Course Syllabus

Course Syllabus and Schedule

HU2700 – Introduction to Philosophy

Department of Humanities

Summer 2015, Track A (05/11-06/25; online)

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dieter W. Adolphs, PhD, Associate Professor
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Office Hours: via Canvas and email

Course Identification

Course Number: HU2700-R01, CRN 52349
Course Name: Introduction to Philosophy
Course Location: Online (Canvas and email)
Class Times: Online
Prerequisites: None

Course Description/Course Learning Objectives

The principle purpose of HU2700 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, with some attention to Eastern Philosophy as well. 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 lectures 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 online discussions.
Course Resources

Course Website

Canvas  http://www.courses.mtu.edu (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.)

Required Course Texts

- Rene Descartes: *Discourse on Method and Meditations on First Philosophy*; ISBN: 978-0521558181

Further Required Readings

To be announced (PDF files or www links)

Films/DVDs/Online Video Materials:

- *Eastern and Western Philosophy*
- *Run Lola Run*
- *Dark Star*
- *Siddhartha*
- *Silkwood*
- *Voyager* (1999), director: Volker Schlöndorff

Course Fees
Distance Learning Technology Fee $114.00

**Grading Scheme**

**Grading System**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade points/credit</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93% &amp; above</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB</td>
<td>87% – 92%</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>Very good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>82% – 86%</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BC</td>
<td>76% – 81%</td>
<td>2.50</td>
<td>Above average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70% – 75%</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD</td>
<td>65% – 69%</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>Below average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60% - 64%</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>Inferior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59% and below</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>Failure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Incomplete; given only when a student is unable to complete a segment of the course because of circumstances beyond the student’s control.

Conditional, with no grade points per credit; given only when the student is at fault in failing to complete a minor segment of a course, but in the judgment of the instructor does not need to repeat the course. It must be made up by the close of the next semester or the grade becomes a failure (F). A (X) grade is computed into the grade
point average as a (F) grade.

Course Requirements

Grades will be based on the following

- daily reading assignments or film viewings (basis for the following requirements)
- weekly small-group discussions (20 points each; six discussions) 120 points
- mid-term 80 points
- final exam 100 points

Late Assignments

Late assignments: no more than 50% of points.

Course Policies

Weekly Participation

_weekly participation is required_. Students who miss more than one small group discussion without university-approved excuses will lower their final grade by half a grade (in addition to the points missed for these assignments); those who miss more than two discussions will lower their grade by a full grade; and there will be no passing grade for students who miss more than three of the weekly small-group discussions without university-approved excuses.

Collaboration/Plagiarism Rules

All sources used for assignments, including small group discussions, should be identified. This includes sources from the internet and from other electronic devices. Information exchanges on these devices are also prohibited and violate the Academic Integrity Code of Michigan Tech.

University Policies

Student work products (exams, essays, projects, etc.) may be used for purposes of university, program, or course assessment. All work used for assessment purposes will not include any individual student identification.

Michigan Tech has standard policies on academic misconduct and complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with
Disabilities Act of 1990. For more information about reasonable accommodation for or equal access to education or services at Michigan Tech, please call the Dean of Students Office, at (906) 487-2212 or go to http://www.mtu.edu/provost/faculty-resources/syllabus-policies/

**Tentative Course Schedule**

*This schedule is still under construction, starting from my 2013 summer course as a template. So, it has to be reworked with regards to online lectures and assignments.*

### Week 1

**Monday, 11 May**  Introduction to HU2700 (lecture on Canvas)

- Reading: Jaspers, pp. 1-16
- Reading: *Philosophy*, pp. 6-7 ("Introduction")
- Viewing of film, *Run Lola Run!*
  
  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oLTt1buN_NY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oLTt1buN_NY)

**Tuesday, 12 May**  Reading: Jaspers, pp. 17-38

- View lecture on David Hume (*Western Philosphy*; see Canvas file on Hume)
- Reading: *Philosophy*, pp. 20-25: “Cause” and “Hume”

**Wednesday, 13 May**  Reading: Jaspers, pp. 74-84
View first ten minutes of my "week three lecture" (on Canvas)

View *Western Philosophy* online lectures on pre-socratic philosophers and Socrates (Canvas file)

Reading: *Philosophy*. pp 10-12 and 16-17

**Thursday, 14 May**

Viewing the *Western Philosophy* Canvas file on Plato

Read *Philosophy*, pp. 74-79: “What is knowledge”

Begin reading and listening to Plato’s “Apology of Socrates”:

[http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/apology.html](http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/apology.html) (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.)


First weekly group-discussions 1 due on Monday (18 May) at noon

**Week 2**

**Monday, 18 May**

Finish viewing 2nd half of my introductory lecture and the *Western Philosophy* Canvas clip on Plato

Read again *Philosophy*, pp. 74-79: “What is knowledge”

Finish reading and listening to Plato’s “Apology of Socrates”:

[http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/apology.html](http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/apology.html) (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.)

Tuesday, 19 May

View Western Philosophy Canvas file on Aristotle

Read Philosophy on Aristotle (pp. 12-15 and 180)

Read beginning ("Book One") of Aristotle's Politics:
http://classics.mit.edu/Aristotle/politics.1.one.html

Reading: Jaspers, pp. 63-73

Wednesday, 20 May

View Western Philosophy online lecture on Saint Augustine

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oCaQV_i3IR0 (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.)

