

PHIL 1301-D30: INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

SPRING 2022

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND PHILOSOPHY

PROFESSOR

Name: Dr. Badiola

Office: RAS 219; [Virtual Office](#) (requires previous notification)

Email: sbadiola@angelo.edu

Office Phone: (325) 942-6105

Office Hours: MW: 9:00AM-1:00PM; others by appointment

Do not hesitate to contact me during regular office hours. You can visit my local or virtual office, call me or send me an email. If you plan to meet me virtually, please let me know in advance. Also, I will be happy to schedule an appointment at a different time if those offered above do not work for you. Please allow me 24 hours to respond to your emails before you feel abandoned. I will be happy to assist you with any difficulty you may have regarding the course or any question about a particular issue.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course offers a general overview of what philosophy does. We will let Rene Descartes lead the way by reading his *Meditations on First Philosophy* and exploring different problems and themes introduced in that work. Some of the questions we will be studying are: What is philosophy? How do we do philosophy? Can we be certain of what we know? Can we prove the existence of God by means of rational argument? Can we be held responsible for our actions? Could we have done otherwise given our background, our biological and psychological constitution? Who are we? Our mind? Our body? Both? If so, how are mind and body related? Would we continue to exist if our consciousness could be uploaded to a computer?

In order to approach these questions, we will combine lectures, discussions, readings, writing, and movie forums. The text-book mentioned below incorporates readings, links to videos, vocabulary, exercises, and quizzes to enhance your learning experience. Even though this course is introductory in character, you should keep in mind that introductory does not mean simple. As P. F. Strawson put it, “there is no shallow end to the philosophical pool.”

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Introduce students to fundamental terminology and philosophical concerns through a careful reading of Descartes’ *Meditations*
2. Help students develop fundamental philosophical skills, such as examination and critique of arguments to better produce their own
3. Encourage students to think critically to be able to support their own views and understand positions different from their own

COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Students will be able to identify and understand different perspectives and problems linked to a philosophical issue (such as, but not limited to, the problem of the external world, other minds or personal identity), and they will be able to analyze, and critically evaluate different perspectives on those issues (CT1)
2. Students will be able to effectively communicate in writing the philosophical topics discussed in class (CS1)
3. Students will tailor communication strategies to effectively express, listen, and adapt to others to establish relationships to further civic action (SR2)
4. Students will be able to critically evaluate their personal viewpoints as they understand the consequences of their choices (PR1)

STUDENT LEARNING ASSESSMENT

Direct Assessment Type	SLO Assessed	Weight as a Percentage
Reflective questions (Bb journal and GR questions)	CT1, CS1, SR2, PR1	20
Quizzes (6)	CT1	30
Exams (2)	CT1, CS1, SR2	30
Class participation:	CT1, CS1, SR2, PR1	20

Attendance, reading assignments, discussion boards and group work, class assignments		
	Total	100%

Indirect Assessment (IDEA)	SLO
Gaining factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends)	CT1
Developing knowledge and understanding of other diverse perspectives, global awareness or other cultures	PR1
Developing skills in expressing yourself orally or in writing	CS1, SR2
Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view	CT1

- ✚ **Reflective questions:** Each student will write a critical response after each book chapter (Great River). Other reflections will be submitted through the journal tool on Blackboard.
- ✚ **Extensions:** Make up tests and homework extensions will only be allowed if you contact me at least 24 hours before the deadline. Discussion Board activities and group work cannot be given extensions on individual basis
- ✚ **Extra credit** assignments may serve to consolidate a borderline grade. The final grade for the course should be representative of a semester's work. When in doubt, the main grade in two out of the three main categories (journal, quizzes, and exams) will carry the final decision. You can get extra credit by participating in Philosophy Club meetings

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

Book + Class Engagement Tool:

Author: Susana Badiola

Title: *Discovering Philosophy through Descartes' Meditations*

Edition: 1st edition

ISBN: 9781644969472



Figure 1: Photo of the Book Cover

Required students' skills:

- No prior knowledge of philosophy or philosophical reasoning is required for this course. An open mind and a sense of humor are highly recommended. Students entering philosophy for the first time may be shocked to be exposed to new ways of thinking
- Some basic computer skills will be expected, such as writing documents in Word processor or equivalent. Also, the course will be delivered through Blackboard and thus the student is expected to feel comfortable with the platform and encouraged to navigate until this is the case

GENERAL CLASS RULES: BE ACTIVE

- **READ THE MATERIAL and KEEP UP WITH THE ASSIGNMENTS:** Reading philosophy requires time and patience. You should have questions regarding reading assignments. Check the schedule regularly to stay caught up with all assignments (most assignments are due on Tuesdays, also some Fridays)
- **PARTICIPATE:** Active engagement with other members of the class and with me is a vital component of the philosophical learning experience. Participation in blogs or Discussion Boards will help you understand the material and share joys and sorrows with others. Please do not wait until the last minute to complete your contribution to class discussions. It is supposed to be an ongoing process. In fairness to others, you should plan ahead and be an active member of the class. Listening or reading carefully, expressing doubts and

concerns in a coherent manner (either orally or in writing), and responding to other's philosophical concerns contribute to a deeper understanding of the issues at hand. Communicating with me is also considered a form of participation

