



ROSE STATE COLLEGE

www.rose.edu

Class Syllabus

PHIL 1103/Introduction to Philosophy

Fall 2018



COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an investigation into the nature of the world, how and if we know anything about the world, and the ways in which we make ethical decisions. This course introduces the major areas of philosophy: metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, and political philosophy. This course may be taken as Humanities credit for General Education requirements.

PROFESSOR/INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Name	Seth Robertson
Title	Mr.
Office Location	HUM 118
Office Hours	Wednesdays, 10:45-11:30 and by appointment
Campus Phone Number	405-733-7385
Campus E-mail Address	srobertson@rose.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Prerequisite course(s) or skill(s)	READ 1213 or Equivalent
Section Number/Course	
Number/Course Title	PHIL 1103 (2554) Introduction to Philosophy
Time/Location	Mon & Wed 9:30 AM – 10:45 AM

DELIVERY METHOD Traditional/Lecture

CLASS COMPUTER USAGE

All course sections at RSC may be Web enhanced and require some level of access to a computer and the College utilized Learning Management System. Free access to computers is available to all enrolled students in the Learning Resources Center and in other Academic Division computer laboratories. Traditional/Lecture classes meet in a classroom/lab setting and consist primarily in face-to-face instruction.

TEXTBOOK/SUPPLIES INFORMATION

Title/Edition	All readings in course packets
Author/Publisher	
ISBN #	
Helpful supplies/ materials	

COURSE OBJECTIVES/EXPECTED OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, the student should:

1. Be prepared to construct a more meaningful worldview or philosophy of life for him/herself.
2. Develop a solid working knowledge of the principal areas of philosophy: philosophy of human nature, including freedom; ethics; theory of knowledge; and metaphysics, including philosophy of religion.
3. Explore and evaluate the principal ideas of some major philosophers.

GRADING SCALE

There are several components that add up to your final grade in this course.

1. Exams – 40%
 - a. Test 1 (Midterm) – 20%
 - b. Test 3 (Final) – 20%
2. Participation – 10%
3. Response Papers – 50%
 - a. Paper 1 – 25%
 - b. Paper 2 – 25%

TEXTBOOK: Most of our readings will come from Guy Crain's Introduction to Topics in Philosophy. All of your readings will be given to you in your course packets.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Last day to withdraw November 16

Final Will be taken in class

COURSE POLICIES

(May include but is not limited to:)

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Read this syllabus and be familiar with it. This syllabus is both a contract that explains our responsibilities to each other but also contains useful information about the course and how to succeed in it.
- Adhere to the Rose State Academic Integrity policy (below). Read and ask questions of clarification if you do not understand the policy. Violation of this policy will result in a *final* grade of "0" for the assignment(s) in which the policy is violated.
- Treat every other person in the classroom with respect and courtesy; do not cause distractions; inasmuch as it depends on you, do not intrude or infringe on anyone else's ability to learn, listen, or participate.
- Complete the coursework responsibly.
- In the event that you miss class, check the class calendar to see what you missed, then do the relevant readings.

PROFESSOR RESPONSIBILITIES

- Come to class consistently and on time.
- Treat every student with courtesy, fairness, and impartiality.
- Grade and return assignments promptly.
- Organize the class so the objectives are met and students are meaningfully and actively engaged.
- Maintain an atmosphere of mutual respect at all times.
- Work with students individually beyond class time as needed.

RECOMMENDED STUDY METHOD(S)

1. Do the readings. I cannot emphasize enough how important and useful the readings are for getting a good grade, and for enjoying the class.
2. Come to class and take good notes. A significant amount of the material over which you will be tested will come from lectures.
3. On your own, complete the study guides for test. Come to class review sessions and ask questions about issues you don't understand.
4. Discuss the issues in the readings and in class with other people (friends, family, roommates). Philosophy is fun to talk about!
5. Before you upload written assignments, please edit your work carefully. Be sure you followed every part of the instructions, you don't have typos (Word doesn't catch everything), and that you were as clear as you could be. If you struggle with writing, I strongly advise you to take advantage of the free writing tutors available at Rose. Upload documents in doc., docx., or .pdf format.

INSTITUTIONAL GRADING POLICIES

Please note that the grade of *W* can be assigned only if the student officially withdraws from the course. The grade of *AU* for audit is not an option in this course.

A student may request a grade of *I* (Incomplete) only when an emergency situation affects the last days of the semester. The student **MUST BE PASSING** at the time of the request. Should circumstances merit an *I*, the student and instructor will contract a plan to include work missed and a timeline for work to be completed before the end of the following semester; if the work is not completed by that time, the grade will automatically convert to an *F*.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Rose State College complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students with disabilities who seek accommodations must make their request by contacting the **Office of Disabilities Services**, located in LRC 125 or call 733-7407. The student will be asked to provide documentation concerning the disability. All accommodations must be approved by the Office of Disability Services.

