

Philosophy & Technology



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This course helps students understand the world better by studying significant interpretations of self, the world, and concepts of the divine that have been offered by thinkers, past and present. Philosophy is the study and application of logic and reasoning to life's most interesting issues, problems, and questions. Clear thinking comes neither naturally nor easily. Philosophy is the art and science of learning how to think.

Course Objectives:

The purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to philosophy. By the end of the course you should be able to:

1. *Read* philosophy: Philosophy can be difficult to read. Learning to read it can improve both your mental stamina and your ability to think.
2. *Understand* the importance of the ultimate questions.
3. *Apply* yourself by writing and thinking philosophically.
4. *Inform* yourself in the area of informal fallacies and basic soundness of logical arguments.
5. *Examine* the world of technology now, and philosophically discuss and determine the next steps in technological evolution and how it will impact our humanness.

Materials:

- *“Alone Together: Why We Expect More from Technology and Less from Each Other.”* Sharon Turkle. ISBN 9780465031467
- Films – specifically addressing concepts in philosophy to caveats of technological revolutions

Evaluation:

- **75% Classwork/Homework (journals)**

Many assignments will be take home assessments on information we covered in class. Most of the time, the response is limited to a one to three pages in your philosophy composition book.

Your note book entries should follow these guidelines:

1) Dated

2) Entries should be numbered according the website *drduick.com*

3) All questions should be numbered before they are answered

4) Your answers to the questions should be numbered and written in paragraph form. In philosophy you need to reason out your thought and provide metaphors, details and examples to defend your point of view.

Presentations on topics will also fall into this category. Students will be assigned class topics in the beginning of the year. They will then learn (and be coached by the teacher), on how to conduct a discussion based on the topic. See rubric for full explanation.

All journal entries should be either fast scanned into a single PDF, or multiple images inserted into a single google document and submitted into the proper google classroom folder (-50% if done incorrectly)

NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED

- ***Participatory grade***

Philosophy classes require discussion and class involvement for true understanding. A weekly participation grade will be given based on your class interactions. Notes will be kept as to the depth of your responses and your ability to logically reason your position in a polite manner.

- **25% Tests/Quizzes**

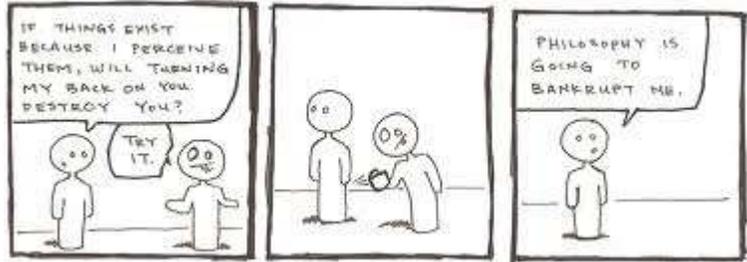
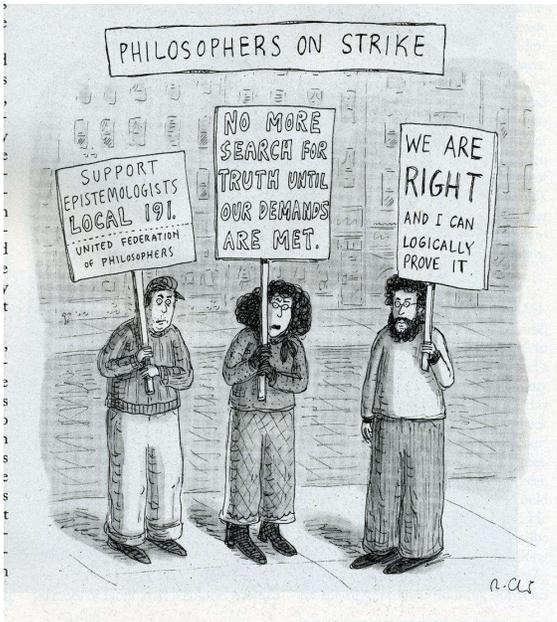
There will be a short 8 question quiz during every class. The quiz will be based on the prior night's reading (sometimes from the readings over the last few days), over a concept, idea or discussion, or the plot of a film. Occasionally there will be tests that will be over the material from a prescribed section or philosopher or concept. All missed quizzes have to be made up on the first meeting day of return (if you miss on Monday, the next class meeting you must take the quiz). When extended absences occur, it will be to the teacher's discretion how the work will be made up.

