

**INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY
PHILOSOPHY 100
Fall 2012 Course Syllabus**

Instructor: Judy Y. Sokei

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Office hours: MW 9:15 am to 10:00 am, and by appointment

Recommended Preparation: Reading and writing skills at the college level.

Required Text: *Archetypes of Wisdom* (7th Edition, Wadsworth-Thomson) by Douglas J. Soccio.

Course Description & Purpose:

This course is based on the assumption that philosophy begins in wonder. The course aims at introducing you to important philosophers (e.g., Plato, Socrates, Aristotle, Aquinas, Descartes, Kant, Sartre) and the philosophical issues, or wonderings, they addressed that directly impact our lives. We will continue to engage in their, as well as our own, philosophical reflections on such issues as: does a divine being exist? what is the meaning of my life? what is real and how do I know? is objectivity possible? are moral standards relative or absolute? and, is happiness my choice? This course aims to seek out the philosopher in all of us by reawakening our sense of wonder.

Student Learning Objectives: Students will

- be able to identify and discuss the ideas of some of the most important Western, as well as Eastern, philosophers
- learn and apply philosophical tools to develop critical thinking, reading, writing, and speaking skills to help test beliefs
- engage and discuss basic concepts in primary areas of philosophy: metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, social and political philosophy
- gain experience in the presentation and critical evaluation of ideas with peers through journals and discussions

Course Requirements:

- **Readings.** You are expected to complete all assigned readings by their due date and be prepared for class discussions. All readings will be taken from the required text.
- **Reflection journals.** You will be required to write three short journals (1 page, typewritten, 1.5 spaced, Times New Roman, font size 12) answering a philosophical question assigned in class. Your journal should reflect the philosophical theory being discussed in class as well as your own reasoning on the topic based on experiences or values. You will be given a week to complete this assignment. **NO LATE journals will be accepted.** Do not email your journal unless you clear it with me first. If for any reason you cannot attend a class, you are responsible for what is due, finding out what went on and what the assignment is. Email me or ask a classmate. **Plagiarism Policy:** Plagiarism, or stealing another person's written work, will not be tolerated and can lead to expulsion from the U.H. system. If you decide to use someone else's writing, put it in quotation marks, and acknowledge the author in a footnote or bibliography. See me if you have questions.
- **Quizzes.** There will be 5 quizzes about every two-three weeks covering material presented the previous weeks. These quizzes will include fill in the blanks, multiple-choice questions, or short essays. There will be **NO MAKE-UPS OF QUIZZES.** Occasional pop quizzes will be given. The points accrued from the pop quizzes may go toward your final grade if your final average is a "C" or below.

- **Final Examination.** There will be a final exam given at the end of the semester. This exam will include all material covered throughout the course. Many of the questions on this exam will be taken from your quizzes and essays, so use them as study guides.
- **Class Participation.** Class discussion is a significant part of this course. We will all have a chance to share our thoughts in class. Because speaking in class may be difficult for some of us, we will practice intellectual safety and show respect for one another. **Class attendance is very important**, and will be part of your final grade.
- **Use of Email (Executive Policy E2.213).** The Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs has instated a policy wherein: “Students are responsible for checking their email account frequently and consistently to remain current with University communications. They are expected to monitor and manage their email storage quota to insure that their mailboxes are not saturated and are able to receive new messages.” For this course, you are required to check your e-mail DAILY to keep up with important correspondences. I will be posting important messages through Lulima.
- **No Cell Phone Usage allowed during class**, unless you clear it with me for educational purposes. All cell phone ringers must be turned off while in class and there is **ABSOLUTELY NO TEXTING** allowed. If you are caught texting, you will be marked absent for the day. If your cell phone goes off, there will be punishment, though not one that infringes on your eighth amendment rights.

Evaluation:

Your final grade will be based on five quizzes (20 pts. each = 100 pts.), three short journals (10 pts each = 30 points), a final exam (100 pts.), and class attendance (30 pts.). If your final grade is a “C” or below, you will have a chance to bring it up one letter grade through extra credit assignments and pop quizzes.

90-100%--A
 80-89%--B
 70-79%--C
 60-69%--D
 -59%--F, N or Inc.

Note: the “N” and “Inc.” grades are given only for special circumstances, and you need to speak to me beforehand.

Qualified students with disabilities will receive appropriate accommodations in this course. Please speak with me after class or in my office. Students with disabilities may obtain information on available services online at <http://honolulu.hawaii.edu/disability>. Specific inquires may be made by contacting Student ACCESS at (808) 844-2392 voice/text, by e-mail at access@hcc.hawaii.edu, or simply stopping by Student ACCESS located in Bldg. 5, Rm. 107B.