

Sabancı University
SPRING 2021

HUM 207: MAJOR WORKS OF WESTERN PHILOSOPHY

Instructors: Elif Yavnık, Gürol Irzık

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Tuesday (Lecture): 14.40-16.30

Thursday (Discussion Sections) A: 10.40-11.30; B: 11.40-12.30; C: 13.40-14.30

Office hours:

Gürol Irzık:

Elif Yavnık: by appointment, via Zoom

*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, and philosophy of knowledge. 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: %10

Participation: %10

In-class Quizzes: %20

Midterm: %25

Final: %35

Attendance:

The course will be held synchronously on Zoom. Please keep your cameras on during class. Students are expected to attend the synchronous Zoom lectures, discussions, and real-time online exams with their SU email account.

Attendance will be taken during all live sessions on an hourly basis. Attendance follow-up starts at the end of the add-drop period.

After 2 unexcused absences your attendance grade will fall by 1 point with every unexcused absence. (That is to say, with 3 unexcused absences you get a 9/10, with 4 you get 8/10, etc.) Students who miss 9 hours of class in total will receive a “0” for their attendance grade. Absences for medical reasons are excused when documented with a doctor’s report. 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.

Participation in class:

Thoughtful and meaningful participation in class and during the discussion sessions is expected and highly encouraged. In order to get full participation grades students should share their thoughts and questions on the course either during the lectures or the discussions (by talking or via chat box), or during office hours, or via email to the instructor or the course assistants.

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

In-class Quizzes:

There will be unannounced quizzes during class time. 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 and Final Exams:

For proctored exams, your webcam and microphone should be on during the exam. In the case of non-compliance with this and other declared exam procedures, your exam will be void. Make sure to check that your webcam and microphone function properly before the exam.

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	64-59
F	58-0

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.

Papers 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
February 23&25 INTRODUCTION

PHILOSOPHY OF GOOD LIFE

WEEK 2
March 2&4 Plato, *Apology*, selections

WEEK 3
March 9&11 Plato, *Phaedo*, selections
Plato, *The Republic*, selections

WEEK 4
March 16&18 Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, selections

WEEK 5
March 23&24 Epicurus, *Principal Doctrines*, *Letter to Menoecus*;
Seneca, *On the Happy Life*, selections

WEEK 6
March 30& April 1 Seneca, continued;
Saint Augustine, *On the Free Choice of the Will*, selections

WEEK 7
April 6&8 Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil*, selections

WEEK 8
April 13 **MIDTERM**
April 15 No class

BEING AND KNOWLEDGE

April 9 Plato, *The Republic*, selections;
December 20&22 Sextus Empiricus, selections

WEEK 10
April 27&29 Sextus Empiricus, continued
Descartes, *Meditations*, selections

WEEK 11
May 4&6 Descartes, *Meditations*, continued

WEEK 12
May 11&13 NO CLASS – HOLIDAY

WEEK 13
May 18&20 Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, selections

WEEK 14
May 25&27 Kant, *Prologomena*, selections