

# PHIL 1010: Fundamentals of Philosophy

Spring 2018 (Class #9880), Tue. and Th. 1:30–2:50pm, Tupper Hall 304

---

## BASIC INFORMATION

---

*Instructor* Dr. Yoichi Ishida (pronounced “yo-EE-chee ee-SHEE-da”)  
 Email: [ishiday@ohio.edu](mailto:ishiday@ohio.edu)  
 Mailbox: Lindley Hall N152  
 Instructor website: [www.yoichiishida.com](http://www.yoichiishida.com)

*Office & Office Hours* Lindley Hall S223  
 Tuesdays and Thursdays 3–4pm and by appointment

*Website* Blackboard: <https://blackboard.ohio.edu>

---

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

---

*Topic of the Course* What is the good life? Or: How should one live? This is one of the oldest questions in philosophy. This course introduces philosophy by examining various theories about the good life. The readings are drawn from ancient Greek philosophy, Islamic philosophy, classical Chinese philosophy, Medieval and Modern European philosophy, American philosophy, as well as contemporary philosophy. Near the end of the semester we will discuss our philosophical question in the context of pop culture, using the film *The Big Lebowski*.

*Learning Outcomes* Upon successful completion of this course, the students will be able to:

1. Describe the historical and cultural contexts of the readings discussed in the course.
2. Describe the philosophical questions discussed in the readings.
3. Describe several positions one might take in response to these questions and arguments in favor of as well as some key objections to those positions.
4. Analyze and evaluate arguments for and against various positions discussed in the course.

In order to help you achieve these outcomes, I will list specific weekly learning objectives on Blackboard. I will design all assignments to assess your performance on these outcomes and weekly learning objectives. In other words, you will be tested on *and only on* the course learning outcomes listed above and weekly learning objectives to be posted on Blackboard.

*Prerequisites* None.

*Workload* This is a three-credit course, and on average, you should expect to study about 6

to 9 hours per week *outside* of class. This includes reading, writing, and all the other work associated with the course.

*Disclaimer* Although the learning outcomes are designed to be suitable for a lower-division undergraduate course and can be achieved by most students, students may still vary in their competency and performance levels on these learning outcomes. They can expect to achieve these objectives *only if* they honor all course policies, attend and participate in classes regularly, complete all assigned work in good faith and on time, and meet all other course expectations of them as students.

---

## TEXTBOOKS

---

**1. Required Readings.** All readings will be posted on Blackboard. You are expected to have done the assigned reading before each class and bring your copies of a week's required readings to class.

**2. Top Hat.** This is not a textbook, but we will be using the Top Hat ([www.tophat.com](http://www.tophat.com)) classroom response system in class. You will be able to submit answers to in-class questions using Apple or Android smartphones and tablets, laptops, or through text message.

You can visit the Top Hat Overview (<https://success.tophat.com/s/article/Student-Top-Hat-Overview-and-Getting-Started-Guide>) within the Top Hat Success Center which outlines how you will register for a Top Hat account, as well as providing a brief overview to get you up and running on the system. *You must register for a Top Hat account, or your responses will not be graded.*

An email invitation will be sent to you by email, but if you don't receive this email, you can register by simply visiting our course website (<https://app.tophat.com/e/373346>).

Since Top Hat requires specific user information to troubleshoot issues, if you require assistance with Top Hat, please contact their support team directly by email ([support@tophat.com](mailto:support@tophat.com)), by the in-app support button, or by calling 1-888-663-5491.

---

## ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT LEARNING

---

The assignments listed below are required in this course. They count toward your final grade as described in this section. For policies on late or missed assignments, see "Course Policies" below.

---

## ASSIGNMENTS

---

- In-class* There will be 25 unannounced quizzes that you will answer by using Top Hat.
- Quizzes* Each quiz is worth 2 points, and you earn one point by participating and another point by answering correctly. Five (5) lowest scores will be dropped.
- Exams* There will be four (4) in-class exams. Each exam is closed book and worth 50 points. Each exam will have two parts. The first part asks five basic questions;

these questions will be true/false, multiple choice, or written answer. Each question is worth 2 points. The second part asks four sets of questions about key passages from the readings, and each set is worth 10 points. These questions will be multiple choice or written answer.

*Optional Exam Redo:* You may redo one (1) of the in-class exams of your choice to potentially earn as much as half of the lost points. The detailed instructions will be given after Exam 1, and the redo is due by the last class (April 26). This assignment is strictly optional.

*Final Exam* The final exam is *cumulative* and closed book. The final exam is worth 100 points and will have two parts. The first part asks eight sets of questions about key passages from the readings. Each set of questions is worth 10 points. These questions will be drawn from Exams 1–4. The second part asks two written questions about the material covered after Exam 4. Each question is worth 10 points.