- **Films:** During the semester we will watch many films dealing with philosophical concepts involving technology. The follow may or will be viewed in class.

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|------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| ○ The Matrix Trilogy (parts) | Transcendence | Coherence |
| ○ Minority report | Ex Machina | |
| ○ Her | Robot and Frank | |
| ○ Fantastic Planet | Ghost in a shell | |
| ○ Animatrix | Waking Life | |
| ○ The Seventh Seal | Wall-E | |
| ○ Zeitgeist and Zeitgeist addendum | Prometheus | |
| ○ The Terminator series (parts) | A.I. | |
| ○ Spring Summer Fall Winter Spring | 2001 Space Odyssey | |

- Mr. Nobody
- Inception

Donnie Darko
Blade Runner (1 and 2)



Class Discussion Rubric

Standards	Exceeds Standard (5 points)	Meets Standard (4 points)	Needs Improvement (0 - 3 points)
Develop and demonstrate critical reading, listening, and viewing strategies.	<p>Student gives passage, page number, and thorough explanation of the text's significance.</p> <p>Student fully identifies and evaluates the primary focus, logic, style, and structure of a text.</p>	<p>Student gives general textual idea but cannot locate/identify passage for support.</p> <p>Student adequately identifies and evaluates the primary focus, logic, style, and structure of a text.</p>	<p>Student cannot give textual support for discussion point.</p> <p>Student cannot identify and/or evaluate the primary focus, logic, style, and structure of a text.</p>
Construct meaning beyond the literal level—e.g., drawing inferences, confirming and correcting, making comparisons and connections, and drawing conclusions.	<p>Student responds to questions with full and specific knowledge, and often uses literary language in their response—e.g., themes, imagery, symbolism, motifs, etc.</p>	<p>Student demonstrates general idea in her or his responses, but without key details or deeper analyses.</p>	<p>Student cannot answer questions about the topic.</p>
Participate as an active member of a reading, listening, and viewing community.	<p>Student listens attentively and refers to relevant class materials to aid in full participation in the discussion.</p> <p>Student records key ideas and revises her or his previous responses based on new findings from the discussion.</p> <p>Student consistently volunteers to share knowledge with class.</p>	<p>Student is attentive but may not refer to class materials during the discussion.</p> <p>Student may not record key ideas and information from the discussion.</p> <p>Student occasionally volunteers to share knowledge with class.</p>	<p>Student is inattentive and does not have or refer to class materials related to the discussion at hand.</p> <p>Student doesn't take notes or revise his or her responses based on the discussion.</p> <p>Student never volunteers to share knowledge with class.</p>

Presentation Rubric (40pts) – Philosophy Discussions

Criteria	8 Excellent	7 Good	Below 6 Needs improvement
By 8am, Produce an 8 questions quiz via google docs, share with Dr. Duick and make him owner. Construct a key for grading			
By 8am, Construct an 8 question google survey about topic share with Dr. Duick make him owner			
Analyze data with the class and go through survey results			
Fuse the topic with the questions, spurring discussion			
Navigate the students so all get a chance to answer and give input			

PHILOSOPHY TECHNOLOGY:

10pts - Have this Syllabus Signed and Returned before the next class meeting time:

I have read the syllabus and understand the criteria by which I will be evaluated:

Student Signature: _____

Student Name (printed): _____

Student Phone Number: _____

I as a parent understand how my child will be evaluated. I also approve the list of movies to be viewed in class. If I wish my child not to watch a particular movie, I will list it below. All movies can be researched under IMBD.com and under quick links the “parents guide” will inform me of the adult content of the film. I know my child will not be penalized for not watching the film; however they will have to work on an alternative project with a mini presentation to the rest of the class about their research.

Parent Signature: _____

Parent Name (printed): _____

Parent Email

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Films I do not want my child watching: