



University of New Haven

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Program of Philosophy

PHIL 2205, Section 01
Classical Philosophy
Spring 2017
M/W from 10:50 to 12:05
9 Echlin Hall
3 Credit Hours

Dr. Douglas Ficek
Visiting Assistant Professor
310 Maxcy Hall
203-932-1177 (Office)
DFicek@newhaven.edu
Office Hours: T/R from 11:00 to 2:45

Undergraduate Course Syllabus

Course Description:

The origins of philosophy and the continuing influence of classical thought on the development of ideas.

Extended Course Description:

Philosophy is a universal phenomenon, which is to say that wherever you find human beings, you find some sort of philosophizing taking place. This is because human beings are naturally inquisitive, not only about practical concerns, but also about larger, more theoretical concerns. "Who are we?" "What are we doing here?" "How exactly should we live?" These philosophical questions have been asked by human beings throughout history and across cultures, and in this course we will consider some of the oldest approaches to them.

In the first part of this course, we will consider classical Chinese philosophy. We will discuss the development of ancient Chinese thought, and then we will focus on the *Analects* of Confucius, one of the most important philosophical texts of the ancient world. In the second part of this course, we will consider the development of ancient Greek philosophy, and then we will focus on the *Republic* of Plato, another profoundly important classical text.

To know who we are, we must understand who we were, and in this course we will explore the classical philosophical traditions of China and Greece. These are worth knowing because they are historically important, but they can also inform our present moment and offer insights into contemporary problems.

Required Texts:

- *Introduction to Chinese Philosophy* by Bryan W. Van Norden; ISBN: 1603844686
- *Analects* by Confucius; ISBN: 0872206351
- *Ancient Greek Philosophy: From the Presocratics to the Hellenistic Philosophers* by Thomas A. Blackson; ISBN: 1444335731
- *Republic* by Plato; ISBN: 0872201368

Course Objectives:

- Students will learn (and hopefully appreciate) what it means to do philosophy.
- Students will discover new (and possibly profound) concepts, ideas, and theories.

- Students will become better arguers (in the sense making and evaluating arguments).

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Students will be able to explain course readings in pop quizzes, class presentations, and written papers.
- Students will be able to evaluate course readings in class discussion, class presentations, and written papers.
- Students will be able to develop their own arguments in class discussion and written papers.

Course Requirements and Assessment:

We will be doing lots of reading in this course, and it is your responsibility to read the assigned pages *before class begins*. To this end, I will be giving you several pop quizzes throughout the semester, on which you may use your notes but not the texts themselves. These quizzes will cover new material as well as material that we have already covered. Also, they cannot be made up, so do not make lateness a habit.

In addition to these pop quizzes, you will be doing two presentations, first on the *Analects* and then on the *Republic*. These will be done in groups of two, and they will put you in a position to teach the texts, which is one of the best ways to learn. More about these as the semester moves forward.

Finally, there will be two paper assignments, one on classical Chinese philosophy and the other on classical Greek philosophy. These will be substantial papers, and you will have to do some additional research to complete them.

There will not be a midterm exam or a final exam.

Grading:

- Attendance – 10%
- Pop Quizzes – 20%
- First Presentation – 15%
- Second Presentation – 15%
- First Paper – 20%
- Second Paper – 20%

Undergraduate Grading System:

<http://www.newhaven.edu/UGGradingSystem>

Caveats:

As an instructor, I am pretty easy-going. I do, however, insist upon a respectful atmosphere in the classroom. What does this mean? It means: no phone calls, no texting or Facebooking, no sleeping, and no ridiculously long bathroom breaks. If your phone does go off during class, you have a choice: You can either sing a song for the class, or I can assign an additional paper that everybody must do. This is not a joke.

Also, “My flash drive broke” has become the new “My dog ate my homework,” and I will no longer accept it as an excuse for late or incomplete work. Please use www.dropbox.com (or something similar) to ensure the security of your written work.

2016-2017 Academic Calendar:

<http://www.newhaven.edu/AcademicCalendar>

Course Outline:

- January 18 – Course Introduction

CLASSICAL CHINESE PHILOSOPHY

- January 23 – *Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy*, pp. 1-15
- January 25 – Video: “Genius of the Ancient World: Confucius”
- January 30 – *Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy*, pp. 17-47
- February 1 – *Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy*, pp. 49-81
- February 6 – *Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy*, pp. 83-119
- February 8 – *Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy*, pp. 121-162
- February 13 – *Introduction to Classical Chinese Philosophy*, pp. 163-199
- February 15 – *Analects*, pp. 1-28 (Presentations)
- February 20 – *Analects*, pp. 29-63 (Presentations)
- February 22 – *Analects*, pp. 64-97 (Presentations)
- February 27 – *Analects*, pp. 98-137 (Presentations)
- March 1 – *Analects*, pp. 138-173 (Presentations)
- March 6 – *Analects*, pp. 174-212 (Presentations)
- March 8 – *Analects*, pp. 213-235 (Presentations)
- March 13 – NO CLASS
- March 15 – NO CLASS

