**University of North Texas**

**Introduction to Philosophy**

**PHIL 1050- Online**

Instructor: Atoosa Afshari

Email: atoosa.afshari@unt.edu

TA: Neelu Kumari

Email: neelukumarineelu@my.unt.edu

Since I use Announcements on Canvas to contact you all, please be sure to check them regularly, and when you receive email notifications about a new announcement, please take them seriously.

1. **Rationale and course outline:**

 This course is an introduction to the rich heritages of the world’s philosophical traditions.

 Rather than assuming or maintaining a particular definition of philosophy, this course will engage “philosophy” as an ongoing cite of contestation and debate: What is philosophy? Who counts as a philosopher? What can be recognized as a serious philosophical endeavor? How does philosophy intersect and differ from theory, critique, belief, science, and ethics? What is philosophy for and can it make any difference in the world? None of these are settled questions, but reflect ongoing debates with material consequences. Congruent with the aim of opening rather than closing or assuming the question of “philosophy” this course engages multiple cultural perspectives and approaches.

 The course begins where philosophical questions often first confront us: in the middle of everyday life as we ask questions about how we should live and how we know what is right or good. From there we often move to questions of society: how do we live well together, what makes a society just, what is justice and is it possible given the complexities of life? Reflecting on what is right and just leads to questions of truth and how we can have knowledge. If we are going to explore what it means to have good or true knowledge then we will also need to ask questions of the real: what is reality, what is it composed of, what makes it up, how do we distinguish reality from illusion? Finally we will conclude the class with questions of identity, subjectivity, and embodied life: who am I, what am I, how should or can I relate to human and more-than-human others?

**II. Course Outcomes:**

By the end of the course students should be able to demonstrate the ability to:

* accurately and fairly represent the thoughts and ideas of another
* think critically about a text or set of ideas
* clearly and compellingly communicate their own conclusions in conversation with others
* articulate what social and personal responsibility looks like in particular circumstances

**V. Grading Policies and Procedures**

Grading rubrics will be used to evaluate class participation, assignments, and exam essays.

 GRADING SYSTEM:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| A | 90-100 % |
| B | 80-89 % |
| C | 70-79 % |
| D | 60-69% |
| F | 0-59% |

 **LATE ASSIGNMENTS:**

 **All work is expected to be submitted by the designated due date. Late assignments will be docked 5% for each day late (2 days late: 10% deduction, 3 days late: 15% deduction, etc.).**

**Accommodations for students with disabilities (ADA statement)**

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the Office of Disability Access website at <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access>. You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

**All the sources (books and videos) and everything you need to do, including assignments, are on the first page of the Canvas module**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Week 1 | * Kessler, *Voices of Wisdom* (*VoW* hereafter): Part One, unit 1: “What is Philosophy (p. 1-19)
* Part two, unit 3 :“How Should one live” (p.49-60)
 |
| Week 2 | * *VoW,* Part Two, unit 3: continuation (p. 60-92)
 |
| Week 3 | * *VoW,* Part Two, unit 4:

“How Can I Know What Is Right?” (p.113-129) |
| Week 4 | * *VoW,* Part Two, unit 4: (p. 130-169)
 |
| Week 5 | * *VoW,* Part Three, unit 7:

“Is Knowledge Possible?” (p. 311-357) |