

Marian University

Philosophy 132: The Examined Life Summer 2021, Online 01, Session II

Instructor Information

Instructor: Mark Lafrenz, Ph.D.

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Telephone: I do not have a campus phone number.

Office: I do not have a campus office.

Contacting the Professor

In most cases, I will reply to e-mails from students on the same day I receive them. E-mails sent late at night may not receive replies until the next day. When e-mailing me, be sure to include your name, the course number or name of the course, and the reason for your e-mail in the subject line. Always send e-mails to me from your Marian University e-mail address.

In rare cases and with good reason, I can be convinced to share my cell phone number. If you are in Milwaukee and a face-to-face meeting is in order, I live near Lake Michigan on the East Side where there are many coffee shops.

Regarding Covid-19

Marian University continues to monitor the evolving COVID-19 situation and align our academic planning with guidance from the local and state health officials. Our primary goal is to protect the health and safety of our students, faculty, staff, and the Marian University community while delivering quality education.

In the event you are unable to participate in the course due to illness or experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19, notify the course instructor as soon as possible so that accommodations can be made. Please note that documentation from a medical professional or student services is only required for absences longer than seven (7) days.

Catalog Course Description

"This introductory philosophy course builds on the critical reading and thinking outcomes students will have achieved in the *First Year Seminar*, and prepares students for their future studies and for life by leading them to develop their abilities in three outcomes areas: *Interpretive Reasoning*, *Critical Reasoning*, and *Global Citizenship*. Through

engagement with historical, multicultural, and contemporary texts, students will learn how to interpret texts, move from evidence to conclusions, and use their interpretations and conclusions to live a more examined life.”

Extended Course Description

This course is an introduction to philosophy, with emphasis on the philosophy of religion, the metaphysics of persons, epistemology, ethics and political philosophy. We will begin by considering what philosophy is and why it is important. Then, we will consider arguments for the existence of God and the question of whether and to what extent faith is compatible with reason. After that we will consider the question of what is required to be a member of the class of persons and what is required for a person to be the same person over time. We will next consider the question of what conditions need to be satisfied for a subject to know that some proposition is true (or false). After that, we will turn our attention to ethics, focusing on the question of whether morality is relative, normative ethical theories (including utilitarianism, virtue ethics, and deontology), whether moral sainthood, variously understood, is a desirable thing in a person, and feminist ethics. We will conclude with discussion of political philosophy. (A few topics will be included as “bonus topics.”)

Willingness to tackle challenging material is presupposed.

Required Text

Louis P. Pojman and Lewis Vaughn (eds.), *Philosophy: The Quest for Truth*, 9th edition (New York: Oxford University Press, 2014).

Note: The ISBN number for the text is 978-0-19-998108-3.

Note: Readings not found in the required text will be made available on Marian Online 2.

Other Resources

The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy is an excellent and comprehensive open-access source for detailed discussion of philosophers and philosophical topics. It is available at <http://plato.stanford.edu>. The *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy* is also an excellent online resource. It is available at www.iep.utm.edu.

JSTOR provides access to scholarly journal articles in a wide range of subject areas, including philosophy. You have access to JSTOR through the library website at Marian.

Students should feel free to consult me for additional resources on topics they find to be of particular interest. It is likely that I have materials that I would be happy to share or that I will at least be able to point students in the direction of helpful resources.

General Education Learning Outcomes

- *Interpretive Reasoning*: students will demonstrate proficiency in interpreting texts from multiple perspectives. (KA 3 and 6)

- *Critical Reasoning*: students will demonstrate proficiency in identifying evidence and deriving appropriate conclusions from that evidence. (CT 1 and 4)
- *Global Citizenship*: Students will demonstrate proficiency in conceiving issues from diverse perspectives and develop ethically responsible strategies for dealing with these issues. (SRA 1 and 2)

Note: For the purposes of this course, the first and second learning outcomes will be most important.

