

philosophy is itself a matter of philosophical dispute and many definitions of philosophy have been proposed. I like Wilfred Sellars' account of philosophy: "The aim of philosophy is to understand how things in the broadest possible sense of the term hang together in the broadest possible sense of the term."

More specifically, philosophy is the study of a series of enduring questions. In this course, we will ask fundamental questions about the nature of reality, value, beauty and knowledge. Students will be introduced to the principal problems and schools of the Western philosophical tradition. Issues in ethics, social and political philosophy, epistemology (theory of knowledge), metaphysics (theory of the basic nature of reality) and aesthetics (philosophy of art) will be addressed.

Course objectives:

Students will be asked to develop the abilities to write clearly, to analyse and criticise arguments, and to construct their own arguments. Philosophy is widely recognized as the discipline best able to train students to think critically and logically. At the same time, students should develop an appreciation of the intrinsic importance and interest of philosophical questions.

Students will be encouraged to develop public speaking and debating skills by participating in discussions. Dialogue is an important part of the process of arriving at philosophical conclusions. You should feel free to offer comments and ask questions at any point. You should also feel free to provide reasons for doubting any assertion the instructor makes.

Integrity. Any evidence you are circulating materials without permission will be referred to the Chair of the Philosophy Department for investigation.

Schedule of Lectures: First Term

Week One 10 September

Topic: What is Philosophy?
Readings: None

Week Two 14 and 17 September

Topic: Introduction to philosophical reasoning
Readings: Plato, *Euthyphro*

Week Three 21 and 24 September

Topic: The authority of the state
Readings: Plato, *Crito*

Week Four 28 September and 1 October

Topic: Is the soul immortal? (introduced)
Readings: Plato, *Phaedo*

Week Five 5 and 8 October

Topic: Is the soul immortal? (continued)
Readings: Plato, *Phaedo*; Hume, 'Of the Immortality of the Soul'

Week Six 15 October

Topic: Introduction to Descartes

Readings: Meditations 5 and 6; Elisabeth of Bohemia, Correspondence with Descartes

Week Nine 2 and 5 November

Topic: The rationalism of Leibniz

Readings: Leibniz, *Discourse on Metaphysics*

Week Ten 12 November

Week Four 25 and 28 January

Topic: Identity and personal Identity
Readings: Locke, *Essay*, Book II, Ch. XXVII

Week Five 1 and 4 February

Topic: Introduction to logical positivism and the principle of verifiability
Readings: *Language, Truth and Logic* Chapters 1, 2 and 3

Week Six 8 and 11 February

Topic: Phenomenalism
Readings: *Language, Truth and Logic*, Chapters 4 and 5

Week Seven: Reading break

Week Eight 22 and 25 February

Topic: Positivist solutions to philosophical problems
Readings: *Language, Truth and Logic* Chapters 6 to 8
Assignment: Third essay due 25 February

Week Nine 1 and 4 March

Topic: Utilitarianism
Readings: *Utilitarianism*

Week Ten 8 and 11 March

Topic: The Principle of Liberty
Readings: *On Liberty* Sections 1 to 3

Week Eleven 15 and 18 March

Topic: Individuals and the state; applications of the Principle of Liberty
Readings: *On Liberty* Sections 4 to 5; *Chapters on Socialism*

Week Twelve 22 and 25 March

Topic: What is Art?
Readings: Plato, *Republic*, Book X; Tolstoy, *What is Art?*

Week Thirteen 29 March and 1 April

