



# ROSE STATE COLLEGE

[www.rose.edu](http://www.rose.edu)

## *Class Syllabus*

### PHIL 1103/Introduction to Philosophy

Spring 2017



#### **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, 4:00-5:30 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 5:40 PM – 6:55 PM in HUM 227

#### **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	<i>Philosophy: A Text With Readings</i> /12th edition
Author/Publisher	Manuel Velasquez/Cengage
ISBN #	978-1133612100
Helpful supplies/ materials	Consistent Internet Access, Flash Drive, Dropbox Account

#### **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) – 10%
  - b. Test 2 – 10%
  - c. Test 3 (Final) – 20%
2. In-class Assignments – 10%
3. Response Papers – 50%
  - a. Paper 1 – 15%

- b. Paper 2 – 15%
- c. Paper 3 – 20%

**EXTRA CREDIT:** I will give extra credit up to 5% points in the Response Papers category for writing an additional response paper, on a topic approved by me, by April 19<sup>th</sup>. No other extra credit will be available.

**EMAIL & DRAFTS:** *Never email me an assignment.* Upload assignments to their appropriate dropbox on D2L.

**TEXTBOOK:** Officially, this course syllabus uses the 12<sup>th</sup> edition of our textbook, because it is less expensive than the newer 13<sup>th</sup> edition. If you prefer the 13<sup>th</sup> edition, you are free to use it, but the page numbers are slightly different from those listed.

### **IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

Last day to withdraw April 17<sup>th</sup>

Final Available in Academic Testing Center during their hours of operation beginning Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. Visit the following website to check for hours of operation and testing center policies: <https://www.rose.edu/content/academics/student-resources/learning-resources-center/academic-testing-center/>

### **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.
- Check your Rose State email and D2L often: at least once a week, preferably once a day. You are responsible for whatever information I share with the class via email and D2L.
- Check grades frequently on D2L and notify me promptly if there is an error. Check D2L for information about the course and any changes to the syllabus.
- 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.
- Email me or visit me during office hours if you are ever struggling to understand the lectures or readings. I am more than happy to help!
- Secure the level of reliable computer and internet access necessary to complete the coursework at a responsible pace. This course requires significant computer and internet usage, especially familiarity with D2L.

#### **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**

DATE	TOPIC	READING	DUE
Jan 18	Syllabus & What is Philosophy?		
Jan 23	Freedom & Determinism 1	Velasquez "Thinking Critically" (pp. 52- 54) & 3.7 (pp. 202-211) on Free Will	
Jan 25	Freedom & Determinism 2	Velasquez 2.2 (pp. 56-81) on Human Nature	
Jan 30	The Mind-Body Problem 1	Velasquez 2.3 (pp. 82-96) on the Mind-Body Problem & 2.6 (only Moreland & Searle on pp. 122-125)	
Feb 1	The Mind-Body Problem 2	Velasquez 2.4 & 2.5 (pp. 96 – 114) on Self & Identity	
Feb 6	Arguments for the Existence of God	Velasquez 4.2 & 4.3 (pp. 241-270) on God, Atheism, & the Problem of Evil	
Feb 8	The Problem of Evil	Velasquez 4.5, 4.6, & 4.7 (pp. 272-296) on Traditional & Non-traditional Religious Belief plus Dostoevsky & Alston	
Feb 13 <sup>th</sup>	Writing Workshop	"Defending a Thesis in an Argumentative Essay" on D2L	
Feb 15 <sup>th</sup>	Descartes' Meditations	Velasquez 5.1 & 5.2 (pp. 314-333) on Rationalism	
Feb 20	Descartes & Skepticism	Velasquez 5.3 & 5.4 (pp. 333-363) on Empiricism & Kant's Phenomenalism	
Feb 22	The Simulation Argument	Reading on D2L	
Feb 27	Review for Exam 1 (Midterm)		
Mar 1	NO CLASS	NO CLASS	Response Paper 1 (upload to D2L)
Mar 6	Philosophy of Science	Velasquez 5.5 & 6.1 (pp.363-373, 394-401) on Scientific Knowledge & Truth, Belief, & Justification	
Mar 6 - 10	EXAM 1 available in the Academic Testing Center (BS 217)		
Mar 8	Ethics	"Trying Out One's New	

		Sword” on D2L	
Mar 20	Utilitarian Ethics 1	Velasquez 7.1, 7.2, 7.3 (pp. 456-474) on Relativism, Egoism, and Consequentialism	
Mar 22	Utilitarian Ethics 2	John Stuart Mill’s “Utilitarianism” on D2L	
Mar 27	Kantian Ethics 1	Velasquez 7.4 (pp. 474-491 minus the “Buddhist Ethics” section) on Divine Command Theory, Natural Law, & Kantian Ethics	
Mar 29	Buddhist Ethics	Velasquez “Buddhist Ethics” & 7.5 (pp. 491-508) on Character-based ethics	
Apr 3	Aristotle	Aristotle’s “Nicomachean Ethics” on D2L Velasquez 7.6 (pp. 508-518) on Abortion & Euthanasia	
Apr 5	Confucian Ethics	Reading on D2L	Response Paper 2 (Upload to D2L)
Apr 10	Social Contracts	Velasquez 8.1 – 8.2 (pp.538 – 557) on Social & Political Philosophy & Social Contract Theories	
Apr 12	NO CLASS	NO CLASS	
Apr 17	Karl Marx	Marx’s Communist Manifesto on D2L	
Apr 19	Rawls’ Theory of Justice 1; Review for Exam 2	Velasquez 8.3 (pp. 558-574) on Justice	
Apr 24	Rawls’ Theory of Justice 2	Velasquez 8.6 (pp. 605-615) on Marx & Rawls	Response Paper 3 (Upload to D2L)
Apr 24 - 28	EXAM 2 available in the Academic Testing Center (BS 217)		
May 1 <sup>st</sup>	Review for Final Exam		
May 8 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup>	FINAL EXAM available in Academic Testing Center (BS 217)		