

**Philosophy 115-02**  
**Introduction to Philosophy: Philosophy of the Human Person (3 cr)**  
Mon./Wed./Fri. 10:00am-10:50am; Spring 2019  
ASC G02

**Instructor:** Dr. Darin McGinnis

**Office & Office Hours:** Don 126B MWF 11am-12pm. T 12:30pm-1:30pm, and by appointment

**Phone:** 304.243.2337

**E-mail:** [dmcginnis@wju.edu](mailto:dmcginnis@wju.edu)

**Course Description:** A philosophical study of the human person as a being who, while embodied in nature, is capable of rationally knowing, freely choosing, and creatively acting as a unique individual open to communion with others and with the Transcendent.

The purpose of this course is to get you to think about and start to define what “being a human” means for you, the other beings around you, and nature. We will look at several different theories and their attempts at proof. This is not designed to make picking a philosophical theory like choosing your brand of cereal at the grocery. Instead, the conflict is meant to spur your own thinking away from unexamined concepts that we hold for no good reason. Each theory may have notions that you like and also things you dislike; but remember that you have to accept and reject these concepts based on facts and arguments.

**Primary Texts:**

Lucretius, *On the Nature of Things*;

Freud, *Civilization and Its Discontents*;

Flusser/Bec, *Vampyrotheuthis Infernalis: A Treatise*

**Additional readings online on Blackboard:**

Kant, “What is Enlightenment?”

Plato, *Euthyphro*

Bataille, “The Miracle of Lascaux”

Descartes, *Principles of Philosophy*

Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Part 1

Rousseau, *Social Contract*, Book 1

Marx & Engels, “The Communist Manifesto”

Marx, “Estranged Labor”

Sartre, “Existentialism is a Humanism”

Young, “Throwing Like a Girl”

**Graded Assignments:**

8 Reading Quizzes	20 points each (160 total)
1 Thesis Paper [6 pages]	150 points
<u>1 Final Exam</u>	<u>100 points</u>
Total	410 points

**Grading Scale:**

A 100-94%    A- 93-90%    B+ 89-87%    B 86-84%    B- 83-80%    C+ 79-77%  
C 76-74%    C- 73-70%    D+ 69-67%    D 66-60%    F 59% and below

**Course Schedule and Homework:** I expect you to read and study the assigned readings and complete any other homework *before* the class for which they are scheduled. Always be prepared to go over your readings or homework in class. Since we may need to move more quickly or more slowly depending on topics, adjustments to the schedule are very likely. You are responsible for keeping track of these changes to the syllabus and to the course schedule if they are announced. I also reserve the right to amend or change this syllabus as needed.

**Course Objectives:** By the end of the semester, the student will:

1. Identify and articulate theories of human personhood. (Understanding Level)
2. Distinguish and interpret the major claims made by the author of a philosophical text. (Understanding Level)
3. Examine and appraise the methods by which philosophers arrive at their conclusions. (Applying Level)

**Conferences:** I wholeheartedly encourage you to talk to one another and to me if you have any questions. Talk to me before or after class, email me, or stop by my office hours if you have any questions about the reading, quizzes, papers, exams or if you would like discuss other items relating to the class. If you cannot make my office hours, I can meet with you on any day should the need arise.

**Attendance Policy:** Class attendance is essential to this course. For freshman and students on academic probation, no more than six (6) absences will be permitted. Exceeding these numbers results in a “Fa” grade – or failure. If students come into class late, it is their responsibility to check in with the professor before leaving the class to have the absence removed. Additionally, students who attend regularly always fare better than students who do not. If you keep up with readings and homework and attend class consistently, you will find the class much easier than if you miss assignments and try to catch up later. Please note that while I make every effort to stick to the schedule as printed, changes from time to time will be necessary. Not knowing about changes in the schedule therefore will not constitute an excuse.

**Last Date to Drop the Course:** The last day of the Add/Drop Period for this semester is Friday, 11 January 2019. The last day to withdraw from this course with a grade of a W is 26 March 2019.

**Make-up Policy:** Quizzes are due and assignments are accepted only on the day that they are due. The following three criteria together constitute grounds for an excuse: (1) the absence is due to serious illness or a death in the family; (2) you have a note from the Dean excusing the absence; (3) you have notified me in advance (this condition may be

waived at my discretion for extenuating circumstances). If your absence does not meet these three criteria, do not approach me about making up missed work.

**Academic Resource Center:** The Academic Resource Center (ARC) is a totally free academic-support service available to all enrolled Wheeling Jesuit University students and staffed almost exclusively by WJU students recommended for employment by WJU faculty. The ARC is located in Bishop Hodges Library and is open five days a week: Sundays 6:00-8:00 p.m., and Mondays-Thursdays 1:00-9:00 p.m. Please visit the ARC's website (the first listing under "Student Services" on the Cardinal homepage) to learn about the ARC's services (emphasizing writing, math, and the sciences) and to schedule appointments; appointments will no longer be available by phone.

