

IE-HUMANITIES

ASIGNATURAS DE VARIOS PROGRAMAS QUE CONVERGEN EN UNA SOLA

Professor: **TIMOTHY SYME**

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Degree course: **FIRST**

Semester: **2º**

Category: **COMPULSORY**

Number of credits: **6.0**

Language: **English**

PREREQUISITES

SUBJECT DESCRIPTION

In a highly changing world, Humanities courses aim at offering students basic and well-established anchors that will help them in carrying out a more in-depth analysis of the reality they live in. By fostering critical thinking in any of the Humanistic disciplines, we try to provide the students with the necessary tools to both analyse the ideas of others and defend their own. Therefore, the courses on Humanities focus on the values of understanding and meaning, this is, providing the students with the necessary concepts and knowledge to understand the world around them, in any specific area, as well as the indispensable skills to construct the positions they want to defend. In a global and interconnected world, the ability to think 'out of the box' and critically question the endless amount of information students are exposed to should help them make the most of their own disciplines.

In this class you will be introduced to the methods and some key topics of the western philosophical tradition. We will read about the nature of argumentation in general and then survey key philosophical topics based around the three core questions of philosophy:

1. What things exist?
2. How do we know about them?
3. What should we do?

These questions underly, respectively, metaphysics, epistemology and value theory, the latter of which includes moral philosophy and aesthetics.

OBJECTIVES AND SKILLS

At the end of the course, students should be able to

1. identify and evaluate different kinds of argument.
2. understand theories and arguments across a wide range philosophical topics.
3. formulate and defend your own (interpretive) argument.

METHODOLOGY

| Teaching methodology | Weighting | Estimated time a student should dedicate to prepare for and participate in |
|-----------------------------|------------------|---|
| Lectures | 30.0 % | 45 hours |
| Discussions | 0.0 % | 0 hours |
| Exercises | 26.0 % | 39 hours |
| Group work | 14.0 % | 21 hours |
| Other individual studying | 30.0 % | 45 hours |
| TOTAL | 100.0 % | 150 hours |

PROGRAM

SESSIONS 1 - 2

What is philosophy? What does it mean to 'love wisdom'?

SESSIONS 3 - 4

Critical thinking, logic and rhetoric.

SESSIONS 5 - 6

Knowledge

SESSIONS 7 - 8

Truth

SESSIONS 9 - 10

What things exist? And how can we know?

SESSIONS 11 - 12

Action and Freedom

SESSIONS 13 - 14

Morality

SESSIONS 15 - 16

MIDTERM EXAM

SESSIONS 17 - 18

History

SESSIONS 19 - 20

The Philosophy of Science

SESSIONS 21 - 22

Political Philosophy

SESSIONS 23 - 24

Feminist Philosophy

SESSIONS 25 - 26

Environmental Philosophy

SESSIONS 27 - 28

Group presentations

SESSIONS 29 - 30

FINAL DUE

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Relevant materials will be given be made available by professors in class or in the campus on-line. All readings are compulsory.

[Buy your books here](#)

Harrison-Barbet, Anthony, *Mastering Philosophy*, 2nd ed., Palgrave, 2001, ISBN / ISSN: 978-0-333-79384-8

Ayer, A.J., *The Problem of Knowledge*, Macmillan-Penguin, 1956 ISBN / ISSN: 014020377x

Putnam, Hilary, *Reason, Truth and History*, Cambridge University Press, 1981, ISBN / ISSN: 978-0-521-29776-1

Aristotle (trans. H. P. Cooke), *The Organon* Harvard University Press, 1938

Hume, David, *An Enquiry concerning Human Understanding*, Oxford University Press, 1999 ISBN / ISSN: 978- 0198752482

Anscombe, G.E.M., *Intention*, Oxford/Basil Blackwell, 1963

Kant, Immanuel (trans. M.J. Gregor), *Practical Philosophy*, Cambridge University Press, Kant, 1996, ISBN / ISSN: 978- 0521371031

Nietzsche, Friederich, *On the Genealogy of Morality*, Cambridge University Press, 2007, ISBN / ISSN: 9780521691635

Gorham, Geoffrey, *Philosophy of Science. A beginner's guide*, Oneworld, 2009, ISBN / ISSN: 9781851686841

