

Syllabus: Philosophy

Day 1: What is Philosophy?

When	What	How
Morning	-Introduction to the value and aims of philosophy; Reading—Russell, <i>The Value of Philosophy</i> -Introduction to deduction	-Introduce the course and have students introduce themselves -Lecture, small group work on study questions for reading -Logic exercises
Afternoon	-Introduction to induction and abduction	-Lecture and logic exercises -Identify and evaluate an argument in a newspaper
Evening	-Identify some common fallacies of reasoning.	-Introduce several sorts of fallacies to the students and discuss examples of those fallacies.

Day 2: Epistemology

When	What	How
Morning	-Acquire a basic grasp of epistemological questions and theories, focusing on Rationalism and Foundationalism; Reading—Descartes, <i>Meditations on First Philosophy</i>	-Lecture, large group and small group discussions
Afternoon	-Focus on Empiricism. -Acquire a basic grasp of the problem of induction; Reading—Hume, <i>An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding</i>	-Lecture, large group and small group discussions
Evening	-Reading—Berkeley, <i>Three Dialogues between Hylas and Philonous</i>	-Small group work on study questions

Day 3: Epistemology

When	What	How
Morning	-Acquire a basic grasp of epistemological questions and theories, focusing on Empiricism and Idealism; Berkeley, <i>Three Dialogues between Hylas and Philonous</i>	-Lecture, large group and small group discussions
Afternoon	-Write an essay on the epistemology section.	-Pick from a variety of short essay topics and begin writing
Evening	-Finish short essay -Reading—Descartes, <i>Meditations</i>	-Small group work on study questions

Day 4: Philosophy of Mind

When	What	How
Morning	-Acquire a basic grasp of metaphysical issues concerning the mind, focusing on mind-body dualism; Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> .	-Lecture, large group and small group discussion
Afternoon	-Focus on Reductive Materialism; Reading—Churchland, <i>Matter and Consciousness</i>	-Lecture, large group and small group discussion
Evening	-Practice recognizing fallacies; Film— <i>12 Angry Men</i>	-Watch movie and identify fallacies therein

Day 5: Philosophy of Mind

When	What	How
Morning	-Drawing Project	-Small groups create a large pictorial representation of a philosophical position from the first week.
Afternoon	-Debate: Dualism vs. Materialism	-Debate
Evening	-Political philosophy interlude: Capitalism, Communism, and Social Justice; Reading—Marx and Engels, <i>The Communist Manifesto</i>	-Interactive narrative lecture and small group work on study questions

Day 6: Metaethics

When	What	How
Morning	-Acquire a basic grasp of metaethical questions and theories, focusing on Cultural Relativism; Rachels, <i>The Elements of Moral Philosophy</i>	-Lecture, large group and small group discussion
Afternoon	-Focus on Psychological Egoism	-Lecture, large group and small group discussion
Evening	-Reading—Plato, <i>Euthyphro</i>	-Small group work on study questions

Day 7: Ethical Theories

When	What	How
Morning	-Acquire a basic understanding of different ethical theories, focusing on Divine Command Theory and Kantian ethics; Plato, <i>Euthyphro</i> and Rachels, <i>The Elements of Moral Philosophy</i>	-Lecture, large group and small group discussion
Afternoon	-Focus on Utilitarianism; Rachels, <i>The Elements of Moral Philosophy</i>	-Lecture, large group and small group discussion
Evening	-Reading—Mosley, <i>Affirmative Action: Social Justice or Unfair Preference</i>	-Small group work on study questions

Day 8: Applied Ethics—Affirmative Action

When	What	How
Morning	-Acquire a basic grasp of the issue of Affirmative Action and how ethical theories enter the debate; Mosley, <i>Affirmative Action: Social Justice or Unfair Preference</i>	-Lecture, large group and small group discussion
Afternoon	-Video on the illusion of race	-Watch video from PBS
Evening	-Debate on Affirmative Action	-Debate

Day 9: Free Will and Determinism

When	What	How
Morning	-Acquire a basic grasp of the free will debate, focusing on Hard Determinism and Libertarianism; Reading—Pojman’s introduction to the problem of free will; Spinoza, <i>The Ethics</i>	-Lecture and large group discussion
Afternoon	-Focus on Compatibilism; Stace, <i>Religion and the Modern Mind</i>	-Lecture and large group discussion
Evening	-Writing assignment for ethics and free will	-Short essay work

Day 10: Free Will and Determinism

When	What	How
Morning	-Present Essays	-Students read their essays to the class, and the class offers constructive feedback
Afternoon	-Drawing Project	-Small groups create a large pictorial representation of a philosophical position from the second week.
Evening	Reading—Aquinas, <i>Summa Theologica</i>	-Small group work on study questions

Day 11: Philosophy of Religion

When	What	How
Morning	-Acquire a basic grasp of cosmological argument; Aquinas, <i>Summa Theologica</i>	-Lecture, large group and small group discussion
Afternoon	-Acquire a basic grasp of the teleological argument; Reading—Paley, <i>Natural Theology</i> , and Hume, <i>Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion</i> -Acquire a basic grasp of the ontological argument; Reading—Anselm and Guanilo “Debate on the Ontological Argument”	-Lecture, large group and small group discussion
Evening	-Research the moral and natural evils of the world	-Students write down and present to the class examples of evils they discover in periodicals.

Day 12: Philosophy of Religion

When	What	How
Morning	-Acquire a basic grasp of the problem of evil; Reading—Dostoevsky, <i>The Brothers Karamazov</i> , Johnson, “Why Doesn’t God Intervene to Prevent Evil?” and Hick, <i>Philosophy of Religion</i>	-Lecture, large and small group discussion -Small group work on study questions
Afternoon	-Same	-Same
Evening	-Examine the relationship between faith and reason; Reading—Pascal, <i>Thoughts</i>	-Class discussion of Pascal’s wager.

Day 13: The Meaning of Life

When	What	How
Morning	- Acquire a basic grasp of the questions concerning the meaning of life; Reading—Walker’s piece on how religion gives meaning to life and Camus, <i>The Myth of Sisyphus</i>	-Lecture and large group discussion
Afternoon	-Same	-Same
Evening	-Debate on the meaning of life	-Debate

Day 14: Philosophical Dialogues Project

When	What	How
Morning	-Work on philosophical dialogues	-Small group work on creating a dialogue to present and evaluate a philosophical argument
Afternoon	-Same	-Same
Evening	- Present philosophical dialogues in groups	-Group members present dialogues by acting out characters

Day 15: Presentations

When	What	How
Morning	-Recognize the issues of the problem of evil and the meaning of life; Film- <i>John Q</i>	-Students watch the film and analyze it using the philosophical theories of the last week.
Afternoon	-Closing ceremonies, meet with parents	