RECESS

Tuesday, 1 June  
Report: John Locke  
Report: Locke’s Essay Concerning Human Understanding

  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, 2 June  
Report: Hume  
Report: Hume’s Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding  
Film: Silkwood  
Sample Test

Thursday, 3 June  
Mid-Term Exam

Week 5

Monday, 7 June  
Report: Kant  
Report: Kant’s Groundworks  
Reading: Kant’s "What is Enlightenment"  
Film (conclusion): Silkwood

Tuesday, 8 June  
Report: Hegel  
Report: Hegel’s Philosophy of History and Elements of the Phil. of Right  
Discussion of Max Frisch, Homo Faber, pp. 3-20  
Beginning of film, Voyager

Wednesday, 9 June  
Report: Marx  
Report: Marx’s Economical and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844  
Discussion of Max Frisch, Homo Faber, pp. 20-70

Thursday, 10 June  
Report: Nietzsche  
Report: Nietzsche’s Gay Science  
Discussion of Max Frisch, Homo Faber, pp. 70-127  
Continuation of the film, Voyager

Week 6

Monday, 14 June  
Report: Kierkegaard  
Schlondorff’s article on the making of Voyager  
Discussion of Max Frisch, Homo Faber, pp. 129-166
Tuesday, 15 June  
Report: Heidegger  
Report: Heidegger's *Being and Time*  
Report: Sartre’s *Being and Nothingness*  
Discussion of Max Frisch, *Homo Faber*, pp. 167-214  
End of the film, *Voyager*  
(at my house, 304 Harris Ave., Hancock)

Wednesday, 16 June  
Report: Wittgenstein  
Report: Wittgenstein’s *Philosophical Investigations*  
Final discussion of *Homo Faber* and *Voyager*

Thursday, 17 June  
Report: Foucault  
Report: Foucault’s *Discipline and Punishment*

Log Sheet 5 due on Monday, 21 June

Week 7

Monday, 21 June  
Report (open topic)  
Sample Final Exam  
Film (beginning): *The Edukators*

Tuesday, 22 June  
Final Exam

Wednesday, 23 June  
Report (open topic)  
Film (continuing): *The Edukators*

Thursday, 24 June  
Report (open topic)  
Film (conclusion): *The Edukators*