Course-Specific Learning Objectives

- For students to develop an understanding of the practice of philosophy and an appreciation for philosophical inquiry
- For students to strengthen their analytic and critical thinking skills
- For students to gain a willingness to critically examine their own pre-philosophical beliefs
- For students to be better able to articulate their own beliefs and respond meaningfully to divergent beliefs concerning the topics covered in the course
- For students to engage in meaningful philosophical dialogue at a level appropriate for students without prior exposure to philosophy
- For students to write more clearly and thoughtfully
- For students to gain an appreciation for the value of philosophy as it relates to their understandings of themselves and their understanding of the world

Technology Requirements

Students will need a desktop or laptop computer, a reliable Internet connection, and Microsoft Word.

Course Notes

Notes on assigned readings and on some recommended readings will be made available on Marian Online 2. My notes are intended to supplement the readings. They are meant to clarify and expand upon the topics we will be covering in the course. They are *not* a replacement for careful attention to the assigned and recommended readings. Material in the course notes is fair game for quiz and exam questions, as well as for forum discussions.

Assignments

Course grades will be based on quizzes, one paper, online forum participation, and a final exam. There are 181 possible points for the course. Final grades will be based on students' percentages of the total possible points for the course. The course grading scale appears below.

Quizzes will be worth 10 possible points each. There will be 5 quizzes. Quiz questions will be drawn from required readings and from the course notes. Quizzes will be

posted on Marian Online 2. The due dates for the quizzes are indicated on the course schedule below.

Papers will be worth 50 possible points and should be approximately 8 pages long (double-spaced, 12-point font), *excluding* title and bibliography pages. Students may rewrite their papers if they choose to do so. Scores on re-written papers will replace students' original scores if and only if the new score is higher than the original score. A list of suggested topics will be posted on Marian Online 2, but students may, with my approval, submit papers on other topics that are relevant to the course. A document titled "Paper Guidelines and Instructions" will be made available on Marian Online 2 to assist students in preparing their papers. Due dates for the paper and rewrites are indicated on the course schedule below.

Final exams will be worth 60 possible points. Final exams will include a short answer section worth 10 possible points and two essays (circa 3 pages each, double-spaced) worth 25 possible points each. The final exam will be posted on Marian Online 2. Answers to the short answer questions and the essays are to be combined into a single document. The due date for the final exam is indicated on the course schedule below.

Students are expected to participate each week in an online discussion forum, which can be accessed through Marian Online 2. Participation will be worth 3 points per week, for a total of 21 possible points. Forum participation will also serve to satisfy the attendance requirement, as this is not a face-to-face class. Students may use our weekly forums to discuss the readings, both recommended and required, to address my questions, and to run their own relevant ideas by their classmates and myself. Forum posts should be submitted by no later than the last day of each week of class. To receive forum participation points and attendance credit for a given week, students must reply to at least one discussion topic for that week. *Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner appropriate to an academic setting at all times. Students may, by all means, feel free to disagree with each other, with me, and with the authors whose works we will be reading, but are expected to behave in a respectful manner.*

When submitting quizzes, papers, and final exams, keep the following guidelines in mind:

- **Send submissions only from your Marian University e-mail account. This prevents e-mails from winding up in my "Junk Mail" or "Clutter" folders. Send your submissions as attachments to my Marian University e-mail account. Do not send assignments through Moodle (Marian Online 2) or SharePoint.**
- **Be sure to include your name when naming your files. Failure to include your names when naming your files makes it more likely that your work will not be scored. Use the following format when naming files:**
 - **LastNameFirstNamePHI132AssignmentName.docx (e.g., SmithJohnPHI132Quiz1.docx, SmithJohnPHI132Paper.docx, SmithJohnPhi132PaperRewrite.docx, etc.)**
- **In addition to including your names when naming your files, you should be sure to include your names on your assignments.**

- **Send submissions only as Word documents. This makes it easy to add comments to your submissions.**

Late Work

Turning work in late is in nobody's interest. It is also a very bad habit to get into. This is especially the case in accelerated courses such as this one. With that in mind, I do understand that this course is not your only obligation in life and that there are occasions when other commitments, (work, family, etc.) make it necessary to turn work in late. If you need to request an extension on a due date, please send me an e-mail explaining the reason for your request. I am more lenient than many professors are when it comes to accepting late work without penalty, but I do not have infinite patience. Please understand that my flexibility regarding due dates does not apply at the end of the semester except in extreme cases. I have a contractual obligation to submit final grades in a timely fashion to the Office of the Registrar.

