This is the syllabus for a 1000-level PWOL course I developed for the spring 2021 semester. I thank the many PWOL Network members for their inspiration, ideas, and resources. Whatever flaws this course has are entirely my own. If you have feedback or wish to chat, I invite you to contact me: [damon.boria@franu.edu](mailto:damon.boria@franu.edu)

****

**SYLLABUS**

**COURSE PREFIX/NUMBER: PHIL 1310-1**

**COURSE CREDIT HOURS: 3**

**COURSE MEETING INFORMATION: Hybrid: Wednesday sessions will be synchronous from 12:30-1:45. Unless stated otherwise, meeting in-person will be available in room 104 in the Science Building. Students can also attend via Zoom. Friday sessions will consist of asynchronous online time (SP21)**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Professor  Office  Phone  Email  Office Hours  Final Exam | | Dr. Damon Boria  Liberal Arts Building, 104C  225-768-1794  damon.boria@franu.edu  Schedule an appointment to meet via Zoom through Bookings. Link available on Moodle. Office hours: T-W 2:00-3:00pm, TH-F 9:00-10:00am  TBA | | |
| Course Description: | | This course is an introduction to philosophy that focuses on ways of living. Students will engage major philosophical texts, discuss enduring philosophical issues, and thoughtfully explore various philosophical ways of life. | | |
| Prerequisite(s) | | WRIT 1310 | | |
| Student Learning Outcomes | | Students shall be evaluated on their ability to:   1. Describe main ideas in philosophical texts. 2. Evaluate main ideas in philosophical texts. 3. Relate philosophical ideas to ways of living. | | |
| Course Adoptions | | Eric Weiner. *The Socrates Express: In Search of Life Lessons from Dead Philosophers*. Avid Reader Press. 2020. ISBN 978-1-5011-2901-8  Additional required texts and videos will be freely available through the University’s electronic library or on Moodle as PDFs or links. | | |
| Final Grade Calculation | | 75 points Reading Journal (15)  25 points Participation  150 points Exams (3)  50 points PWOL Exercise Projects (2)  50 points Me and PWOL Essay  Total Points: 350 | | |
| Grading Scale | | 90-100% A  87-89% B+  80-86% B  77-79% C+  70-76% C  67-69% D+  60-66% D  0-59% F | | |
| Course Calendar\* | | | | |
| **Class Session** | **Topic(s)** | | **Preparation** | **Work Due** | |
| **1/13**  **Face-to-face** | Introduction to course  Class norms | | Read Eric Weiner, “Introduction” |  | |
| **1/15**  **Online, asynchronous** | Philosophy as a way of life | | Read Pierre Hadot, “Philosophy as a Way of Life”  Watch instructional video by Dr. Boria |  | |
| **1/20**  **F2F** | Philosophy as a way of life  The Epicurean way | | Read Epicurus, *Principal Doctrines*  Read Weiner, “How to Enjoy like Epicurus” | Reading Journal 1 (on Hadot). Due by 12:30 pm | |
| **1/22**  **O** | The Socratic way | | Read Plato, *Apology*  Watch instructional video |  | |
| **1/27**  **F2F** | The Socratic way | | Read Weiner, “How to Wonder like Socrates” | Reading Journal 2 (on Plato). Due by 12:30 pm | |
| **1/29**  **0** | The Stoic way | | Read Marcus Aurelius, *Meditations* (selections)  Read Epictetus, *Enchiridion* (selections)  Watch instructional video |  | |
| **2/3**  **F2F** | The Stoic way | | Read Weiner, “How to Get Out of Bed like Marcus Aurelius”  Read Weiner, “How to Cope like Epictetus” | Reading Journal 3 (on Aurelius). Due by 12:30 pm  Reading Journal 4 (on Epictetus). Due by 12:30 pm | |
| **2/5**  **O** | The Stoic way | | Read William Irvine, “The Dichotomy of Control: On Becoming Invincible” (from *A Guide to the Good Life: The Ancient Art of Stoic Joy*)  Watch instructional video |  | |
| **2/10**  **F2F** | The Stoic way | | Read Irvine, “Insults: On Putting Up with Put-Downs” (from *A Guide to the Good Life*) | Reading Journal 5 (on Irvine 2/5). Due by 12:30 pm | |
| **2/12**  **O** | Exam  The Confuciun/Ruist way | | Read Confucius, *The Great Learning* (selections)  Read Confucius, *Analects* (selections)  Watch instructional video | Exam 1 (on philosophy as a way of life, the Epicurean way, the Socratic way, and the Stoic way). Due by 11:59 pm | |
| **2/17**  **F2F** | The Confuciun/Ruist way | | Weiner, “How to Be Kind like Confucius”  Read Bin Song, “Quiet Sitting on a Chair” | Reading Journal 6 (on Confucius). Due by 12:30 pm | |
| **2/19**  **O** | The Rousseauvian way | | Read Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Reveries of the Solitary Walker* (selections)  Watch instructional video |  | |
| **2/24**  **F2F** | The Rousseauvian way | | Read Weiner, “How to Walk like Rousseau” | Reading Journal 7 (on Rousseau). Due by 12:30 pm | |
| **2/26**  **O** | The Thoreauvian/transcendentalist way | | Read Henry David Thoreau, “Where I Lived, and What I Lived for” and other selections from *Walden*  Watch instructional video |  | |
| **3/3**  **F2F** | The Thoreauvian/transcendentalist way  *Class meeting may be at a local pond: details TBA* | | Read Weiner, “How to See like Thoreau” | Reading Journal 8 (on Thoreau). Due by 12:30 pm | |
| **3/5**  **O** | The pessimistic way | | Read Arthur Schopenhauer, selections from *Parerga and Paralipomena*  Read Friedrich Nietzsche, selections from *The Gay Science* and *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* |  | |