*No Extra Credit* There will be no extra credit assignments in this course.

## FINAL GRADE

---

In summary, the available points for the assignments are distributed as follows:

Assignments	Available Points
Quizzes	40
Exam 1	50
Exam 2	50
Exam 3	50
Exam 4	50
Final	100
Total	340

You will receive a final letter grade according to the following grading scale. Your percentage points will be rounded to the nearest one (e.g., 92.5 is rounded up to 93; 89.4 is rounded down to 89). Although not formalized in the table above, your improvements over the course of the semester and exceptionally good participation in lecture and discussion will count favorably toward your final grade.

Grade	Percentage	Grade	Percentage
A	93 or above	C	73–76
A–	90–92	C–	70–72
B+	87–89	D+	67–69
B	83–86	D	63–66
B–	80–82	D–	60–62
C+	77–79	F	59 or below

*You can expect to get an A only if you meet the course requirements and expectations in an exemplary manner and you demonstrate that you have attained the learning outcomes at a sophisticated level.*

---

## COURSE POLICIES

---

All students in this course are expected to comply with the following policies.

*Academic Integrity* Academic integrity and honesty are basic values of Ohio University. Students are expected to follow standards of academic integrity and honesty. Academic misconduct is a violation of the Ohio University Student Code of Conduct subject to a maximum sanction of disciplinary suspension or expulsion as well as a grade penalty in the course.

You are expected to be familiar with the information on academic integrity provided at <http://www.ohio.edu/communitystandards/academic/students.cfm>.

*Electronic Devices* During class, you may use laptops or tablets only to take notes or to view assigned readings, but you may not use any electronic devices, such as cellphones, tablets, and laptops, while you are taking exams in class.

*Turnitin* Students agree that by taking this course all required assignments may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of Turnitin.com page service is subject to the Usage Policy and Privacy Pledge posted on the Turnitin.com site.

*Attendance* Attendance at lectures is necessary to take in-class quizzes, and attendance in your discussion section is required and will count towards your final grade.

*Classroom Incivility* You are expected to behave in a civil manner, carefully listen to whoever is talking at a moment, and respect other people in class. I will not tolerate behaviors that are harmful to the learning of students, such as distracting your classmates' attention (e.g., by chatting with someone next to you), disrupting other people's speech, mocking or insulting other people, and showing general disrespect and poor manners toward other people in class. If you harm your classmates' learning in these ways, you will be asked to leave the classroom.

*Grade Disputes* If you believe that a grade on any specific assignment was in error, or unfair, you should resubmit that assignment, along with a brief cover note detailing those prima facie errors, or disagreement, together with appropriate evidence. The same procedure should be followed regarding the final grade. A request for re-grading or re-assessment is just that: the revised grade may increase, remain unchanged, or decrease. An explanation will be provided to the student in any case. Note that this policy does not apply to grade *calculation* errors, which should be brought to my attention right away.

*Late or Missed Assignments* *In-class Quizzes:* Since you can miss five quizzes without penalty, there will be no makeup for these. You are to use these freebies to cover occasional sick days and other absences. If you must miss a large portion of the semester due to illness or other reasons, you should talk to your advisor and instructors as soon as possible.

*Exams:* A makeup for Exams 1–4 can be arranged only in exceptional circumstances described below. The final exam will be given at the official time scheduled by the university. If you are scheduled for more than three final exams in one day, you may seek relief from the instructor with the examination scheduled *latest* in the day. For more on this procedure, see <https://www.ohio.edu/registrar/finals.cfm>.

*Exceptional circumstances:* The following are generally considered exceptional circumstances: a medical emergency, the death of a near relative, and a university-related trip (e.g., athletic team commitments). If you are in these circumstances, (i) obtain written documentation from a relevant authority (e.g., doctor, coach, etc.) verifying that you are/were in one of these circumstances, (ii) contact me as soon as you can to set up an appointment, and (iii) show me the documentation. I will then decide how to apply the policy on late or missed assignments and exams to your circumstance, and I will make, by mutual agreement, any necessary makeup assignments or other arrangements.

Note that the following will *not* be considered exceptional circumstances: a conflict with your personal travel plans or work schedules, your being unprepared for the exams, and your need to work on assignments for other courses.

*24-Hour Email Policy* I will respond to your email within 24 hours of receipt, unless I'm stranded in the middle of nowhere. If you don't get a response after 24 hours, please resend an email.

---

## UNIVERSITY RESOURCES FOR LEARNING

---

Your success in this course is important to me. I recognize that there are multiple ways to learn and that this multiplicity should be acknowledged in the structure of university courses and the evaluation of their participants. Thus, I encourage you to discuss your learning styles and comprehension requirements with me during my office hours or at another arranged time, if necessary. It is best to do this as early as possible. Every student is entitled to a meaningful and stimulating learning experience, and you are strongly encouraged to use the services provided by the Academic Advancement Center and the Student Writing Center. Disabled students are also strongly encouraged to use the services provided by Student Accessibility Services, including the provision of note-takers, transcribers, and sign-language interpreters.

