

DC 227 SPRING 2017
Film Philosophy

3/27/17

14 E Jackson
Room 214
Tues 1:30 - 4:45 PM
Lecture

INSTRUCTOR: Craig Erpelding
Office: CDM 635
Office Hours: Mon & Wed 1:30 - 3:00PM or by appointment

Course Management via d2l.depaul.edu

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Emails will be responded to within 24 hours

Syllabus (and Movies) subject to change, ample notice will be provided.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

An introduction to philosophy, using film as a lens through which philosophical ideas are examined. In discussion and writing, students analyze narrative or documentary films (classic or contemporary) on enduring philosophical questions such as: what is truth; what is right; or what is the meaning of life.

Note: This is a SURVEY course using films to develop a base understanding of philosophy topics.

COURSE OBJECTIVES and LEARNING OUTCOMES:

DC 227 Film Philosophy is included in the Liberal Studies program as a course with credit in the Philosophical Inquiry domain. Philosophical Inquiry examines the most basic questions of human existence. It considers the fundamental beliefs and convictions that shape what it means to be human, our relationships with others, and the nature of the world itself. Its aim is to develop our critical, imaginative, and analytical abilities, and it enables students to understand various kinds of important intellectual problems from a variety of perspectives and approaches, interpret and assess historical and contemporary texts concerned with these issues, and articulate reasoned judgments about these most basic concerns of human life. Philosophical inquiry is thus committed to the task of reflecting on the ideas and events that make up the cultures, societies, and traditions within which we live and to enhancing our understanding of their significance and complexity. Courses in Philosophical Inquiry support the mission of the Liberal Studies Program by fostering deeper understanding and appreciation of the worlds of meaning and of value and of the enterprise of intellectual inquiry and social dialogue.

Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- Address, critically think about, and analyze philosophical questions and problems.
- Evaluate philosophical questions, issues and/or problems using informed judgment.
- Analyze and interpret the methods used by philosophers in addressing philosophical questions, issues, and/or problems.
- Engage with philosophical topics and figures in their historical context.
- Confront and interpret primary texts from the philosophical tradition.
- Write an analytic essay treating a philosophical question, issue and/or problem that forwards an identifiable thesis, argument, and conclusion.

How Learning Outcomes Will Be Met

1. Through the assignment of screenings of multiple films, students will be provided common texts from which they can address, critically think about, and analyze philosophical questions and problems.
2. Through the assignment of multiple response papers, students will evaluate philosophical questions, issues and/or problems using informed judgment. In these papers, students will analyze and interpret the methods used by philosophers in addressing philosophical questions, issues, and/or problems.
3. Through the assignment of readings from the required textbook, students will engage with philosophical topics and figures in their historical context.
4. Through the assignment of excerpts from primary texts, students will confront and interpret primary texts from the philosophical tradition.

Writing Expectations

Students will be expected to complete a minimum of 10 pages of writing for this course. This writing may take the form of response papers, the midterm and an outline for your final oral presentation. At least one assignment should involve revision, which may count (but only once, not twice) towards the 10-page minimum.

How Writing Expectations Will Be Met

1. Students will type 1-2 weekly one-page response papers on assigned readings and films, based on discussion question prompts.
2. One response paper will be revised.

REQUIRED TEXT:

Required: Litch, Mary. *Philosophy Through Film*. Routledge, 3rd edition, 2014.

RECOMMENDED MATERIALS:

Access to a computer with internet connection

DROP DATES:

4/7 - last day to drop classes without penalty (a grade of W for dropping course after this date)

5/12 - last day to withdraw from classes

COURSE POLICIES:

Attendance & Professionalism (A&P): Students are expected to attend each class and to remain for the duration. Coming 15 minutes late or leaving 15 minutes early constitutes an absence for the student. *The overall grade for A&P drops one-third after any unexcused absence.* **Three absences for any reason, whether excused or not, may constitute failure for the course.**

-Class Discussion: Student participation in class discussions will be measured in two ways. First, students are highly encouraged to ask questions and offer comments relevant to the day's topic. Participation allows the instructor to "hear" the student's voice when grading papers. Secondly, students will be called upon by the instructor to offer comments related to the reading assignments. Students must keep up with the reading to participate in class discussion.

-Attitude: A professional and academic attitude is expected throughout this course. Measurable examples of non-academic or unprofessional attitude include but are not limited to: talking to others when the instructor is speaking, mocking another's opinion, making lewd or inappropriate statements for a professional or collegiate classroom environment, cell phones ringing, emailing, texting or using the internet whether on a phone or computer. If any issues arise a student may be asked to leave the classroom. The professor will work with the Dean of Students Office to navigate such student issues.

-Civil Discourse: DePaul University is a community that thrives on open discourse that challenges students, both intellectually and personally, to be Socially Responsible Leaders. It is the expectation that all dialogue in this course is civil and respectful of the dignity of each student. Any instances of disrespect or hostility can jeopardize a student's ability to be successful in the course. The professor will partner with the Dean of Students Office to assist in managing such issues.