| **3/10**  **F2F** | The pessimistic way | | Read Weiner, “How to Listen like Schopenhauer”  Read Weiner, “How to Have No Regrets like Nietzsche” | Reading Journal 9 (on Schopenhauer and Nietzsche). Due by 12:30 pm | |
| **3/12**  **O** | Exam | |  | Exam 2 (on the Confuciun/Ruist way, the Rousseauvian way, the Thoreauvian/transcendentalist way, and the pessimistic way). Due by 11:59 pm | |
| **3/17** | *Spring break; no class* | |  |  | |
| **3/19** | *Spring break; no class* | |  |  | |
| **3/24**  **F2F** | A how-to interlude: paying attention | | Simone Weil, “Attention and Will” (from *Gravity and Grace*)  Read Weiner, “How to Pay Attention like Simone Weil” | Reading Journal 10 (on Weil). Due by 12:30 pm | |
| **3/26**  **O** | The pragmatist way | | Read Jane Addams, “The Subjective Necessity for Social Settlements” (from *Twenty Years at Hull-House*)  Watch instructional video |  | |
| **3/31**  **F2F** | The pragmatist way | | Watch “The Legacy of Jane Addams and Hull House” (from Chicago Humanities Festival) | Reading Journal 11 (on Addams). Due by 12:30 pm | |
| **4/2** | *Good Friday; no class* | |  |  | |
| **4/7**  **F2F** | A how-to interlude: fighting | | Read Gandhi, “The Practice of Satyagraha or Civil Disobedience” (selections)  Read Weiner, “How to Fight like Gandhi” | Reading Journal 12 (on Gandhi). Due by 12:30 pm  PWOL Exercise Projects (2). Due by 11:59 pm | |
| **4/9**  **O** | The existentialist way | | Read Simone de Beauvoir, “What Is Existentialism?” and “An Existentialist Looks at Americans” (from *Simone de Beauvoir: Philosophical Writings*)  Watch instructional video |  | |
| **4/14**  **F2F** | The existentialist way | | Read Jennifer Gosetti-Ferencei, “I Selfie, Therefore I Am: On Self-Imaging Culture” (from *On Being and Becoming: An Existentialist Approach to Life)* | Reading Journal 13 (on Beauvoir). Due by 12:30 pm | |
| **4/16**  **O** | The existentialist way | | Read W.E.B. Du Bois, “The Forethought” and “Of Our Spiritual Strivings” (from *The Souls of Black Folk*)  Watch instructional video |  | |
| **4/21**  **F2F** | The existentialist way | | Listen to “Episode 110: Chike Jeffers Discusses the Social and Political Philosophy of W.E.B. Du Bois” (from *Elucidations: A University of Chicago Podcast*) | Reading Journal 14 (on Du Bois). Due by 12:30 pm | |
| **4/23**  **O** | The existentialist way | | Read James Baldwin, “Down at the Cross: Letter from a Region in My Mind” (selections from *The Fire Next Time*)  Watch instructional video |  | |
| **4/28**  **F2F** | The existentialist way | | Watch “I Am Not Your Negro: Official Trailer” | Reading Journal 15 (on Baldwin). Due by 12:30 pm | |
| **4/30**  **O** | A how-to goodbye: growing old and dying | | Read Weiner, “How to Grow Old like Beauvoir”  Read Weiner, “How to Die like Montaigne”  Watch instructional video |  | |
| **5/3** |  | |  | Me and PWOL Essay. Due by 11:59 pm  Optional PWOL Exercise Project(s). Due by 11:59 pm | |
| **TBA** | Exam | |  | Exam 3 (on the paying attention how-to, the pragmatist way, the fighting how-to, the existentialist way, and the goodbye how-to) | |
| The professor reserves the right to amend, adjust, or deviate from this course calendar, when necessary, and will communicate these changes in the University’s Learning Management System. | | | | | |
| Classroom Policies | | | | | |
| Instructor’s Expectations for Students | | Expectations for students include:   * Preparing for class by completing the class preparation assignments carefully and on time. * Arriving to class (in-person or remotely) on time, listening attentively, and participating reasonably in class. * Reviewing instructions and grading rubrics—both available on Moodle--and completing assignments accordingly. * Completing all graded work independently and with integrity, as outlined in the Student Handbook. * Dedicating enough time to the course to enable successful learning. * Acting respectfully toward the instructor and fellow students at all times. Note that some discussions in this course may be sensitive and so it is important to be consistently mindful of this expectation. | | | |
| Class Attendance Policy | | In general, excused absences are limited to documented illnesses and certain health conditions, family emergencies, and approved extracurricular activities. For the student to receive an excused absence, the instructor must be notified of the situation by email or in writing. If possible, the instructor should be notified in advance. | | | |
| Late Work and Make up Policy | | Late coursework cannot be made up unless the student has received an approved excuse from the instructor. In cases of an approved excuse, the student is responsible for making specific arrangements with the instructor in a timely manner. | | | |
| Policy Regarding Use of Electronic Devices | | If the instructor is using an instructional program that utilizes electronic devices, students are encouraged to bring electronic devices such as laptops and cell phones to class. In this case students are required to use their devices only for class purposes. If this is not the case, however, use of electronic devices during class is prohibited due to the fact that they are frequently distractions to both their owners and others. The instructor may grant exceptions for special circumstances. If students have a good reason to keep their cellphones available (e.g. to be reachable by dependents), then they can ask the instructor for approval. | | | |