Read Philosophy on Saint Augustine (pp. 116-117)

Reading: Jaspers, pp. 39-51

Thursday, 21 May

View Western Philosophy online lectures on

Thomas Aquinas

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D-ZNHgaCRvo

and Duns Scotus

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TsnEAOPfLEw

Read Philosophy on Thomas Aquinas (pp. 14 108-115, 144, and 196)

Read Thomas Aquinas, "Five Ways":

http://web.mnstate.edu/gracyk/courses/web%20publishing (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.)

/aquinasfiveways_argumentanalysis.htm (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.)
Read from Thomas Aquinas' *Summa Theologica*:

http://dhspriory.org/thomas/summa/FP/FP103.html#FPQ103OUTP1

Reading: Jaspers, pp. 85-95

Group discussions #2 due on Tuesday (26 May) at noon

**Week 3**

*Monday, 25 May*

View entire *Week Three* Canvas lecture and the *Western Philosophy* Canvas clip on Descartes

Read *Philosophy* on Descartes (pp. 48-49; and see index)

Read Descartes, *Discourse*, pp. 1-22 (Parts One to Four)

*Tuesday, 26 May*

Read Descartes' *Discourse*, pp. 23-44 (Parts Five and Six)

Reading: Jaspers, pp. 147-167

*Wednesday, 27 May*

Read Descartes, *Meditations*, pp. 46-68 (Meditations One and Two)

Read *Philosophy* on Spinoza (pp. 66-67)

Film (excerpts): *Dark Star*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IkjiDjUHPHM (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=luaRtGn2tsI
Thursday, 28 May  
Read Descartes, *Meditations*, pp. 69-103 (Meditations Three to Six)

View *Western Philosophy* online lectures on Spinoza, Leibniz

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z4xWu4m-6kU (Links to an external site.)

... (Links to an external site.)

and Locke

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QKZopPoBjNU

Read *Philosophy* on Leibniz (pp. 38-39) and Locke (pp. 81-83)

Group discussions #3 due on Monday (2 June) at noon

Week 4

Monday, 1 June  
Read (again) *Philosophy* on Leibniz (pp. 38-39) and Locke (pp. 81-83)

View *Western Philosophy* lectures on Leibniz and Locke

(different from week 3 lectures):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0U79lLx1I4s (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.)

View *Eastern Philosophy 3*

View *Eastern Philosophy 4*
Tuesday, 2 June  
Listen to my two lectures on Hermann Hesse on Canvas

Read the novel *Siddhartha* and/or view the film *Siddhartha*

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qzxr8FfDG8o

Wednesday, 3 June  
View *Western Philosophy* lecture on Hume (again; on Canvas)

and Kant: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Vjl_gjTD_Q

Read *Philosophy* on Kant, pp. 113-114, 137-143

View *Eastern Philosophy 1*

Thursday, 4 June  
Read Kant’s *What is Enlightenment*

http://www.columbia.edu/acis/ets/CCREAD/etscc/kant.html

View *Eastern Philosophy 2*

Mid-Term Exam starts on Thursday at 3pm, due on Saturday, 6 June, at 11:59 pm

Week 5

Monday, 8 June  
Read discussions of Kant’s *Groundwork*, pp. ix-xvi, 83-91 and 157-182
Reading: Jaspers, pp. 52-62

Tuesday, 9 June  
Read Kant's *Groundwork*, pp. 1-21, 63-65, and 79

View first half of the film, *Silkwood* (file name: *video, part 1*)

Wednesday, 10 June  
View second half of *Silkwood* (file name: *video, part 2*)

View *Western Philosophy* lectures on Hegel (minutes 0-10:30 of)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_cq1jFP5I0M

Husserl and Heidegger

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0s5_SgKnR2s

Read *Philosophy*, pp. 26-33 and 134-152

Read Jaspers, pp. 96-109

Thursday, 11 June  
View https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_cq1jFP5I0M, minutes 10-47

Read *Philosophy*, pp. 51-61, 153-179, 172-175, 180-181, 205, 210-211

Read Max Frisch, *Homo Faber*, pp. 3-30

Group discussions #5 due on Monday, June 15, at noon

**Week 6**

**Monday, 15 June**  
Re-view *Western Philosophy* lectures on Marx and Sartre
Read Jaspers, pp. 110-119

View my Canvas lectures on Max Frisch (*Frisch1a*)

Read Max Frisch, *Homo Faber*, pp. 30-65

*Tuesday, 16 June*  
Read Jaspers, pp. 120-131

View my Canvas lectures on Frisch's novel Homo Faber (*Faber1* and *Faber2*)

Read *Homo Faber*, pp. 65-100

*Wednesday, 17 June*  
Review *Western Philosophy* lectures on Pragmatism and Wittgenstein

Read Jaspers, pp. 132-146

View final lecture on *Homo Faber* and *Voyager* (*Faber2*)

Read *Homo Faber*, pp. 146-166

*Thursday, 18 June*  
Read *Homo Faber*, pp. 167-214

Group discussion #5 due on Monday, 23 June, at noon

*Week 7*
Monday, 22 June    Read Philosophy, pp. 178-189

View first half of the film The Marriage of Maria Braun

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yco4Ud_5lN8&list=PLFCo9M9k0npSISmq7fNrmjWtJPUPlYPAA2

Tuesday, 23 June    Read Philosophy, pp. 190-201

View second half of the film The Marriage of Maria Braun

Wednesday, 24 June    Read Philosophy, pp. 202-215

View first half of Woody Allen's film Crimes and Misdemeanors

Thursday, 25 June    View second half of the film Crimes and Misdemeanors

Final exam due at 11:59pm tomorrow (Friday, June 26)

This course description and all schedules are tentative and may be changed. If any such changes are made, this will be posted on Canvas and announced via email.