-Cell Phones/On Call: If you bring a cell phone to class, it must be off or set to a silent mode. Should you need to answer a call during class, students must leave the room in an undistruptive manner. Out of respect to fellow students and the professor, texting is never allowable in class. If you are required to be on call as part of your job, please advise me at the start of the course.

Assignments & Exercises:

Assignments and production exercises must be completed by the date to which they are assigned per assignment sheets and D2L. Reasonable deadlines are given for completion for each assignment/exercise. Consequently **late work**

will not be accepted without prior consent of the instructor.

**All assignments must follow MLA Formatting and Style Guidelines. Written work not following these guidelines will be graded for ½ credit.*

Examinations:

Students who do not take exams during the regularly scheduled time will receive a failing grade for exams unless they have contacted the instructor **in advance** to arrange for a make-up exam. Make-up exams will be administered by the College according to its make-up exam schedule.

-Plagiarism:

Plagiarism on assignments or cheating on tests are serious offenses and earn the student a failing grade for the class. There are no exceptions to this rule. If you are in doubt about the definitions of plagiarism, consult your student handbook.

-Course Lectures/Reading Assignments:

Lecture presentations will occur weekly. The readings offer an opportunity for independent learning that supplements the lecture presentations. The instructor will use both the classroom and the readings. Lectures may introduce additional material not available in the readings, and the readings may explore concepts not mentioned in class.

-Vandalism:

This one is extremely important. Handle all equipment with care. Do not abuse or vandalize any equipment in or out of class. Vandalism includes any intentional or unreasonable damage to the equipment or facilities available for the course. If you consistently or recklessly mishandle equipment or keep equipment overdue, you will receive a failing grade for the class and will be responsible for the cost of repairs or replacement. There are absolutely no exceptions to this rule.

-Content Changes:

Depending on time factors, the assignments projected for the term may require slight alteration or rescheduling.

-Sexual Harassment:

The policy as specified in the student handbook will be adhered to in this class.

GRADING:

Attendance & Professionalism*	20%
Weekly Reflection Writeups	20%
Midterm Quiz	25%
Final Quiz	35%

Quizzes administered online via d2l

A = 100-93, A- = 92-90, B+ = 89-88, B = 87-83, B- = 82-80, C+ = 79-78, C

= 77-73, C- = 72-70, D+ = 69-68, D = 67-63, D- = 62-60, F = 59-0.

A indicates excellence, B indicates good work, C indicates satisfactory work, D work is unsatisfactory in some respect, F is substantially unsatisfactory work.

COURSE OUTLINE

WEEK ONE

Intro to Course and Requirements
Intro to Philosophy in Film
Screening: *A Waking Life*

READ: Introduction, prepare for week 2 by reading Ch 1.

WEEK TWO

Skepticism
Screening: *Doubt*

READ: Prepare for week 3 by reading Ch 2.

WEEK THREE

Relativism
Screening: *Hilary and Jackie*

READ: Prepare for week 4 by reading Ch 3.

WEEK FOUR

Personal Identity
Screening: *Fight Club*

READ: Prepare for week 5 by reading Ch 4.

WEEK FIVE

Artificial Intelligence
Screening: *2001: A Space Odyssey*

READ: Prepare for week 6 by reading Ch 5.

WEEK SIX

Free Will, Determinism, and Moral Responsibility
Screening: *Minority Report*
Midterm Quiz

READ: Prepare for week 7 by reading Ch 6.

WEEK SEVEN

Ethics

Screening: *Crimes and Misdemeanors*

READ: Prepare for week 8 by reading Ch 7.

WEEK EIGHT

Political Philosophy

Screening: *Milk*

READ: Prepare for week 9 by reading Ch 8.

WEEK NINE

The Problem of Evil

Screening: *No Country for Old Men*

READ: Prepare for week 10 by reading Ch 9.

WEEK TEN

Existentialism

Screening: *Into the Wild*

Final Quiz

Online Course Evaluations

Evaluations are a way for students to provide valuable feedback regarding their instructor and the course. Detailed feedback will enable the instructor to continuously tailor teaching methods and course content to meet the learning goals of the course and the academic needs of the students. They are a requirement of the course and are key to continue to provide you with the highest quality of teaching. The evaluations are anonymous; the instructor and administration do not track who entered what responses. A program is used to check if the student completed the evaluations, but the evaluation is completely separate from the student's identity. Since 100% participation is our goal, students are sent periodic reminders over three weeks. Students do not receive reminders once they complete the evaluation. Students complete the evaluation online in CampusConnect.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

This course will be subject to the university's academic integrity policy. More information can be found at <http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/>. If you have any questions be sure to consult with your professor.

Academic Policies

All students are required to manage their class schedules each term in accordance with the deadlines for enrolling and withdrawing as indicated in the University Academic Calendar. Information on

enrollment, withdrawal, grading and incompletes can be found at:
<http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/PoliciesandProcedures.aspx>

Students with Disabilities

Students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss their specific needs. All discussions will remain confidential. To ensure that you receive the most appropriate accommodation based on your needs, contact the instructor as early as possible in the quarter (preferably within the first week of class), and make sure that you have contacted the Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) at: csd@depaul.edu.

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