*Student Accessibility Services* Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss your specific needs and provide written documentation from Student Accessibility Services. If you are

not yet registered as a student with a disability, please contact Student Accessibility Services at 740-593-2620 or visit the office in 348 Baker University Center.

*Academic Advancement Center* If you are concerned with academic matters that are not specific to this course, you should talk to your advisor and/or visit the Academic Advancement Center, Alden Library 101, 740-593-2644 (<http://www.ohio.edu/aac/index.cfm>).

---

## COURSE SCHEDULE

---

The following is a tentative schedule of topics, reading, and assignments. All readings will be posted on Blackboard. *You are expected to have done the assigned reading before each class.*

Wk	Date	Topics	Readings
<b>Unit 1. Classical Views on the Good Life</b>			
1	Tue, Jan 16	Introduction	Syllabus
	Thu, Jan 18	Happiness	<b>Aristotle</b> , <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book I (selections)
2	Tue, Jan 23	Happiness; Virtues	<b>Aristotle</b> , Book II (selections)
	Thu, Jan 25	Virtues; Friendship	<b>Aristotle</b> , Book VIII (selections)
3	Tue, Jan 30	Friendship	<b>Aristotle</b> , Book VIII (selections)
	Thu, Feb 1	Epicureanism	<b>Epicurus</b> , "Letter to Menoecus."
4	Tue, Feb 6	<b>Exam 1</b>	–
	Thu, Feb 8	Epicureanism	<b>Epicurus</b> , "The Principal Doctrines" and "The Vatican Collection."
5	Tue, Feb 13	Epicureanism; Islamic Philosophy	<b>Al-Kindi</b> , "On the means of dispelling sorrows."
	Thu, Feb 15	Islamic Philosophy	<b>Al-Kindi</b> , "On the means of dispelling sorrows."
<b>Unit 2. Other Classical Views on the Good Life</b>			
6	Tue, Feb 20	<b>Exam 2</b>	–
	Thu, Feb 22	Confucianism	<b>Confucius</b> , <i>The Analects</i> (selections)
7	Tue, Feb 27	Confucianism	<b>Confucius</b> , <i>The Analects</i> (selections)
	Thu, Mar 1	Daoism	<b>Laozi</b> , <i>The Daodejing</i> (selections)
8	Tue, Mar 6	Daoism	<b>Laozi</b> , <i>The Daodejing</i> (selections); <b>Zhuangzi</b> (selections)
	Thu, Mar 8	Daoism	<b>Zhuangzi</b> (selections)
<i>Spring Break: Mar 12–16</i>			
<b>Unit 3. The Good Life and Social Conditions</b>			
9	Tue, Mar 20	<b>Exam 3</b>	–
	Thu, Mar 22	Social Norms and Women's Life	<b>Abelard</b> , <i>The Calamities of Peter Abelard</i> ; <b>Heloise</b> , "Letter to Abelard."
10	Tue, Mar 27	Equality and Women's	<b>Mary Wollstonecraft</b> , <i>A Vindication of the Rights of Woman</i> (selections)

		Rights	
	Thu, Mar 29	Equality and Women's Rights	<b>Wollstonecraft</b> , <i>A Vindication of the Rights of Woman</i> (selections)
11	Tue, Apr 3	Meaningful and Dignified Participation in Society	<b>Karl Marx</b> , "Alienated Labor" from the <i>Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844</i> .
	Thu, Apr 5	Meaningful and Dignified Participation in Society	<b>W. E. B. Du Bois</b> , "Of Our Spiritual Strivings" from <i>The Souls of Black Folk</i> .
<b>Unit 4. What is the Good Life?</b>			
12	Tue, Apr 10	<b>Exam 4</b>	–
	Thu, Apr 12	<i>The Big Lebowski</i>	In-class screening (no readings)
13	Tue, Apr 17	<i>The Big Lebowski</i>	In-class screening (no readings)
	Thu, Apr 19	Friendship and Solidarity; Epicureanism	Papers from <i>The Big Lebowski and Philosophy</i>
14	Tue, Apr 24	Epicureanism; Daoism	Papers from <i>The Big Lebowski and Philosophy</i>
	Thu, Apr 26	Conclusion; Review	–
<b>Final Exam: Tuesday, May 1, 12:20–2:20pm.</b>			

*Disclaimer* The above schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better student learning.

*Copyright* The lectures, classroom activities, and all materials associated with this class and developed by the instructor are copyrighted in the name of Yoichi Ishida on this date January 16, 2018.