| Class Cancellation Policy | | If class is cancelled, students will receive either a message from the University or the instructor via Moodle as soon as possible. The instructor reserves the right to revise the course schedule, including due dates for graded work. | | | |
| Course Homework and Assignment Information | | Reading Journal and Participation: The purpose of this requirement is to incentivize timely preparation and fruitful participation. Each journal entry is due by 12:30 pm (i.e. the start of class) on the day identified on the syllabus.  Exams: The purpose of this requirement is to provide opportunities for students to demonstrate their learning of course content and the instructor to measure this learning. All three exams will be used to assess learning outcomes 1 and 2. They will be administered outside of class time through Moodle. Each exam will be made available at least 24 hours before it is due, which is 11:59 pm on the day identified on the syllabus. They are open note/book. Students must work independently (i.e. no collaboration).  Philosophy as a Way of Life Exercise Projects: The purpose of this requirement is to provide an opportunity for students to achieve learning outcome 3 and the instructor to measure this achievement. Additional instructions will be provided during class or on Moodle.  Me and PWOL Essay: The purpose of this requirement is to provide an opportunity for students to achieve learning outcome 3 and the instructor to measure this achievement. Additional instructions will be provided during class or on Moodle. | | | |
| Other Section Policies | | Email responses: Except on weekends, the instructor will usually respond to emails within 24 hours, but students should not expect a response to any emails after 3:00 pm until the following day. | | | |
| Institutional Policies | | | | | |
| Technology Access | | Please refer to the University Student Portal for Minimum Technology Requirements. | | | |
| Academic Grievance Policy | | Please refer to the University Student Handbook for the Academic Grievance Policy. | | | |
| Grade Appeal Policy | | Please refer to the University Student Handbook for the Grade Appeal Policy. | | | |
| University Honor Code | | *We, the student body of Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University, embrace the idea that honor is an intangible quality, which, if it pervades all phases of campus life, tends to foster a spirit of dignity and personal integrity.  Upon enrolling at the University, we become part of the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University Honor System.  We realize that honor must be cultivated and that its success depends upon the combined and cooperative efforts of the University's administration, faculty, staff and students.  Inherent in the honor system is the premise that students will not perform or tolerate any violations of the Student Code of Conduct published in Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University Student Handbook.  As responsible members of the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady University community, each of us freely accepts and proudly endorses this, our code of honor.* | | | |
| Student Accommodations | | In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990,and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amended Act of 2008, as updated in 2011 “if you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact the Office of Student Affairs located at 5421 Didesse as soon as possible.  Students may contact also the office by phone:(225) 490-1620.  You are to communicate with your instructor prior to each test about provision of accommodations.  **Quiz and Test as Defined for Purposes of ADAAA**  Any quiz, test, pop-quiz or in-class assignment that is graded is to be in compliance with all granted accommodations under ADAAA. | | | |
| Learning Resource Center | | Located on the second floor of the Library Commons building, the Learning Resource Center (LRC) provides free tutoring for both writing and course content. Writing tutors can provide help with any writing task at any stage of the writing process. Course content tutoring, either one-on-one or in a small group, enhances curriculum understanding in a setting outside the classroom; content tutoring is available for core courses in math and science, as well as courses in several other disciplines. Writing tutoring is available by appointment and on a walk-in basis. Students work with content tutors by appointment only. For more information or to request an appointment for tutoring, visit the LRC site on the myPortal (under Departments in the drop-down menu). | | | |
| Classroom Visitors | | Please refer to the University Student Handbook for the Campus Visitor policy. | | | |
| Emergency Remote Teaching | | The University reserves the right to transition to Emergency Remote Teaching in response to a crisis or disaster. ERT is a temporary change of instructional delivery to use of fully remote teaching solutions for instruction that would otherwise be delivered face-to-face or as blended. Courses impacted by ERT will return to the face-to-face or blended instructional delivery format following the crisis or disaster. | | | |