COUNSELING SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

Rose State College offers short-term counseling to current students. The short-term counseling sessions are at no charge to the student. Please call (405)733-7373 to schedule an appointment for counseling. All calls are confidential.

THE MISSION OF ROSE STATE COLLEGE

As a public and open admission institution that grants associate degrees, Rose State College provides higher education programs and services intended to foster lifelong learning for a diverse population.

STUDENT POLICIES

Academic Integrity

Rose State College expects students to understand and to follow basic standards of honesty and integrity. Some common violations of these basic standards of academic integrity include but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating on tests and examinations, presenting work completed for one course as original work for another, and other forms of dishonest performance on college assignments, as explained below.

Plagiarism means the use of the thoughts, ideas, words, phrases or research of another person or source as one's own without explicit and accurate credit to the original author.

Cheating on examinations of any kind (quizzes, midterms, finals, etc.) includes copying another student's answers, exchanging information, using notes or books unless expressly permitted to do so by the instructor, or gaining access to examinations prior to the actual taking of such examinations.

Other examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to, copying or preparing another person's work; or buying prepared papers.

Assisting anyone to engage in any of the violations described above qualifies as academic dishonesty.

All rules and standards of academic integrity apply equally to all electronic media, particularly all intranet and internet activities. This is especially true for any form of plagiarism, ranging from submission as one's own all or part of a paper obtained from an internet source to failure to cite properly an internet source.

TENTATIVE CLASS CALENDAR/Course Outline

ITP = Introduction to Topics in Philosophy

Date	Topic	Reading
Aug 20	Introductions	
Aug 23	Free Will	ATP 16-28 Plato – “The Allegory of the Cave”
Aug 27	Free Will	Borges – “The Garden of Forking Paths” ATP 28-36 [optional: Seto - “What happens if

		we do or do not believe in free will?]
Aug 30	Mind	ITP 39-49 [Optional: Churchland - "The benefits of realizing you're just a brain"]
Sep 3 (NO CLASS LABOR DAY)		
Sep 5	Mind	ITP 50-59 [Optional: "What can Avicenna teach us about the mind-body problem?"]
Sep 10	Personal Identity	ITP 61-71 Cortazar – "Axolotl"
Sep 12	Personality Identity	ITP 72-80 Weir – "The Egg" [Optional: Bieber Learning to Fall Apart]
Sep 17	God	ITP 82-89 Voltaire – "Plato's Dream"
Sep 19	God	ITP 89-102
Sep 24	Knowledge	ITP 131-140 Nguyen "Escape the Echo Chamber"
Sep 26	Knowledge	ITP 140-154
Oct 1	Skepticism	ITP 155-163 Gilman - "The Yellow Wallpaper"
Oct 3	Skepticism	ITP 163-179
Oct 8	Review	(Paper 1 due)
Oct 10	MIDTERM	
Oct 15	Truth	ITP 180-191
Oct 17	Truth	ITP 191-205
Oct 22	Science and knowledge	ITP 229-239
Oct 24	Science and knowledge	ITP 239-251
Oct 29	Ethics	Midgley – "Trying Out One's New Sword" Gensler "Cultural Relativism"
Oct 31	Ethics	Harris – "The Survival Lottery" Norcross – "Puppies, Pigs, and People"
Nov 5	Consequentialism	ITP 286-293; Le Guin – "The Ones Who Walked Away From Omelas" [Optional: Singer – "The Singer Solution to World Poverty"]
Nov 7	Kantian Ethics	ITP 293-298 Grimke – Letter 12
Nov 12	Virtue Ethics	ITP 298-302
Nov 14	Buddhist Ethics	Priest – "Buddhist Ethics, A Perspective"

		[Optional: Kim – The Path to No-Mind”]
Nov 19 (NO CLASS THANKSGIVING)		
Nov 21 (NO CLASS THANKSGIVING)		
Nov 26	Confucian Ethics	Excerpts from <i>Analects</i> , <i>Mengzi</i>
Nov 28	Aztec Ethics	Purcell – “Aztec Moral Philosophy,” “What the Aztecs can teach us about happiness”
Dec 3	Feminism	Adichie – “We should all be feminists”
Dec 5	Justice	Thuycidides’ <i>Melian Dialogue</i> , Plato’s <i>Republic</i> Chapter 1
Dec 10	Moral Obligations	Bhagavad Gita Chapter 1, Plato’s <i>Apology</i> [Optional: Plato’s <i>Crito</i>]
Dec 12	Review	(Paper 2 Due)
Dec 17	FINAL	