Extra Credit

Extra credit will not be offered. Do not ask for it.

Course Grading Scale

A	95-100%
A-	90-94.9%
B+	87-89.9%
B	84-86.9%
B-	80-83.9%
C+	77-79.9%
C	74-76.9%
C-	70-73.9%
D+	65-69.9%
D	60-64.9%
F	59.9% and below

Final grades will be based on students' percentages of the total possible points for the course. Note that a minimum grade of C- is necessary for this course to count towards the Liberal Arts Core requirement.

Paper Grading Scale

A	47.5 points and above
A-	45
B+	43.5
B	42
B-	40
C+	38.5

C	37
C-	35
D+	32.5
D	30
F	29.5 and below

Final Exam Essays Grading Scale

A	23.75 points and above
A-	22.5
B+	21.75
B	21
B-	20
C+	19.25
C	18.5
C-	17.5
D+	16.25
D	15
F	14 points and below

Academic Honesty

Cheating and plagiarism are serious offenses and will be dealt with accordingly. Any student caught cheating or committing plagiarism will receive 0 points on the assignment in question. Students with questions concerning what constitutes plagiarism should consult official University policy or the instructor. Serious plagiarism includes presenting someone's ideas as your own. When you write your papers and final exams, be sure to not make use of any philosophers' ideas without attribution. I do not at all enjoy failing students. In this course, as in any other, it is always better to request an extension on an assignment than, due to the stresses of life (academic or otherwise), commit acts of academic dishonesty.

Marian University's academic honesty policy reads in part as follows: "A policy of academic honesty speaks to the Mission Statement of Marian University by ensuring academic integrity and thereby furthering the personal, moral, and intellectual development of the learning community. The intent of this policy is to establish consistency and to heighten the moral responsibility of the entire University community (faculty, staff, and students) by identifying areas that would violate the concept of academic honesty."

The complete official policy can be found in the Academic Bulletin and in the Student Handbook.

Disability Statement

Marian University provides reasonable accommodations to qualified students with disabilities. If you believe that you need accommodations to succeed in this course, contact

Lisa Olig, Coordinator of Disability Services, at (920) 923-8951 or lmolig65@marianuniversity.edu.

Adult Program Attendance Policy

The following material in quotation marks is official University policy that I am required to include in the syllabus. I realize that you do not have to be in class, as we do not have face-to-face class meetings. See the discussion of forum participation above under "Assignments."

"Due to the accelerated format, class attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to attend each class session in its entirety (*definition of "class session" differs between face to face and online classes*). However, balancing professional and personal obligations with school may result in a situation where a student is unable to attend a class session."

"When absences are anticipated, students are encouraged to notify the instructor, as far in advance as possible. This allows discussion as to how the student will make up the material covered during the absence: for example, completion of an additional written assignment, paper, or presentation."

"In the event of an emergency or other unforeseen circumstance, students are expected to contact the instructor as soon as it becomes obvious that class content will be missed."

"Absence(s) from class will result in the following actions:

1. *One Absence*—Students are expected to complete additional assignments to make up for the material covered in the missed class. Instructors have the discretion to determine content and format of assignments and any effect the absence may have on the final grade received.
2. *Two Absences*—Reduction of one full grade: for example, downgrade from an 'A' to a 'B' as the final grade.
3. *Three Absences*—Failure in course; grade of "F" will be recorded on the official transcript, and student is required to repeat the course. No refund of tuition."