**Wheeling Jesuit University Disability Services:** Wheeling Jesuit University offers students with documented disabilities individual accommodations on a case-by case basis with confidentiality in compliance with the American with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. In order to receive academic or physical accommodations, students with disabilities must provide current (within three years) and comprehensive documentation concerning the nature and extent of the disability and communicate their needs to the Disability Services Director, located in Ignatius Hall Room G 24 or call 304-243-4484. Students are required to meet with the director to develop accommodation plans that they will present to their course instructors at the beginning of each semester. Students with disabilities that require specific housing accommodations must contact both the Director of Residence Life and the Disability Services Director. Ultimately, all students with disabilities are responsible for their own academic achievement. They must attend classes, complete course assignments, and fulfill all university requirements for their chosen field of study. It is up to students with disabilities to seek out available assistance on campus and to utilize individualized accommodations that promote academic success.

**Academic Integrity:** Students are advised that WJU's Academic Integrity Policy will strictly be enforced in this course (see [www.wju.edu/studenthandbook](http://www.wju.edu/studenthandbook)). Questions regarding the policy may be directed to the Office of the Academic Vice-President.

**Official E-mail:** An official WJU e-mail is established for each registered student, each faculty member, and each staff member. All university communications sent via e-mail will be sent to this WJU e-mail address.

**Title IX Statement:** Wheeling Jesuit University seeks to provide an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you have been the victim of sexual harassment, misconduct, or assault we encourage you to report this. If you report this to a faculty member, she or he must notify our college's Title IX coordinator about the basic facts of the incident (you may choose whether you or anyone involved is identified by name). For more information about your options at WJU, please go to <http://wju.edu/titleix/>.

### **Tentative Schedule of Readings and Assignments:**

January 7 – Introduction and Syllabus

January 9 – Kant, “What is Enlightenment?” (On Blackboard)

January 11 – Kant, “What is Enlightenment?”      Reading Quiz #1

January 14 – Plato, *Euthyphro*      (On Blackboard)

January 16 – Plato, *Euthyphro*      Reading Quiz #2

January 18 – Bataille, “The Miracle of Lascaux,” pp. 11-21 (On Blackboard)

January 21 – Bataille, “The Miracle of Lascaux,” pp. 22-31 Reading Quiz #3

January 23 – Herzog, *Cave of Forgotten Dreams* (shown in-class)

January 25 – Herzog, *Cave of Forgotten Dreams*

January 28 – Bataille/ Herzog

January 30 – Lucretius, *On the Nature of Things*, Book I, Lines 1-599

February 1 – Lucretius, Book I, Lines 600-1100

February 4 – Lucretius, Book II, Lines 1-350; 860-1170      Reading Quiz #4

February 6 – Lucretius, Book III, Lines 1-612

February 8 – Lucretius, Book III, Lines 613-1091

February 11 – Lucretius, Book V, Lines 1-430

February 13 – Review

February 15 – Descartes, *Principles of Philosophy*, ¶1-23 (On Blackboard)

February 18 – Descartes, ¶24-44

February 20 – Hobbes, *Leviathan*, Part 1, Ch 13 (On Blackboard)

February 22 – Hobbes, Part 1, pp. 59-61; 66-68; 73-76

February 25 – Rousseau, *Social Contract*, Book 1 (On Blackboard)

February 27 – Rousseau, Book 1      Reading Quiz #5

March 1 – Marx & Engels, “The Communist Manifesto,” pp. 1-6 (On Blackboard)

March 4 – 8    Spring Break; No Classes

March 11 – Marx & Engels, “The Communist Manifesto”

March 13 – Marx, “Estranged Labor”      (On Blackboard)

March 15 – Marx, “Estranged Labor”      Reading Quiz #6

March 18 – Thesis Paper Assigned

March 20 – Sartre, “Existentialism is a Humanism,” pp. 1-6 (On Blackboard)

March 22 – Sartre, “Existentialism is a Humanism,” pp. 6-14

March 25 – Sartre, “Existentialism is a Humanism,” pp. 14-22      Reading Quiz #7  
March 27 – Young, “Throwing Like a Girl,” pp. 27- 35      (On Blackboard)  
March 29 – Young, “Throwing Like a Girl,” pp. 35-45

April 1 – Freud, *Civilization and Its Discontents*, Ch I  
April 3 – Freud, Ch II  
April 5 – Freud, Ch III      Reading Quiz #8

April 8 – Freud, Ch IV-V  
April 10 – Freud, Ch VI-VII  
April 12 – Freud, Ch VIII      Thesis Paper Due

April 15 – Flusser/Bec, *Vampyroteuthis Infernalis*, pp. 5-26  
April 17 – Flusser/Bec, *Vampyroteuthis Infernalis*, pp. 27-53  
April 19 – Easter Break; No Class

April 22 – Easter Break; No Class  
April 24 – Flusser/Bec, *Vampyroteuthis Infernalis*, pp. 53-75  
April 26 – Review for Final Exam

**\*\*\*FINAL EXAM: MON. 29 APRIL, 11AM-1:30PM\*\*\***