

## THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS

### ***Course Information:***

PHIL 1301.001

Introduction to Philosophy

Fall 2016, MWF, 9 – 9:50am

GR 3.302

### ***Instructor's Contact Information:***

Dr. Carl Hasler

carl.hasler@utdallas.edu

Office location: JO 5.109

Office Hours: MWF 8:30 – 8:55am and by appointment

***Course Prerequisites:*** None

### ***Course Description:***

[PHIL 1301](#) - ([PHIL 1301](#)) Introduction to Philosophy (3 semester hours) An introduction to philosophy through the consideration of topics such as human nature, good and evil, and the mind/body problem. (3-0) Y

### ***PHIL 1301.001 Description:***

Having been defined as both the love of wisdom (Socrates) and the wisdom of love (Lévinas), philosophy seeks to discover what is proper to human being. In this introductory course, we will explore the nature of philosophical questioning. Our engagement with and employment of philosophical inquiry will be twofold: we will read seminal philosophical texts in order to learn philosophy's content, and we will read these texts philosophically in order to learn its form and methodology. In our attempts to understand better the philosophical way of being in the world, we will explore the philosophical and ethical projects from the Plato's *Republic* and Machiavelli's *The Prince*. In so looking at these texts, we will explore various philosophical concerns and the origins of many contemporary movements in the history of philosophy.

***General Education Core Objectives:*** Students who successfully complete this course will demonstrate competency in the following core objectives:

- **Critical thinking skills** – Students will engage in creative and/or innovative thinking, and/or inquiry, analysis, evaluation, synthesis of information, organizing concepts and constructing solutions.
- **Communication skills** – Students will demonstrate effective written, oral and visual communication.
- **Social responsibility** – Students will demonstrate intercultural competency and civic knowledge by engaging effectively in local, regional, national and global communities.
- **Personal responsibility** - Students will demonstrate the ability to connect choices, actions and consequence to ethical decision-making.

**PHIL 1301.001 Course Objectives:** Students will learn:

- **Critical thinking skills;** to analyze and think critically about the texts of some of the most important philosophers of all times (assessed via the critical summaries)
- **Communication skills;** to articulate your own understanding of some of philosophy's seminal texts (assessed via participation in class discussion and the oral presentation)
- **Social responsibility;** to become aware of philosophy's role in your life and its relation to science, culture, religion, and the arts (assessed via the critical summaries and the final exam)
- **Personal responsibility;** to compare and contrast the philosophical works with each other in terms of personal ethics and values (assessed via the critical summaries and the final exam)

**Required Textbooks:**

*Republic* - Plato, trans. Griffith, ed. Ferrari, Cambridge University Press, 2000. ISBN: 978052148443

*The Prince* – Machiavelli, trans. and ed. Skinner and Price, Cambridge University Press, 1988. ISBN: 0521349931

**Hard copies only; you must bring your book to class.**

**Grading Policy:**

Your grade will be based four in-class exams and two in-class essays (one mid-term and one final). In addition, you will receive a Participation/Attendance grade to be determined in part by how many classes you attend during the semester.

|                                      |     |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Exam I [Republic Books I – III]      | 10% |
| Exam II [Republic Books IV – VII]    | 10% |
| Exam III [Republic Books VIII – X]   | 10% |
| Exam IV [The Prince in its entirety] | 10% |
| In-Class Essay I – Mid-term          | 25% |
| In-Class Essay II - Final            | 25% |
| Participation and Attendance         | 10% |

**No make-ups** of Exams or In-Class Essays will be allowed without medical documentation or other legitimate forms of documentation. Please note that you cannot pass this course if you fail to complete any of the assignments (four exams and two in-class essays). There are no extra credit assignments.

Attendance grade: There are 43 class days this Fall 2016 term. Your grade will be determined by the number of classes attended divided by the total number of class days. Your class participation can help your grade. However, should you arrive 10 minutes or more after the start of class, you will be counted absent for that class.

**N.B.** The use of electronic devices is a distraction to you and other students – this includes phones, laptops, e-readers, etc. – and so these devices are **prohibited**. Such devices should be

put away during class time. Further, students are required to bring their books to class, having completed the reading assignments for that class session.

***Comet Creed:***

This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:

“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”

***Course Calendar:***

**Week 1: 8/22 – 8/26**

**Course Introduction; *Republic*, Book I**

**Week 2: 8/29 – 9/2**

***Republic*, Book I and Book II**

**Week 3: 9/5 – 9/9**

**M – 9/5 – Labor Day – No Classes**

***Republic*, Book II**

**Week 4: 9/12 – 9/16**

***Republic*, Book III**

**(F – 9/16) – Exam I**

**Week 5: 9/19 – 9/23**

***Republic*, Book IV**

**Week 6: 9/26 – 9/30**

***Republic*, Book V**

**Week 7: 10/3 – 10/7**

***Republic*, Book VI**

**Week 8: 10/10 – 10/14**

***Republic*, Book VII**

**(F – 10/14) – In-Class Essay I – Mid-Term**

**Week 9: 10/17 – 10/21**

**(M – 10/17) Exam II**

***Republic*, Book VIII**

**Week 10: 10/24 – 10/28**

***Republic*, Book IX**

**Week 11: 10/31 – 11/4**  
***Republic, Book X***

**Week 12: 11/7 – 11/11**  
**(M – 11/7) Exam III**  
***The Prince, Letters – Appendix A, Chapters I – VII***

**Week 13: 11/14 – 11/18**  
***The Prince, Chapters VIII – XX***

**Week of 11/21 – 11/25 – Thanksgiving Holidays – No Classes**

**Week 14: 11/28 – 12/2**  
***The Prince, Chapters XXI – XXVI***

**Week 15: 12/5 – 12/7 (Last Class Day)**  
***The Prince, Conclusion and Catch Up!***  
**(W – 12/7) Exam IV**

**Week 16: 12/14 – Final Exam – 8 – 10:45am**  
**(W – 12/14) In-Class Essay II – Final**

***Course and Instructor Policies:***

Attendance is required. Students who fail to attend class regularly are inviting scholastic difficulty. If you miss a class, ask to borrow notes from a classmate. I do not need a note from your doctor or anyone else; do not tell me medical issues or personal business. Do not come to class sick; you will be asked to leave. No distractions: extraneous noises, attention-getting clothing, etc. **No recording devices. No cameras. No computers or cell phones. Take notes on paper and use a pen or pencil. No work will be accepted late. There is no extra credit.**

Because of the nature of this course and its topics, expect to have your values and beliefs challenged. Avoid personal attacks on your classmates (as well as your professor) who may disagree with you. This course involves critical/analytical thinking, reading, and writing. Being prepared will serve you well as you attempt to articulate your own viewpoint and understanding of the texts as well as discuss the viewpoints of others in a reasonable manner.

***Technical Support***

If you experience any problems with your UT Dallas account, you may email [assist@utdallas.edu](mailto:assist@utdallas.edu) or call the UT Dallas Computer Help Desk at 972-883-2911.

***Student Conduct and Discipline***

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is

contained in the UT Dallas printed publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is available to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Series 50000*, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, and in *Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities* of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, #972-883-6391) and online at

<http://www.utdallas.edu/judicialaffairs/UTDJudicialAffairs-HOPV.html>.

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

Students are expected to be attentive during class and to participate actively in group activities. Students are expected to listen respectfully to faculty and to other students who are speaking. Racism, sexism, homophobia, classism, ageism, and other forms of bigotry are inappropriate to express in class. Classes may discuss issues that require sensitivity and maturity. Disruptive students will be asked to leave and may be subject to disciplinary action.

### ***Academic Integrity***

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

*Scholastic Dishonesty.* Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, submitting for credit any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, or any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source, is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details).

### ***Email Use***

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence to be sent only to a student's UT Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it

originates from a UT Dallas student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individuals corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UT Dallas furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at UT Dallas provides a method for students to have their UT Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

### ***Withdrawal from Class***

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal from any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course inventory and in the academic calendar. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, a professor or another instructor cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

### ***Disability Services***

It is the policy and practice of the University of Texas at Dallas to make reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. However, written notification from the Office of Student AccessAbility (OSA) is required. If you are eligible to receive an accommodation and would like to request it for a course, please discuss it with an OSA staff member and allow at least one week's advanced notice. Students who have questions about receiving accommodations, or those who have, or think they may have, a disability (mobility, sensory, health, psychological, learning, etc.) are invited to contact the Office of Student AccessAbility for a confidential discussion.

The primary functions of the Office of Student AccessAbility are to provide:

1. academic accommodations for students with a documented permanent physical, mental or sensory disability
2. non-academic accommodations
3. resources and referral information and advocacy support as necessary and appropriate.

OAS is located in the Student Services Building, suite 3.200. They can be reached by phone at #972-883-2098, or by email at [disabilityservice@utdallas.edu](mailto:disabilityservice@utdallas.edu).

### ***Religious Holy Days***

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, *Texas Code Annotated*.

The Student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes an y missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for

the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of *TEC 51.911(b)*, and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

### ***Resources to Help You Succeed***

The GEMS Center (located within the Conference Center) provides a wide array of free academic support and enhancement for UT Dallas undergraduate students. Offerings include, but are not limited to, a Math Lab and Writing Center, Peer Tutoring (with a focus on science, technology, engineering, and math courses), test review sessions, and academic success coaching. The current menu of services, schedules, and contact information is posted on the GEMS website: <http://www.utdallas.edu/ossa/gems/>.

### ***UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures***

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and for these policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus. Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

**The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.**