Note: The term "absences" here refers to absences that are unexcused.

"An absence in the first session of a course without prior approval of the instructor may result in a student being administratively dropped from the course. Students who are administratively dropped from a course that meets less than 14 weeks will be assessed a 10% tuition penalty and have a WD grade recorded on their transcript."

Note: For the purposes of this course, the phrase "absence from the first session" should be understood as "absence from the first week of the course."

Out of Classroom Workload Expectations

The following material in quotation marks is an official statement of workload expectations.

"This course is a 3-credit course. For every hour of in course/instructional time, a **minimum** of two hours of out-of-class work is expected. Additional hours are expected of graduate course work depending on the degree outcomes. According to Federal Guidelines

from the US Department of Education, a 3-credit course assumes a **minimum of 135 hours** of course-related activities. The outside-of-classroom workload expectations of the students are as follow, for various modalities of courses:

- A course that meets for three hours each week across a 15-week semester (meets three times for one hour, meets two time for 75 minute session, or meets once for a three hour block) will have a minimum of six hours of outside class-work per week.
- A 7-week course that meets once a week for approximately 4 hours will have a minimum of 15 hours of outside class-work per week.
- An 8-week course that meets once a week for approximately 4 hours will have a minimum of 13 hours of outside class-work per week.
- **Online and hybrid courses will have a minimum of 135 hours of combined synchronous or asynchronous course activities across the length of the course.**

Academic activities include, but are not limited to reading, writing, studying, research, completing various assignments, and small group work.

At least an equivalent amount of class-related work is required for laboratory, field trip, practicum, workshop, group studio, individual studio, independent study, dissertation, clinical placements, student teaching, and practica. Courses that are more or less than 3 credits use the same calculation of in course/instructional time, a minimum of 45 hours of course-related activities per unit of credit over the duration of the course."

Note: Workload expectations are approximate and do not reflect the amount of work that any particular student will need to do to receive a particular grade for this or any other course.

Course Schedule

Note: Readings not found in the required textbook will be made available on Marian Online 2. Page numbers in parentheses key to the required textbook. Recommended readings on some topics have been included for the benefit of students who find those topics interesting and as resources for writing the short paper and exam essays. Most, though not all, of the readings are fairly short, but don't let that deceive you. Some of the readings are challenging and will take some effort to digest for students who are new to philosophy. Take your time and consult me if you come across anything that you have difficulty understanding. Upon request, I would be happy to recommend additional readings.

Note: Due dates for quizzes, papers, paper re-writes, and final exams are shown below.

Week 1: Monday, July 5 to Sunday, July 11

Topics: What is Philosophy? Philosophy of Religion

The Value of Philosophy

Required readings:

- Louis P. Pojman and Lewis Vaughn, Introduction (pp. 2-5)
- Plato, "The Allegory of the Cave" (from *The Republic*) (pp. 18-21)
- Bertrand Russell, "The Value of Philosophy" (from *The Problems of Philosophy*) (pp. 27-31)

The Cosmological Argument for the Existence of God

Required reading:

- Saint Thomas Aquinas, "The Five Ways" (from the *Summa Theologica*) (pp. 58-61)

Recommended reading:

- Paul Edwards, "A Critique of the Cosmological Argument" (pp. 80-89)

The Teleological Argument for the Existence of God

Required readings:

- William Paley, "The Watch and the Watchmaker" (from *Natural Theology, or Evidence of the Existence and Attributes of the Deity Collected from Appearances of Nature*) (pp. 90-92)
- David Hume, "A Critique of Teleological Argument" (from *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*) (pp. 93-99)

The Ontological Argument for the Existence of God

Required reading:

- Saint Anselm and Guanilo, "The Ontological Argument" (from Anselm's *Proslogium* and Guanilo's *In Behalf of the Fool*, and Anselm's *Apologetic*) (pp. 100-103)

Faith and Reason

Required readings:

- Blaise Pascal, "Faith is a Logical Bet" (from *Thoughts*) (pp. 140-143)
- William Klingdon Clifford, "The Ethics of Belief" (pp. 143-148)
- William James, "The Will to Believe" (from *The Will to Believe*) (pp. 148-157)

Recommended reading:

- Stephanie R. Lewis, "Where (in Logical Space) is God?" (MO2)

QUIZ 1 DUE SUNDAY, JULY 11 BY 11:59 P.M.