Mill, John Stuart, *On Liberty*, Cambridge University Press, 1989, ISBN / ISSN: 9780521379175

Haslanger, Sally, 'The Sex/Gender Distinction and the Social Construction of Reality.' in *The Routledge Companion to Feminist Philosophy*, Routledge, 2017

Naess, Arne, 'The shallow and the deep, long-range ecology movement. A summary', in *Inquiry*, 1973, 16: 1, 95 — 100

Routley, Richard. 'Is There a Need for a New, an Environmental, Ethic?' in *Proceedings of the XVth World Congress of Philosophy 17th to 22nd September, 1973, Varna, Bulgaria*. Varna, Bulgaria: Sofia Press, 1973. 205-210

EVALUATION CRITERIA

| Criteria | Percentage | Comments |
|------------------------------|------------|----------|
| Class participation | 15 % | |
| Two individual essays | 20 % | |
| Midterm Exam | 15 % | |
| Group presentation and essay | 25 % | |
| Final Exam | 25 % | |

A. CLASS PARTICIPATION

Three main criteria will be used in reaching judgment about your class participation:

? Depth and Quality of Contribution: The most important dimension of participation concerns what it is that you are saying. A high quality comment reveals depth of insight, rigorous use of case evidence, consistency of argument, and realism.

? Moving Your Peers' Understanding Forward: Great ideas can be lost through poor presentation. A high quality presentation of ideas must consider the relevance and timing of comments, and the flow and content of the ensuing class discussion. It demands comments that are concise and clear, and that are conveyed with a spirit of involvement in the discussion at hand.

? Frequency: Frequency refers to the attainment of a threshold quantity of contributions that is sufficient for making a reliable assessment of comment quality. The logic is simple: if contributions are too few, one cannot reliably assess the quality of your remarks. However, once threshold quantity has been achieved, simply increasing the number of times you talk does not automatically improve your evaluation. Beyond the threshold, it is the quality of your comments that must improve. In particular, one must be especially careful that in claiming more than a fair share of “airtime”, quality is not sacrificed for quantity. Finally, your attempts at participation should not be such that the instructor has to “go looking for you”. You should be attempting to get into the debate on a regular basis.

B. INDIVIDUAL ESSAYS

Throughout the course you will have to write to individual essays (1,000-1,500 words each).

All essays will be submitted through Turnitin in online campus. No hard copies are necessary.

Essays will be marked according to Structure (25%), Style (25%) and Content (50%) which also includes the appropriate and correct use of sources. Each of these criteria is graded as 0 (poor), 0.5 (average) and 1 (above average). The combination of these 3 general criteria makes up the final mark. In each of these criteria, the following points have to be observed:

1. Structure:

the general plan of the essay;

the connection between ideas exposed;

the inclusion of a conclusion;

the existence of paragraphs corresponding to ideas or concepts.

2. Style:

the absence of grammatical mistakes,

the proper use of academic English corresponding to college level;

the adequate use of sources and quotations,

3. Content:

the level of originality in the essay,

the argumentative level of the essay;

the relevance of the information contained in it, without being a mere summary;

the adequacy of the content to the question proposed;

the logical connections between presentation of ideas and final conclusions

the relevance of such conclusions without being a mere tautology.

In writing the essays, you should follow the guidelines learnt in the Writing Skills course (First year). Compliance with these guidelines will be assessed.

C. FINAL GROUP PRESENTATION AND FINAL ESSAY

You are also expected to complete a final project with your group and present it in class. The project will give you the opportunity to reflect on what you have learnt in class and apply it to some practical problems. More details of the project will be provided by the start of the course.

Additionally, you should write an essay on your contribution to the group project and presentation. The essay will be marked according to the guidelines provided above for other essays.

D. MID-TERM AND FINAL EXAM

The Mid-term Exam and the Final exam will be in-class paper exams. If you score more than 7/10 in the midterm, you are automatically dispensed from examination of the first part of the course in the final exam. If you score less than 7/10, your final exam will consist of ALL the contents of the course. The specific format of the exams will be provided by your professor in due time.

? Sobresaliente/Outstanding: 9.0-10.0 (A to A+)

Consistently produces work of the highest quality and craft; exhibits notable progress and development over the course of the semester; meets all course objectives at highest level; attendance is near-perfect, and contributions to course discussions are extremely valuable.

