Introduction to Philosophy 1301   Spring 2020

John Glassford, Professor of Philosophy
Office: RAS 217
Email: john.glassford@angelo.edu

Office Phone: (325) 942-2262

Office Hours: MWR 12:00-2:00 or by appointment

Class Times and Rooms: MW, 2:00-3:15, Rass 112


Lectures: I will post the text of the class lecture roughly one week in advance (see lecture for readings)

Description
This course serves as a general introduction to philosophy. It has been said that there is something childlike about philosophy since philosophy asks questions that we often take for granted as adults. Why are we here? How can we know something? What is 'experience'? Who are we? We are apparently the sum total of our minds and bodies, but what is ‘mind’ and how does it relate to body? Why should we be held responsible for our actions? Could we have acted otherwise given our background, our biological and psychological constitutions? Can we prove the existence of God by means of rational argument? What is the good life? Is a good life a meaningful life? What do we mean by meaningful? Philosophy also asks questions about itself, it is self-reflexive? Philosophers ask why philosophy is relevant. How should we do philosophy? Is there a philosophical method? Is philosophy an art? If so should it be beautiful like other arts, and what is beauty in any case? In the course of this semester we will approach these questions through lectures, discussions, readings, writing, and thoughtful inquiry.

The Class
Because Introduction to Philosophy is part of the core curriculum it often has 40 to 50 students so this is a lecture course, it is too large for informal discussions or a seminar type setup. On the other hand, lectures are a far from perfect way in which to learn philosophy so normally I will introduce a topic, lecture on that topic, and discuss and explain an assigned reading or text for 40 or 45 minutes. I will try to finish up ten to fifteen minutes before the end of class to leave room for questions and discussion.

Class Attendance Policy
Class attendance at ASU is mandatory and a class roll will be taken twice each week. If you miss three consecutive classes the ASU registrar will be informed. If you miss more than five classes during the semester you may receive a fail for the course overall (depending on the circumstances). The only legitimate reasons for missing classes or leaving classes early are sickness or medical appointments, or a domestic emergency (i.e. 'car trouble,' for example, is not a domestic emergency). Exceptions to this will be reviewed on a case by case basis.
Class Preparation
Bring your textbook to class
Bring a notebook and pencil to class
Do your reading assignment before class
Be prepared to answer questions
If it helps, record the class

Class Prohibitions (*unless I am presented with an accommodation)
NO SLEEPING (if you are too tired to stay awake in class you probably shouldn’t be in class)
NO PHONES
NO EARBUDS
NO VAPING
*NO LAPTOPS
NO HOT FOOD
PLEASE DON’T PASS MESSAGES
DO NOT LEAVE CLASS AFTER SIGNING IN WITHOUT PERMISSION
DO NOT ENGAGE IN DISTRACTING BEHAVIOUR

Assessment
Multiple Choice Tests
You will take THREE multiple choice tests. These tests will be on the subject matter of the previous three or four weeks of class, these are not cumulative. Each test is usually 30 multiple choice and true/false questions, and you will have 30 mins to take the test. This test is NOT designed to be open book. It is assumed that you have completed the reading assignments and attended class before taking the test. The test will be taken in class with a scantron sheet.

Final
In-class Blue Book Exam. The final class exam is open book. A detailed rubric of how these papers are assessed is posted on Blackboard. You will be expected to write an answer of about 1000-1200 words (roughly four or five sides of the Blue Book). You will be given an exam paper with several optional questions based upon the last weeks of the course. In my experience the main reason why students under-perform with regard to finals is that they do not engage with course material. Papers often tend towards ‘streams of consciousness’ with few references to what has been studied. It is expected in a philosophy class, even an intro class, that you have learned some of the philosophers names and can accurately point to what ideas are associated with these philosophers and how to deploy these ideas in a coherent fashion. Higher grades will be awarded to those who can do some of this.

Academic Honesty
Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding and complying with the University Academic Honor Code, which contained in both print and web versions of the ASU Student Handbook. See the Current Student page on the ASU homepage (URL address http://www.angelo.edu/ulcstudent/) and click on the Academic
Honor Code. Acts of academic dishonesty and misconduct as referenced in Angelo State University's Student Handbook will be referred to the Dean of Students.

Religious Observances
Every effort will be made to accommodate all forms of religious observance in compliance with ASU OP 10.19. Students who require additional arrangements to be made should make these known in good time in order that arrangements can be made.

Disabilities
ASU is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA), and subsequent legislation. The Student Affairs Office is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. It is the student's responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting the Student Affairs Office, Suite 112 of the Houston Harte University Center, at 325-942-2047 (phone) or 325-942-2211 (fax) or by e-mail at studentservices@angelo.edu to begin the process. The Student Affairs Office will establish the particular documentation requirements necessary for the various types of disabilities. Please let me know if you have any special need due to any learning disability. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Title IX Statement
Angelo State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. The University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination including: sexual assault, sex-based discrimination, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence and/or dating violence), and stalking. As a faculty member, I am a Responsible Employee meaning that I am obligated by law and ASU policy to report any allegations I am notified of to the Office of Title IX Compliance. This is done in order to connect students with resources and options in addressing the allegations reported. As a student, you are encouraged to report any incidents of sexual misconduct directly to ASU’s Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator. You may do so by contacting:

Michelle Boone, J.D.
Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator
Mayer Administration Building, Room 210
325-942-2022
michelle.boone@angelo.edu

ASU Mission Statement
Angelo State University, a member of the Texas Tech University System, delivers undergraduate and graduate programs in the liberal arts, sciences, and professional disciplines. In a learning-centered environment distinguished by its integration of teaching, research, creative endeavor, service, and co-curricular experiences, ASU prepares students to be responsible citizens and to have productive careers.
*Grading Scale
A-90% Outstanding
B-80% Very good
C-70% Satisfactory
D-60% Minimum required
F-less than 60%
*All course work must be completed for a final grade.

The Course
(I reserve the right to make course changes from time to time when necessary)
*The specific selections from the key texts are found in the posted lectures*

Week 1 Lecture Topic: What is Philosophy?
Reading Assignments: Plato, *The Euthyphro, The Apology, The Crito*

Weeks 2 & 3 Lecture Topics: Ancient Ethical Systems: Virtue Ethics, Stoicism, Natural Law Deontological Ethics, Egoism, Utilitarianism
Reading Assignments: Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*

Weeks 4 & 5 Lecture Topic: Modern Ethics

First Multiple Choice Quiz (usually the end of week four)

Weeks 6, 7 & 8 Lecture Topic: The Philosophy of Knowledge (epistemology)
Different Traditions: Skepticism, Empiricism, Rationalism, Naturalism, Idealism, Phenomenology, Philosophy of Language

Second Multiple Choice Quiz (usually end of week eight)

Weeks 9, 10 & 11 Lecture Topic: Metaphysics
The Metaphysical Problems: Universals, God, Particulars, Causality, Time, Self

Third Multiple Choice Quiz (usually end of week twelve)

Weeks 12, 13, 14 Lecture Topic: Modern Political Philosophy


**Final In-Class Blue Book Exam**
Monday, May 4, 3:30-5:30