

PHIL 1 Introduction to Philosophy

Online, Summer 2025

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Office hours: By appt on Zoom, <https://fhda-edu.zoom.us/j/9424184799>



Has not everything been called Philosophy and philosophizing?
- Hegel, introduction to *Lectures on the History of Philosophy*

Philosophy is difficult to define, yet it involves an exploration of our lives and our world driven by insatiable curiosity and a demand for precision and rigor. In this course, we will explore together some of the terrain of philosophy. We will be looking at some classic historical texts to get a sense of the deep roots that underlie contemporary investigations. Along the way we will think together about some of our most cherished ideas as humans: personal identity, truth, standing up for what we believe, and trying to become a good person. We will only scratch the surface of what philosophy is. Our goal will be to open up a world of possibilities for each of you to continue to explore in other courses or on your own.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Demonstrate a basic understanding of philosophical methods
- Articulate ideas about philosophical issues
- Apply philosophical methods, assumptions and principles in the analysis of philosophical ideas and positions.
- Evaluate philosophical arguments, methods, assumptions, and principles for consistency, relevance, and truth.

Expectations:

- Read, watch, and listen to the assigned material, and take notes while you read.
- Our online classroom is a place for sharing and generating ideas. I expect civil, respectful discussions of our ideas. Everyone's perspective matters, and no one will be excluded.

Coursework:

- Weeks 1-6 will require you to engage in discussion each week on the assigned readings via Perusall. You will be reading course texts inside the Perusall app, which will allow you to comment on the text as you read, and allow you and others to respond to each other's comments. You will be expected to make comments of your own and respond to multiple other student comments.
- There will be one quiz for the class, a final quiz that will consist largely of material from the lectures, podcasts, and discussions, so it's important to watch/listen to all the lectures/podcasts and take notes. Quizzes will allow you to use your texts and notes.

Policies:

- **Emails:** I generally try to respond to your emails within the week. Sometimes it will be longer, e.g. weekends and when I'm traveling. Budget your time accordingly, and email well in advance of deadlines. I almost never respond quickly to last minute emails.
- **AI:** The use of Chatbots and embedded AI tools are not permitted for use in course discussions or quizzes.
- **Sexual harassment and discrimination:** Absolutely no sexual harassment or illegal discrimination is acceptable in this course.
- **Students with documented disabilities:** Students who may need an academic accommodation based on the impact of a disability must initiate the request with the Disability Support Programs and Services (DSPS), located at the following website: <https://www.deanza.edu/dsps/dss/> . DSPS staff will evaluate the request with required documentation, recommend reasonable accommodations, and prepare an Accommodation Letter. Students should contact DSPS as soon as possible since timely notice is needed to coordinate accommodations. The DSPS can be reached by phone at 408-864-8838, or by email at dss@deanza.edu .

Grading:

- Attendance/Participation: 15%
- Weekly Perusall Discussions: 55%
- Mid-Term Quiz: 15%
- Final Exam: 15%

Texts:

All texts will be provided online through Perusall at no cost to students.

Course Schedule

Week 1 - Personal Identity

Listen: Reductio podcast - [What is Philosophy?](#)

Watch: WiPhi - [Ship of Theseus](#)

Listen: Reductio podcast - [Who Are You?](#)

Read & Discuss: Daniel Dennett - Where Am I?

Optional: [Watch Daniel Dennett perform Where Am I?](#)

Week 2 - Transformation

Read: L. A. Paul - Becoming a vampire

Listen: Reductio podcast - [Transformative Experiences](#)

Read & Discuss: L. A. Paul - Who will I become?

Week 3 - Socrates

Watch: 8-bit Philosophy - [Who Was Socrates?](#)

Read: Existential Comics - [The “Apology”](#)

Listen: Philosophy Bites - [Agnes Callard on Socrates](#)

Read & Discuss: The Apology of Socrates

Watch: Michael’s Week 3 lecture

Week 4 - Love

Listen: Adele, “[Remedy](#)”

Listen: K-Ci & JoJo, “[Tell Me It’s Real](#)”

Listen: Eminem, “[Love the Way You Lie I](#)”

Listen: Rhianna, “[Love the Way You Lie II](#)”

Read & Discuss: Plato, *Symposium*

Listen: The New Thinkery podcast - [Agathon’s Speech](#)

Read: Existential Comics - [The Unexamined Life](#)

Watch: The School of Life - [Plato’s Ladder of Love](#)

Listen: [BBC radio discussion](#) on Plato’s Symposium

Week 5 - Plato

Read & Discuss: Plato, *Republic* (Badiou edition), Chpt 11, pp. 197-223

Watch: Michael’s Week 5 lecture

Read & Discuss: Plato's Seventh Letter

Listen: [Michael's discussion on Plato's Pod \(Part 1\)](#)

Optional: [Michael's discussion on Plato's Pod \(Part 2\)](#)

Week 6 - The Philosophy of Philosophy

Read & Discuss: Barry Stroud - What is Philosophy?

Watch: Michael's Week 6 lecture

Final Exam