? Notable: 7.0-8.9 (B to B+)

Completes all assignments with work of above-average quality and craft; exhibits significant progress and development; meets most course objectives; attendance and participation are very good.

? Aprobado: 6.0-7.0 (C to C+)

Completes all assignments with work of acceptable quality and craft; exhibits some progress and development; meets a majority of course objectives. Attendance and participation are acceptable.

? Aprobado: 5.0-6.0 (D)

Assignments are delivered but are incomplete and/or of low quality and craft; exhibits little progress and development; meets few course objectives. Attendance and participation are poor, but absences do not total more than 30%.

? Suspenso: 0-4.9 (F)

Work is incomplete, missing, or does not meet course objectives. Attendance and participation are poor.

? Automatic Failure/Suspenso: 0 (F)

Please note that a student who misses 30% or more of the scheduled sessions receives an automatic 0.0, and loses his or her right to the second "convocatoria."

RETAKE POLICY

? Each student has 4 chances to pass any given course distributed in two consecutive academic years (regular period and July period).

? Students who do not comply with the 70% attendance rule will lose their 1st and 2nd chance, and go directly to the 3rd one (they will need to enrol again in this course next academic year).

? Grading for retakes will be subject to the following rules:

- o Students failing the course in the first regular period will have to do a retake in June/July (except those not complying with the attendance rules, which are banned from this possibility).

- o Dates and location of the June/July retakes will be posted in advance and will not be changed. Please take this into consideration when planning your summer.

- o The maximum grade that a student may obtain in any type of retake will be 8 out of 10.

- o The retakes in the same academic year (2nd chance) will consist on a comprehensive exam. The grade will depend only on the performance in this exam; continuous evaluation over the semester will not be taken into account. This exam will be designed bearing in mind that the passing grade is 5 and the maximum grade that can be attained is 8.

- o The students in their third and fourth attempts must do a comprehensive examination (50%) and submit one long essay (3,000 words) (50%) before the exam on a topic previously agreed upon with the professor.

PROFESSOR BIO

Professor: **TIMOTHY SYME**

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Timothy Syme is an International Teaching Fellow at IE University. Ph.D. in Philosophy, Brown University. MA (Hons) in Philosophy and Politics, University of Edinburgh. His research focuses on the relationship between everyday actions and social justice, taking in conceptual, methodological and normative concerns.

OTHER INFORMATION

CODE OF CONDUCT IN CLASS

1. **Be on time:** : Students arriving more than 5 minutes late will be marked as “Absent”.

Only students that notify in advance in writing that they will be late for a specific session may be granted an exception (at the discretion of the professor).

2. **If applicable, bring your name card and strictly follow the seating chart.** It helps faculty members and fellow students learn your names.

3. **Do not leave the room during the lecture:** Students are not allowed to leave the room during lectures. If a student leaves the room during lectures, he/she will not be allowed to re-enter and, therefore, will be marked as “Absent”.

Only students that notify that they have a special reason to leave the session early will be granted an exception (at the discretion of the professor).

4. **Do not engage in side conversation.** As a sign of respect toward the person presenting the lecture (the teacher as well as fellow students), side conversations are not allowed. If you have a question, raise your hand and ask it. If you do not want to ask it during the lecture, feel free to approach your teacher after class.

If a student is disrupting the flow of the lecture, he/she will be asked to leave the classroom and, consequently, will be marked as “Absent”.

5. **Use your laptop for course-related purposes only.** The use of laptops during lectures must be authorized by the professor. The use of Social Media or accessing any type of content not related to the lecture is penalized. The student will be asked to leave the room and, consequently, will be marked as “Absent”.

6. **No cellular phones:** IE University implements a “Phone-free Classroom” policy and, therefore, the use of phones, tablets, etc. is forbidden inside the classroom. Failing to abide by this rule entails expulsion from the room and will be counted as one absence.

7. **Escalation policy: 1/3/5.** Items 4, 5, and 6 above entail expulsion from the classroom and the consequent marking of the student as “Absent.” IE University implements an “escalation policy”: The first time a student is asked to leave the room for disciplinary reasons (as per items 4, 5, and 6 above), the student will incur one absence, the second time it will count as three absences, and from the third time onward, any expulsion from the classroom due to disciplinary issues will entail 5 absences.