

## Philosophy 1101: Problems of Philosophy (PHIL 1101-800)

Instructor: Dr. Daniel Cote

Christian Heritage School

Full Year 2020-2021

**Overview:** This is an introductory course in philosophy. We will study the principles of logic and reasoning, logical fallacies, and introduce the major problems of metaphysics, ontology, epistemology and ethics. We will sample some of what has been written on topics such as the existence of God, the problem of evil, the nature of morality, knowledge, being, personhood, and the meaning of life.

**Prerequisites:** None.

**Requirements:** Two papers, a midterm, a final examination, and active participation in discussion. In addition, there may be occasional quizzes and short assignments to be completed in class. For both the midterm and final examinations, study questions are distributed well in advance, and the exam questions are drawn from the lists of study questions.

**Preparing for class:** Expect to do on average about 20-40 pages of reading per week. Often, even short readings will require significant contemplation on your part. Please attempt to extract the premises and conclusions advanced by the author(s).

### Grading—Semester 1:

Paper #1 (1250 words)	(20%)	
Tests/Quizzes	(50%)	Similar to study questions
Writing Assignments & Study Questions	(30%)	

### Grading—Semester 2:

Paper #2 (1250 words)	(20%)	
Tests/Quizzes	(30%)	Similar to study questions
Final	(20%)	Similar to study questions
Writing Assignments & Study Questions	(30%)	

### Overall UConn Transcript Grading:

Paper #1 (1250 words)	(15%)
Paper #2 (1250 words)	(15%)
Tests/Quizzes	(30%)
Final	(20%)
Writing Assignments & Study Questions	(20%)

The tests and exams will have questions similar to the study questions. The topics for both papers at least three weeks before they are due.

**Google Classroom:** All materials (other than textbooks) and assignments will be found on Google Classroom. All assignments will be submitted on Google Classroom or Turnitin.com.

**Facts:** Facts will be the place to look for grades. Grades from Google Classroom will be transferred to Facts periodically.

### Required texts (bold indicates purchase by student):

1. **Plato, *Five Dialogues, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.* (Hackett: 978-0-87220-633-5)**
2. **Rene Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy* (Hackett: 978-0-87220-192-7)**
3. **Mitchell Green, *Engaging Philosophy: A Brief Introduction* (Hackett 978-0-87220-796-7)**
4. **William Lane Craig, *Does God Exist?* Kindle or ebook**
5. John Stuart Mill, *Utilitarianism*, (Google Classroom)
6. Readings from: Norman Geisler, Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics (Google Classroom)
7. Others assignments as noted available in Google Classroom.

**Policy for late work:** Ten points will be subtracted for each day late. Missed exams cannot be re-taken.

**Schedule (One 90-minute period for the full year + yellow Wednesdays)**

## UConn ECE Problems of Philosophy Assignment List

Assignment	Description	Essential Questions
<b>Logic and Reasoning (Sept. 2-30)</b>		
1	Read Green Chapter 1 & 2	-What is a valid argument? -What makes an argument sound and persuasive? -What is the difference between inductive and deductive reasoning?
2	Logic Exercises	
3	Editorial Group Assignment	
4	Chapter 2 Study Questions	
5	Chapter 2 Additional Study Questions	
6	<i>Twelve Angry Men</i> movie writing assignment	
<b>Test 1</b>		
<b>Philosophy of Religion (Oct. 1-Dec. 1)</b>		
7	Read Green Chapter 3	-Are there rational grounds for theism? -Might faith be rational on other than evidential grounds? -If God is all good, why is there so much evil in the world?
8	Read Craig <i>Does God Exist?</i> and answer study questions	
9	Chapter 3 Study Questions	
10	Read Aquinas "Five Ways" and answer study questions	
11	<i>Crime and Punishment</i> movie writing assignment	
12	Read Pascal "The Wager"	
13	Read Leibniz excerpt from "Theodicy"	
14	Read Geisler: "The Problem of Evil" and answer study questions	
15	Read Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43 and answer study questions	
<b>Ethics (Dec. 3-Jan. 18)</b>		
16	Read Green Chapter 4	-What is the source of morality? -Could the state be the source of morality? -Is Morality Absolute?
17	Read Geisler: <i>Absolute Nature of Morality</i>	
18	Chapter 4 Study Questions	
19	Read Mill <i>Utilitarianism</i> , Chapters 1-2 and answer study questions	
20	Read Matt. 5-7; & Matthew 20: 20-28 and answer study questions	
21	<i>The Brothers Karamazov</i> movie writing assignment	
22	<i>Star Wars &amp; Lord of the Rings</i> Ethics Activity	
23	Read Plato <i>Euthyphro</i> & <i>Crito</i> and answer study questions.	
<b>Test 2</b>		
<b>Epistemology: How Can We Know? (Jan. 26-Mar. 1)</b>		
24	Read Plato <i>Meno</i> and answer study questions	-Is there anything transcendent -What is knowledge? -Can we know? -How are beliefs justified? -Were you born with intrinsic knowledge?
25	Read Descartes Meditation I-III, VI and answer study questions	
26	Read Geisler: <i>Rene Descartes</i>	
27	Epistemology Study Questions	
28	<i>Ender's Game</i> movie writing assignment	
<b>The Mind</b>		
29	Read Green Chapter 5	-Can science fully account for consciousness? -Is there more to humans than the material that makes them up? -Could machines ever achieve consciousness?
30	Chapter 5 Study Questions	
31	Read Plato <i>Apology</i> and answer study questions	
32	Read Nagel: excerpt <i>Mind and Cosmos</i> and answer study questions	
33	<i>Inception</i> movie writing assignment	
34	Read Plato <i>Euthyphro</i> and answer study questions	
35	Case Study: Transhumanism group project	
<b>Test 3</b>		
<b>Freedom of the Will (Mar. 4-Mar. 29)</b>		
36	Read Green Chapter 6	-Are humans free? -Since material is subject to natural laws, are all events determined?
37	Chapter 6 Study Questions	
38	Read Geisler: <i>Free Will</i> (Google Drive)	
39	Read Laplace: "On Probability"	
40	Read Nahmias: Is Neuroscience the Death of Free Will (Google Drive)	

41	Theist view of free will and determinism	
42	The Manchurian Candidate movie writing assignment	
<b>Personhood (Apr. 1- Apr. 29)</b>		
43	Read Green Chapter 7	-What is a person? -What make a person the same person over time?
44	Chapter 7 Study Questions	
45	Read Plato <i>Phaedo</i> and answer study questions	
46	Read Locke "Of Identity and Diversity"	
47	<i>The Truman Show</i> movie writing assignment	
<b>Test 4</b>		
<b>As time permits: What is the meaning and purpose of life? What is a good life?</b>		
<b>Final</b>		