Week 2: Monday, July 12 to Sunday, July 18

Topic: The Metaphysics of Persons: Personhood and Personal Identity

What is a Person?

Required readings:

- Michael Tooley, "Personhood" (Marian Online 2)
- René Descartes, "Substance Dualism" (from *The Philosophical Works of Descartes*) (pp. 291-298)
- Gilbert Ryle, "Exorcising Descartes' 'Ghost in the Machine'" (from *The Concept of Mind*) (pp. 299-304)

Week 3: Monday, July 19 to Sunday, July 25

Topic: The Metaphysics of Persons (continued)

Personal Identity and Quantitative/Numerical Identity

Required readings:

- John Locke, "Our Psychological Properties Define the Self" (from *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*) (pp. 381-384)

- David Hume, "We Have No Substantial Self with Which We Are Identical" (from *A Treatise of Human Nature*) (pp. 385-387)

Recommended reading:

- Derek Parfit, "Personal Identity" (Marian Online 2)

The Relation of Persons to Their Bodies: An Interesting Contemporary Debate

Required readings:

- Eric Olson, "Was I Ever a Fetus?" (Marian Online 2)
- Lynne Rudder Baker, "What Am I?" (Marian Online 2)

Recommended readings:

- Eric Olson, "Reply to Lynne Rudder Baker" (Marian Online 2)
- Lynne Rudder Baker, "The Ontological Status of Persons" (Marian Online 2)
- Derek Parfit, "We Are Not Human Beings" (Marian Online 2)

QUIZ 2 DUE SUNDAY, JULY 25 BY 11:59 P.M.

Week 4: Monday, July 26 to Sunday, August 1

Topic: Epistemology

The Traditional Account of Knowledge as Justified True Belief

Required readings:

- Plato, *Meno* (excerpts) (Marian Online 2)
- Edmund L. Gettier, "Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?" (Marian Online 2)

Two Versions of Radical Foundationalism and Skepticism About Causal Reasoning

Required readings:

- René Descartes, "Cartesian Doubt and the Search for Foundational Knowledge" (from *Meditations on First Philosophy*) (pp. 198-204)
- David Hume, "The Origin of Our Ideas" (from *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*) (pp. 225-228)

Recommended reading:

- Anthony Gottlieb, "Who Was David Hume?" (Marian Online 2)

Skeptical Invariantism and Contextualism

Required readings:

- Peter Unger, "A Defense of Skepticism" (Marian Online 2)
- Keith DeRose, "Contextualism and Knowledge Attributions" (Marian Online 2)

External World Skepticism and the Brains in a Vat Hypothesis

Required readings:

- Hilary Putnam, "Brains in a Vat" (Marian Online 2)
- Yuval Steinitz, "Brains in a Vat: Different Perspectives" (Marian Online 2)

Bonus Topic: Induction (NOT REQUIRED)

Recommended readings:

- Bertrand Russell, "On Induction" (from *The Problems of Philosophy*) (Marian Online 2)
- Nelson Goodman, "The New Riddle of Induction" (from *Fact, Fiction, and Forecast*) (Marian Online 2)
- Hilary Putnam, "Nelson Goodman's *Fact, Fiction, and Forecast*" (from *Realism with a Human Face*) (Marian Online 2)

QUIZ 3 DUE SUNDAY, AUGUST 1 BY 11:59 P.M.

