

DC 227 Winter 2017/2018

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Office Hours Virtual hours by appointment

Text:

Philosophy Through Film, Mary Litch and Amy Karofsky, 3rd edition required

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?

Goals:

By the end of this course:

- Students will understand fundamental philosophical questions/ideas
- Students will be able to identify philosophical ideas presented in films
- Students will be able to evaluate philosophical ideas presented in films
- Students will be able to apply philosophical reason to the scenarios presented in film
- Students will be able to evaluate narrative structure
- Students will be able to identify themes in cinematic narrative
- Students will be able to analyze plot in cinematic narrative
- Students will be able to understand the visual language of cinema

Prerequisites

None

Learning Domain Description

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.

How Learning Outcomes Will Be Met

1. Through the assignment of screenings of multiple films, students will be provided **multiple perspectives**, and begin with a common text from which they **can address, think critically 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 be able to develop an understanding of the historical context of philosophical topics, figures, and texts**.
4. Through the assignment of film analysis, students will **write analytic essays treating a philosophical question, issue and/or problem that forward an identifiable thesis, argument, and conclusion**.
5. In one particular assigned reading, film screening, and response paper, students will **address, critically think about, and analyze ethical issues, applying philosophical tools drawn from various ethical traditions to concrete cases pertinent to a variety of subject matters**.

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 essays, response papers, reading journals, take-home essay exams, critical analyses, etc. 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 write ten, **half-page discussion responses** on assigned readings and films, based on discussion question prompts.
2. Students will write five, **3-5 page analysis papers**.
3. **One response paper** will be revised.
4. Total pages written for the course equals **20 to 25 pages**.

Course Management System

D2L

Attendance:

FOR IN-CLASS STUDENTS: Class attendance is mandatory. One unexcused absence will be allowed without penalty. Every unexcused absence thereafter will result in a 5% deduction of your final grade. Absences may be excused with proper documentation (doctor's note, funeral notice for death in the family, etc.).

FOR ONLINE STUDENTS: Class "attendance" is mandatory, and verified through posting on the discussion board. One absence (missing post) will be allowed without penalty. Every unexcused absence thereafter will result in a 5% deduction of your final grade. Absences may be excused with proper documentation (doctor's note, funeral notice for death in the family, etc.).

Assignments

Late assignments will not be accepted throughout the quarter. There will be an opportunity during **week 8** to submit any missed assignments with no credit penalty. This opportunity is only during week 8. Once week 8 is done, the opportunity is gone.

Changes to Syllabus

This syllabus is subject to change as necessary during the quarter. If a change occurs, it will be thoroughly addressed during class, posted under News in D2L and sent via email.

Grading

Grading Scale

A: 93-100, A-: 90-92, B+: 87-89, B: 83-86, B-: 80-82, C+: 77-79, C: 73-76, C-: 70-72, D+: 67-69, D: 63-66, D-: 60-62

Discussion Questions: 20 %

Quizzes/short exams: 20%

Film Analysis: 40%

Final exam: 20%

Course Schedule:

| Week | Topic | Reading and assignments | Due |
|------|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Truth | Litch + supplemental reading | Weekly Discussion & Short Exam |
| 2 | Skepticism | Litch + supplemental reading | Weekly Discussion & Film analysis |
| 3 | Personal Identity | Litch + supplemental reading | Weekly Discussion & Short Exam |
| 4 | AI | Litch + supplemental reading | Weekly Discussion & Film analysis |
| 5 | Free will, Determinism & Moral responsibility | Litch + supplemental reading | Weekly Discussion & Short Exam |
| 6 | Ethics | Litch + supplemental reading | Weekly Discussion & Film analysis |
| 7 | Political Philosophy | Litch + supplemental reading | Weekly Discussion & Short Exam |
| 8 | The problem of evil | Litch + supplemental reading | Weekly Discussion & Film analysis |
| 9 | Existentialism | Litch + supplemental reading | Weekly Discussion & Short Exam |
| 10 | Review for final exam | No readings this week | Weekly Discussion & Film analysis |

Examinations:

Quizzes will take place online (D2L). **The final exam for this course will be proctored**, on campus, during finals week.

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: cdm.depaul.edu/enrollment.

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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