CLASSICAL GREEK PHILOSOPHY

- March 20 – *Ancient Greek Philosophy*, pp. 9-34
- March 22 – Video: “Genius of the Ancient World: Socrates”
- March 27 – *Ancient Greek Philosophy*, pp. 35-69
- March 29 – *Ancient Greek Philosophy*, pp. 70-95
- April 3 – *Ancient Greek Philosophy*, pp. 97-130
- April 5 – *Ancient Greek Philosophy*, pp. 131-149
- April 10 – *Ancient Greek Philosophy*, pp. 151-187
- April 12 – *Ancient Greek Philosophy*, pp. 188-223
- April 17 – *Republic*, pp. 1-59 (Presentations)
- April 19 – *Republic*, pp. 60-121 (Presentations)
- April 24 – *Republic*, pp. 122-185 (Presentations)
- April 26 – *Republic*, pp. 186-240 (Presentations)
- May 1 – *Republic*, pp. 241-292 (Presentations)
- May 9 – FINAL EXAM (8:00-10:00)*

UNIVERSITY POLICIES**Academic Regulations:**

<http://www.newhaven.edu/UGAcademicRegulations>

Adding and Dropping Classes:

The final day to drop a course without it appearing on your transcript is Wednesday, January 25th, 2017. During the second week of classes, further adjustment requires the approval of the chair of the department offering the course.

Attendance Regulations:

Students are expected to attend regularly and promptly all their classes, appointments, and exercises. The instructor has the right to dismiss from class any student who has been absent more than two weeks (pro-rated for terms different from that of the semester). A dismissed student will receive a withdrawal (W) from the course if they are still eligible for a withdrawal per the university "Withdrawal from a Course" policy, or a failure (F) if not.

A student who is not officially registered in the course is not permitted to attend classes or take part in any other course activities.

Students absent from any class meeting are responsible for making up missed assignments and examinations at the discretion of the instructor.

Course Withdrawal Policy:

Students wishing to withdraw must submit a request for an official course withdrawal in writing using the Course Withdrawal Form. The final date to request a withdrawal for this semester is Friday March 24, 2017. This request must be submitted to the Registrar's Office and signed by the International Office if you are an international student. The grade of W will be recorded, but the course will not affect the GPA. Here is a link to the Course Withdrawal Form:

<http://www.newhaven.edu/907680.pdf>.

Incomplete:

A grade of Incomplete (INC) is given only in special circumstances and indicates that the student has been given permission by the instructor to complete required course work (with the same instructor) after the end of the term. In the absence of the instructor a student should contact the Department Chair.

Academic Integrity Policy:

The University of New Haven expects its students to maintain the highest standards of academic conduct. Academic dishonesty is not tolerated at the University. To know what it is expected of them, students are responsible for reading and understanding the statement regarding academic honesty in the Student Handbook or on the University website. Please ask about my expectations regarding permissible or encouraged forms of student collaboration if they are unclear.

Commitment to Positive Learning Environment:

The University adheres to the philosophy that all community members should enjoy an environment free of any form of harassment, sexual misconduct, discrimination, or intimate partner violence. If you have been the victim of sexual misconduct we encourage you to report this. If you report this to a faculty/staff member, they must notify our college's Title IX coordinator about the basic facts of the incident (you may choose to request confidentiality from the University). If you encounter sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, sexual assault, or discrimination based on race, color, religion, age, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability please contact the Title IX Coordinator, Caroline

Koziatek, at 203-932-7479 or koziatek@newhaven.edu. For more information about Title IX at the University of New Haven, see: <http://www.newhaven.edu/about/title-IX/>.

Coursework Expectations:

All undergraduate full-time and part-time students are expected to spend at least two hours on academic studies outside and in addition to each hour of class time. This expectation should be used by the student as a guide in determining how much time to spend on academic studies outside class. It should also be used by the student, in consultation with the academic adviser, to help determine the student's course load each semester so that the course load matches the amount of time available for academic studies.

University Support Services:

The University recognizes that students can often use some help outside of class and offers academic assistance through several offices.

Academic Success Center:

The Academic Success Center provides a wide range of academic support to day and evening undergraduate students beyond their first year of college.

Center for Learning Resources:

The Center for Learning Resources (CLR), located in the Peterson Library, provides academic content support to the students of the University of New Haven using metacognitive strategies that help students become aware of and learn to apply optimal learning processes in the pursuit of creating independent learners CLR tutors focus sessions on discussions of concepts and processes and typically use external examples to help students grasp and apply the material.

Writer to Writer:

Writer to Writer is a peer-tutoring program inspired by the belief that all writers struggle and can benefit from talking through their ideas. Tutors are undergraduate students trained to work with you at any stage in the writing process.

Accessibility Resources Center:

Students with disabilities are encouraged to share, in confidence, information about needed specific course accommodations. The Accessibility Resources Center, located in Sheffield Hall, is responsible for and committed to providing services and support that serve to promote educational equity and ensure that students are able to participate in the opportunities available at the University of New Haven. Accommodations cannot be made without written documentation from the Accessibility Resources Center.

Religious Observance Policy:

The University of New Haven respects the right of its students to observe religious holidays that may necessitate their absence from class or from other required university-sponsored activities. Students who wish to observe such holidays should not be penalized for their absence, although in academic courses they are responsible for making up missed work.