Week 5: Monday, August 2 to Sunday, August 8

Topic: Ethics

Moral Relativism

Required readings:

- Ruth Benedict, "Morality is Relative" (from *Anthropology and the Abnormal*) (pp. 462-467)
- James Rachels, "Morality is Not Relative" (from *The Elements of Moral Philosophy*) (pp. 467-476)
- Gilbert Harman, "Moral Relativism Defended" (Marian Online 2)
 - Note: Harman's paper is much better and more philosophically respectable than the reading by Benedict. Read it if you want to defend relativism in a way that does not run afoul of logic and does not make too much of anthropology.

Utilitarianism

Required readings:

- John Stuart Mill, "Utilitarianism" (from *Utilitarianism*) (pp. 514-520)
- Judith Jarvis Thomson, "Goodness and Utilitarianism" (Marian Online 2)

Virtue Ethics

Required readings:

- Aristotle, "The Ethics of Virtue" (from *The Nichomachean Ethics*) (pp. 521-529)
- Martha Nussbaum, "Non-Relative Virtues: An Aristotelian Approach" (Marian Online 2)

PAPERS DUE FRIDAY, AUGUST 6 BY 11:59 P.M.

QUIZ 4 DUE SUNDAY, AUGUST 8 BY 11:59 P.M.

Week 6: Monday, August 9 to Sunday, August 15

Topic: Ethics (continued)

Kantian Ethics

Required readings:

- Immanuel Kant, "The Moral Law" (from *The Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals*) (pp. 502-513)

- Immanuel Kant, "On a Supposed Right to Lie from Philanthropy" (Marian Online 2)
- Christine Korsgaard, "The Right to Lie: Kant on Dealing with Evil" (Marian Online 2)
- J. David Velleman, "A Right of Self-Termination?" (Marian Online 2)

Recommended readings:

- J. David Velleman, "Love as a Moral Emotion" (Marian Online 2)
- Carla Bagnoli, "Respect and Loving Attention" (Marian Online 2)
- Carla Bagnoli, "Emotions and the Categorical Authority of Moral Reasons" (Marian Online 2)
- Frances Kamm, "Physician-Assisted Suicide, the Doctrine of Double Effect, and the Ground of Value" (Marian Online 2)

Week 7: Monday, August 16 to Sunday, August 22

Topics: Ethics (continued) and Political Philosophy

A Different Perspective on Normative Ethics

Required reading:

- Jean Grimshaw, "The Idea of a Feminine Ethic" (Marian Online 2)

Moral Sainthood

Required readings:

- Susan Wolf, "Moral Saints" (Marian Online 2)
- Carla Bagnoli, "The Alleged Paradox of Moral Perfection" (Marian Online 2)

Recommended reading:

- Vanessa Carbonell, "What Moral Saints Look Like" (Marian Online 2)

Bonus Topic: Metaethics (NOT REQUIRED)

Recommended readings:

- G. E. Moore, *Principia Ethics*, chapter 1 (abridged) (Marian Online 2)
- Charles Leslie Stevenson, "The Emotive Meaning of Ethical Terms" (Marian Online 2)
- J. L. Mackie, *Ethics: Inventing Right and Wrong*, chapter 1 (abridged) (Marian Online 2)

Political Philosophy: Rawlsian Liberalism and Nozick's Libertarianism

Required readings:

- John Rawls, "The Contemporary Liberal Account" (from *A Theory of Justice*) (pp. 603-612)
- Robert Nozick, "Against Liberalism" (from *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*) (pp. 613-622)

Recommended readings:

- Robert Nozick, *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*, Chapter 7, Section 2 (Marian Online 2)
- John Rawls, "The Priority of Right and Ideas of the Good" (Marian Online 2)
- Martha Nussbaum, "Rawls and Feminism" (Marian Online 2)

OPTIONAL PAPER REWRITES DUE SATURDAY, AUGUST 21 BY 11:59 P.M.

QUIZ 5 DUE SUNDAY, AUGUST 22 BY 11:59 P.M.

FINAL EXAMS DUE TUESDAY, AUGUST 24 BY 11:59 P.M.