

Sabancı University  
SPRING 2023

**HUM 207**  
**MAJOR WORKS OF WESTERN PHILOSOPHY**

Instructors: Elif Yavnik, Ahmet Faik Kurtulmuş

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Lecture: Tuesday 14.40-16.30 FASS 1008-1010

ONLINE ZOOM LINK: <https://sabanciuniv.zoom.us/j/97976426878>

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 Yavnik: by appointment

Ahmet Faik Kurtulmuş: by appointment

Vedat Demirbaş: by appointment

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

\* We may have to revise the course plan according to the reassessment to be made country-wide, regarding higher education, at the beginning of April. The content to be delivered is certain but the method of course delivery, the number and dates of exams, and some other details are 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, where 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: %10

Participation: %10

In-class Quizzes: %15

Midterm: %30

Final: %35

### Attendance (%10):

Class attendance is mandatory. Attendance follow-up starts at the end of the add-drop period. After 4 unexcused hours your attendance grade will fall by 1 point with every unexcused absence. (That is to say, with 5 unexcused absences you get a 9/10, with 6 you get 8/10, etc.) Note that missing an entire lecture counts as missing 2 hours, whereas missing one discussion counts as missing 1 hour. Students who miss more than 12 hours in total will automatically receive an N/A standing for the HUM 207 course.

Absences for medical reasons are to be documented with a doctor's report, and acceptance of medical reports are due to instructor 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.

### Participation (%10):

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. In order to get full participation grade, a student is to contribute to class at least once every week in one of the ways mentioned above.

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.

### In-class Quizzes (%15):

There will be unannounced quizzes during lectures. 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.

### 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.

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

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](mailto: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> , selections
WEEK 3	Plato, <i>The Republic</i> , selections
WEEK 4	Epicurus, <i>Principal Doctrines</i> ; <i>Letter to Menoeceus</i>
WEEK 5	Saint Augustine, <i>On the Free Choice of the Will</i> , selections
WEEK 6	Machiavelli, <i>The Prince</i> , selections Montaigne, <i>Essays</i> , selections
WEEK 7	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> , selections
WEEK 8	MIDTERM
WEEK 9	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> , selections
WEEK 10	Hume, <i>An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding</i> , selections
WEEK 11	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , selections
WEEK 12	Rousseau, <i>Discourse on Inequality</i> , selections
WEEK 13	Marx, <i>Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844</i> , selections
WEEK 14	TBA