

FIRST DAY HANDOUT -- COURSE GUIDELINES -- CHANGES WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN CLASS

Course: PHI 111-621, **Introduction to Philosophy**, Meeting in Arvada

Instructor: Guy Till – guytill@msn.com (if you miss class, please email instructor about homework the next day).

First Friday, 5:00 PM till 10:00 PM.

First Saturday, 8:00 AM till 5:30 PM.

Second Friday, 5:00 PM till 10:00 PM.

Second Saturday, 8:00 AM till 5:30 PM.

Third Friday, 5:00 PM till 10:00 PM.

Third Saturday, 8:00 AM till 5:30 PM.

Text (**Required**): *The Philosophy Book*, DK Publishing, 2011

NOTE: The goals of this 2.28 week course are ambitious. For perspective, it may be useful occasionally to refer to resources such as a dictionary of philosophy for general descriptions or definitions of terms used in philosophy. Remember, if it seems confusing, that the purpose of this course is to give you an INTRODUCTION. The class will proceed by discussions, reviewing passages, lectures, and some pertinent videos. You will learn about the Socratic method of learning. Please plan on listening carefully and speaking thoughtfully in class.

I. General objectives of the course: We are likely to start with a discussion of Socrates and Plato. Students will be introduced to some of the traditional ways of discussing issues in philosophy. We will examine several philosophical theories in relation to human life, thought, and experience. Philosophical theories may be applied or motivated through a selection of contemporary personal and social issues. Students should improve their abilities to identify core values and beliefs and communicate about core values and beliefs.

II. Specific course outcome objectives:

1. Recognize and distinguish several major philosophical systems.
2. Place several historically significant or influential philosophical thinkers in historical perspective.
3. Recognize some elements of one's own philosophical system in relation to other philosophical traditions.
4. Be able to discuss some of the issues arising from the relationships between several of the metaphysical (i.e. what is real) schools of thought, epistemological (i.e. how does one know) schools of thought, and ethical (i.e. what is right) schools of thought in the philosophical traditions. **Critical reflection – avoiding the “unexamined life” is a tradition in Philosophy. Being able to engage in a dialogue about core values and beliefs in a reasonable manner is very important to Philosophy.**

III. Course requirements and grading:

1. **Regular attendance is important.**

2. Grading will be based in part on classroom participation and timeliness in meeting requirements. Good questions are appreciated as well as helpful remarks. Listening to other students carefully is essential.

3. Please expect a short quiz each day of class. The quizzes will be “open book/open notes.” There will be a final examination on the last day, which will cover the material that is addressed in the course. Each quiz will count for approximately 5 to 10 % of the final grade. The final test will count approximately 40 %. Taking a test late, unless the delay or absence is excused for business/work related travel, illness, family obligations, or some other valid reason, may result in a reduction of the grade earned on the test.

4. OPTIONAL: For additional credit, to bolster your class participation, you may turn in a legible hand written or typed "reaction paper," reflecting YOUR impressions or personal reaction to some point in the assigned readings or classroom events. The reaction paper probably should not be more than one page long.

5. Changes in these guidelines will be announced in class.

IV. In anticipation of the first Friday session, please become acquainted with some of Plato's work. One way might be by reading *The Apology* by Plato (you should be able to find a public domain version on the internet – perhaps in the Gutenberg Project – which, for example, you should be able to download for free in a Kindle application) or by accessing some pertinent YouTube presentations::

1. Google: “King,” “Meno” and “Palin” on YouTube - This should link you to an animated dialogue where a Larry King animated character takes the role of Meno and an animated Sarah Palin character plays the part of Socrates.

2. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=95GjK0p582g&feature=related> – This link should direct you to a YouTube presentation of another portion of the *Meno* dialogue.

3. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3bVBpLjh13E> – This link should lead you to a YouTube presentation of a portion to the dialogue called *The Apology*.

4. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zRNMZEDOBm&feature=related> – This link takes you to a discussion of the movie, *The Matrix*, and a chapter in Plato's *The Republic* where Plato presents the “Allegory of the Cave.”

V. Tentative Reading Assignments from *The Philosophy: Book*:

First Weekend Meeting -- Discussion of Philosophy in general –

(1) p.12, Introduction - (2) p.20, The Ancient World - (3) p.288, Contemporary Philosophy

Please Note: Red Rocks Community College is committed to diversity in its people and programs. The College is an equal opportunity educational institution which prohibits all forms of discrimination and harassment including those that violate federal and state law, or the State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education Board Policies 3-120 and/or 4-120. The College does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sex/gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, religion, age, national origin or ancestry, pregnancy status, veteran's status, genetic information, physical and/or mental disability or any other category protected by applicable law in its employment practices or education programs. Red Rocks Community College will take appropriate steps to ensure that the lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and/or participation in vocational education programs. The College has designated Dr. Bill Dial, Executive Director of Human Resources as its Affirmative Action Officer/Title IX Administrator/Equal Opportunity Administrator with the responsibility to coordinate its civil rights compliance activities and grievance procedures. For information, contact: Dr. Bill Dial, Executive Director of Human Resources, Title IX Administrator, Title VII/Equal Opportunity Administrator, ADA/Section 504 Administrator, PO Box 17, 13300 West Sixth Avenue, Lakewood, CO 80228-1255. Telephone: 303.914.6298 Email: bill.dial@rrcc.edu

RRCC Syllabus Disability Statement

ADAAA (Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973: Red Rocks Community College is committed to access for students with disabilities. If you are a student with a disability and need assistance or are interested in requesting accommodations, please contact Accessibility Services. Faculty are not obligated to provide accommodations without proper notification by Accessibility Services and

accommodations are not retroactive. Students may contact the Access staff by telephone or email to make an intake appointment at 303-914-6733 or access@rcc.edu. Accessibility Services is located in Suite 1182 at the Lakewood campus. More information is available at www.rcc.edu/accessibility-services.

Syllabus Statement Regarding Mandatory Reporting

Our College is committed to preserving a safe and welcoming educational environment for all students. As part of this effort, I have an obligation to report certain issues relating to the health and safety of campus community members. I must report to the appropriate College officials any allegation of discrimination or harassment. Sexual misconduct, which includes sexual harassment, non-consensual sexual contact, non-consensual sexual intercourse, and sexual exploitation, is considered a form of discrimination.

In addition to reporting all discrimination and harassment claims, I must report all allegations of dating violence or domestic violence, child abuse or neglect, and/or credible threats of harm to yourself or others. Such reports may trigger contact from a College official who will want to talk with you about the incident that you have shared. In almost all cases, it will be your decision whether you wish to speak with that individual. If you would like more information, you may reach the Title IX/EO Coordinator: **Deborah Houser, Assistant Director of Human Resources/Deputy Title IX Coordinator, 303-914-6224 or Deborah.houser@rcc.edu**
Reports to law enforcement can be made at the Red Rocks Campus Police Department behind the Welcome Desk at the Main Entrance or rpd.dispatch@rcc.edu at 303-914-6394.

If you would like a confidential resource, please contact **Deborah Houser, Assistant Director of Human Resources/Deputy Title IX Coordinator, 303-914-6224 or Deborah.houser@rcc.edu**

Further information may be found on the College web site:
<http://www.rcc.edu/human-resources/sexual-misconduct>

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