

Lincoln University
HUM 30 – Introduction to Philosophy
Course Syllabus
Spring, 2016

Lecture Schedule: Friday 12:30 - 3:15 P.M.
Credit: 3 units (45 lecture hours)
Instructor: Professor Richard S. Rachlin
Email: rrachlin@lincolnuca.edu
Office Hours: Fri. 11:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M., by appointment
Textbook: Doing Philosophy, 5th Edition,
Schick & Vaughn. McGraw-Hill, 2013.
ISBN 978-0-07-803825-9

Course Description

An analysis of human experience in relation to the world; the problems of reality, thought and value. Studies of major movements, methods and terminology of philosophical thinking. (3 units)

Learning Objectives

To introduce students to the history, terminology and methods of philosophy. The course is designed to challenge students to think and expose them to questions of the human experience in relation to the world we live in.

Methods of Learning

Students are encouraged to engage in interactive class discussions and will be required to turn in written assignments during the course. In addition, class attendance (required) and class participation play a large role in the student's final grade.

GRADING STANDARDS

Grades will be based on the following allocation:

Class Attendance & Participation: 25 points
Written Assignments: 25 points
Final Examination: 50 points

100 total points

GRADING

Point/Grade Conversion

100-94	A	76-74	C
93-90	A-	73-70	C-
89-87	B+	69-65	D+
86-84	B	64-60	D
83-80	B-	59 or <	F
79-77	C+		

COURSE CALENDAR AND ASSIGNMENTS

The assigned material for each date should be read and reviewed **before** the class.

Date Assignments

Jan. 20: Overview

Jan. 27: Chapter 1. Class discussion of popular philosophical problems

Feb. 3 : Chapters 1 & 2. The mind-body problem

Feb. 10: Chapters 2 & 3. Free Will and Determinism

Feb. 17: Chapter 3. Free Will vs. Fate

Feb. 24: Chapter 4. The problem of Personal Identity

March 2: Chapters 4 & 5. Personal Identity and Morality

March 9: Essay on Chapters 1-5

March 16: Spring Recess – No Class

March 23: Chapter 5. Personal vs. cultural morality

March 30: Chapter 6. God vs. Evil

April 6 : Cosmological Questions

April 13 : Empiricism vs. Rationalism

April 20 : Chapter 7. Skepticism and Knowledge

April 27 : Perception vs. Reality; Review for Final

May 4 : Final Exam

Revised: January 14, 2016