- CHECK BLACKBOARD FREQUENTLY: It is your responsibility to check due dates for all assignments and to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I have set the 'calendar' on Blackboard so you can see at a glance (check month view) what is due. The 'schedule' also offers an overview of all due assignments. I will communicate with you as a group or as an individual throughout the semester. I may use Blackboard or regular email (please make sure to check the @angelo.edu account). Being in touch means checking no less than five days a week
- NETIQUETTE: Be respectful when you address other people (either other students or me). You may disagree with what other people are defending. The challenge is to show the weaknesses in their arguments and to build better ones. Insults do not make good arguments. Attack arguments, not people. Also, when you send me an email, remember my name (Dr Badiola) and make sure you tell me yours. Always keep in mind the golden rule of cyberspace: Never say online what you would not say face to face
- CONTACT ME. I will be more than happy to discuss the material with you or any other concern that you may have. Please contact me before any assignment is due if you will not be able to meet the deadline. Let me know if your preferred name is not the same as the one on the roster or about your preferred gender pronoun. Remember to check my office hours and make sure to make an appointment with me if you cannot make it during those times

THE ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY HONOR CODE

Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is contained in both print and web versions of the [Student Handbook](#).

In other words, when you submit your work, you claim that the work is yours. If someone else wrote it for you or you got it from someone else (internet, other student's class...), then you are not the author and thus will get a zero for that assignment. Any idea that is not yours should be properly referenced.

[TITLE IX](#)

Title IX at Angelo State University:

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.

Students 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 at:

Michelle Miller, J.D.

Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator

Mayer Administration Building, Room 210

325-942-2022

michelle.miller@angelo.edu

You may also file a report online 24/7 at www.angelo.edu/incident-form.

If you are wishing to speak to someone about an incident in confidence you may contact the *University Health Clinic and Counseling Center* at 325-942-2173 or the *ASU Crisis Helpline* at 325-486-6345. For more information about Title IX in general you may visit www.angelo.edu/title-ix.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.

DISABILITIES

Please let me know if you have any special need due to any learning disability.

Persons with disabilities which may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center, in order to request such accommodations prior to any accommodations being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

COURSE OUTLINE AND SCHEDULE

Please note that since this is a hybrid class, we will only be meeting in person on Thursdays. Blue cells represent online work and assignments

Course Outline	Tuesday (online)	Thursday (face-to-face)
Chapter 0: What is Philosophy?	1/18 ➤ Introduce yourself video (Bb Flipgrid)	1/20 Course Introduction
	1/25 ➤ Respond to two videos (Bb Flipgrid) ➤ Complete exercises 0.1, 0.2, 0.3 (Great River (GR)-access through Bb) ➤ Read chapter 0 and Russell's "The Value of Philosophy" (GR)	1/27 In-class activities
Chapter 1: Can we Think Better?	2/1 ➤ Watch Lecture chapter 1 ➤ Readings and exercises 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6 (GR) ➤ Quiz 1	2/3 In-class activities
Chapter 2: What Can We Know?	2/8 ➤ Watch Lecture chapter 2 ➤ Readings and exercises 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4	2/10 In-class activities

	2/15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Video Discussion due ➤ Quiz 2 	2/17 In-class activities
Chapter 3: Who Are We?	2/22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Watch Lecture chapter 3 ➤ Readings and exercises 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4 	2/24 In-class activities
	3/1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8 ➤ Quiz 3 	3/3 Review
	3/8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Test 1 due at midnight (Lockdown Browser and camera required) ➤ Journal entry 1 	3/10 “Inherit the Wind”
	3/15 Spring Break	3/17 Spring Break
Chapter 4: Can We prove the Existence of God?	3/22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Watch Lecture chapter 4 ➤ Readings and exercises 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6 ➤ Watch “Inherit the Wind” clip (Bb) 	3/24 Movie Discussion
	3/29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Quiz 4 	3/31 In-class activities
Chapter 5: Whose Fault is it?	4/5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Watch Lecture chapter 5 ➤ Readings and exercises 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4 	4/7 In-class activities

	4/12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Movie discussion ➤ Quiz 5 	4/14 In-class activities
	4/19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Watch Lecture chapter 6 ➤ Readings and exercises 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4 	4/21 In-class activities
Chapter 6: Is there Anything Outside Our Mind? What are Mind and Body?	4/26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Quiz 6 due ➤ Journal Entry 2 	4/28 In-class activities
	5/3 Review	5/5 Review
	5/10 Final Exam due at midnight (Lockdown Browser and camera)	5/12

*Unless otherwise specified, all assignments are due at midnight

*Bb: Blackboard

*GR: Great River

HELP CONTACTS

- Book related issues: click “WebSupport” **at the bottom of every page**, email them: WebSupport@greatriverlearning.com or call 24/7 at 800-344-9051
- General technical issues, please contact the IT Helpdesk at 325-942-2911 or 1-800-942-2911. You can also email them at helpdesk@angelo.edu
- **Title IX: Michelle Miller, J.D.**, 325-942-2022 michelle.miller@angelo.edu; www.angelo.edu/incident-form.
- *University Health Clinic and Counseling Center at 325-942-2173 or the ASU Crisis Helpline at 325-486-6345.*

- Questions about the course, the material, or any other issue: Email: sbadiola@angelo.edu; Office Phone: (325) 486-6105