

Sabancı University
Spring 2024

HUM 207
MAJOR WORKS OF WESTERN PHILOSOPHY

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Lecture: Tuesday 14.40-16.30 FASS 1008-1010
Discussions: Thursday A: 9.40-10.30; B: 12.40-13.30; C: 14.40-15.30; D: 15.40-16.30

Office hours:
Elif Yavnık: by appointment
Ahmet Faik Kurtulmuş: by appointment
Ece Şahinoğlu Işık: FASS 2114, Tuesday 9.30-11.30

*Please note that this syllabus is tentative and subject to change.

Course Description

This course introduces the students to certain fundamental texts and key discussions in Western philosophy. It does not require any background in philosophy, but through a rigorous exploration of some of the key debates in the history of philosophy, it provides a comprehensive overview of the development of Western philosophy and of its defining moments. The readings are selected from the Ancient Greek, Hellenistic, Medieval, and Enlightenment periods, when some of the classical discussions of philosophy have been articulated; and they represent discussions from different philosophical areas, such as moral philosophy, philosophy of being, philosophy of knowledge, and political philosophy. The discussions are presented with emphases also on their historical context, on their relationship to the intellectual climate of their time, as well as on how they contrast with the opposing views on the same question.

Course Requirements and Grading

Grading:

Attendance and Participation: %20

Quizzes: %15

Midterm: %30

Final: %35

Attendance and Participation (%20):

Class attendance is mandatory. Lectures will not be repeated and/or summarized during the discussion hours.

Attendance follow-up starts at the end of the add-drop period, and attendance is taken on an hourly basis during the lectures and the discussion hours. Please note that missing an entire lecture counts as missing 2 hours, whereas missing one discussion counts as missing 1 hour. Students who miss 12 hours of class in total will receive an N/A for the course grade.

Absences for medical reasons are to be documented with a doctor's report. Acceptance of medical reports are subject to instructor's approval.

An absence may also count as excused in case a life situation that you need to attend arises: in such cases please email me beforehand, if possible.

In order to take a make up exam, the medical report must be submitted within 3 days after the original exam date.

Thoughtful and meaningful participation in class and during the discussion sessions is expected and highly encouraged. Students should share their thoughts and questions on the material, during the lectures, discussion hours, office hours, or via email to the instructor or the course assistant.

Outstanding contribution to the class and proof of engagement with the course material beyond course requirements may bring your final course grade up by half a letter (thus bringing it up from a B- to a B, for example), at the instructor's discretion.

Quizzes (%15):

There will be unannounced quizzes during lectures and discussions. There will be no make ups for missed quizzes. If a student is absent on the day we have a quiz but they have emailed me before class to let me know about their excuse, that quiz will not be included in their quiz average. Anyone who is absent without an excuse will automatically get a zero on that quiz. At the end of the semester everyone's lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

Midterm Exam (%30)

Final Exam (%35)

Point to letter grade conversion chart:

A	100-96
A-	95-92
B+	91-88
B	87-84
B-	83-80
C+	79-76
C	75-72
C-	71-68
D+	67-64
D	64-60
F	59-0

Academic Integrity

Major Works courses do not tolerate dishonesty and plagiarism.

Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, fraud, and any failure to cite all materials and sources in your work. Plagiarism is an ethical and academic offense. In case the instructor or the course assistant suspects that an exam is not student's original work, the student will be given an oral examination.

Please be advised that AI generated works as well as use of paraphrasing and translation tools are regarded as plagiarism.

Exams with plagiarism issues will be graded F, and your semester grade may be F depending on the severity of the offense.

The offense may also be referred to as the University Ethics Committee.

Anti-Discrimination Policy

The classroom will be free from all discrimination based on, including but not limited to, race, ethnicity, creed, religion, language, disability, gender, and sexual orientation. The students are expected to maintain this environment.

Special Needs

It is the policy of Sabancı University to accommodate students with special needs and disabilities. To determine accommodations and/or academic adjustments, please let us know and contact the Disabled Students Support Unit of CIAD (specialneeds@sabanciuniv.edu).

Reading and Course Schedule – All readings will be made available on SUCourse.

INTRODUCTION

WEEK 1	No reading
WEEK 2	Plato, <i>Apology</i> , selection
WEEK 3	Plato, <i>The Republic</i> , selection
WEEK 4	Epicurus, <i>Principal Doctrines</i> ; <i>Letter to Menoecus</i>
WEEK 5	Saint Augustine, <i>On the Free Choice of the Will</i> , selection
WEEK 6	Machiavelli, <i>The Prince</i> , selection Montaigne, <i>Essays</i> , selection
WEEK 7	MIDTERM
WEEK 8	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> , selection
WEEK 9	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> , selection
WEEK 10	Hume, <i>An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding</i> , selection
WEEK 11	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , selection
WEEK 12	Rousseau, <i>Discourse on Inequality</i> , selection
WEEK 13	Marx, <i>Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844</i> , selection
WEEK 14	Nietzsche, <i>Beyond Good and Evil</i> , selection