

# PHIL 100 Basic Problems in Philosophy

Spring 2015

TThu 2:30-3:45 Bowden Hall 116

Dr. Dilek Huseyinzadegan  
[dhuseyin1@emory.edu](mailto:dhuseyin1@emory.edu)

**Office:** Bowden Hall 110

**Course Description:** This class is a broad introduction to philosophy, both its concepts and its methods. Toward this end, we will look at some major philosophical texts, examining their arguments concerning some basic problems of philosophy, such as the nature of reality and existence, art and beauty, ethics and the good, history and progress, and who we are. We will also use various forms of media as facilitators of philosophical questions. Throughout this examination, students will be able to develop a thematic and historical approach to the basic problems of Western philosophy. Additionally, they will learn basic critical thinking skills, including close reading and exegesis, how to engage in constructive and productive critique, how to ask good questions, how to recognize, evaluate, and make arguments, how to think through philosophical questions that are present here and now in our own lives.

## Assignment Schedule

### What is Philosophy?

#### **Week 1**

**January 13 Tuesday:** Syllabus and Course introduction

**January 15 Thursday:** Plato 1: *Apology*

#### **Week 2**

**January 20 Tuesday:** Plato 1, cont'd.

**January 22 Thursday:** Plato 1, cont'd.

#### **Week 3**

**January 27 Tuesday:** Dr. King, "Letter from Birmingham Jail"

**January 29 Thursday:** Dr. King, cont'd.

### What is Real? Do I exist?

#### **Week 4**

**February 3 Tuesday:** Descartes, *Meditations I and II*

**February 5 Thursday:** Descartes, cont'd.

First Exegetical Paper Topic and Guidelines to be posted on Blackboard>Paper Assignments

#### **Week 5**

**February 10 Tuesday:** Descartes, cont'd.

**February 12 Thursday:** Descartes and *the Matrix*

**What is Art? Who is an Artist?**

**Week 6**

February 17 Tuesday: Plato 2: selections from *The Republic*

February 19 Thursday: Plato 2, cont'd.

**\*\*\*First Exegetical paper due online by 8pm on February 20, Friday\*\*\***

**Week 7**

February 24 Tuesday: Nietzsche, "On Truth and Lying in a Non-Moral Sense"

February 26 Thursday: Nietzsche, cont'd. Discussion of various artworks (see Blackboard)

**What is the Good? What must I do?**

**Week 8**

March 3 Tuesday: Kant 1, selections from the *Groundwork*

March 5 Thursday: Kant 1, cont'd.

***Spring Break March 9-13 – No class meetings***

**Week 9**

March 17 Tuesday: Kant 1, cont'd. Beauvoir 1, selections from *Ethics of Ambiguity*

March 19 Thursday: Beauvoir 1, cont'd, and *Doubt*

**What is History? Is the humankind making progress?**

**Week 10**

March 24 Tuesday: Kant 2, "Idea for a Universal History with a Cosmopolitan Intent"

March 26 Thursday: Kant 2, cont'd.

**Week 11**

March 31 Tuesday: Marx, Communist Manifesto

April 2 Thursday: Marx, cont'd. *Elysium*

**\*\*\*Second Exegetical Paper due online by 8pm on April 3, Friday\*\*\***

Final Paper Topics and Guidelines to be posted on Blackboard>Paper Assignments

**What is the Human Being? Who are we?**

**Week 12**

April 7 Tuesday: Beauvoir 2, Introduction to *The Second Sex*

April 9 Thursday: Beauvoir 2, cont'd.

**Week 13**

April 14 Tuesday: Beauvoir 2, cont'd. Dussel, selections from *The Invention of the Americas*.

April 16 Thursday: Dussel, cont'd.

**Week 14**

April 21 Tuesday: Dussel, cont'd. *Even the Rain*

April 23 Thursday Final Paper Workshop and discussion.