

Introduction to Philosophy

This course is an overview of canonical philosophical figures and philosophical ideas throughout history and throughout civilizations. But before we proceed, we should ask: what is philosophy? There are many definitions of philosophy, but we will be concerned with philosophy as (1) Western philosophy, or an intellectual tradition that goes back to the ancient Greeks starting with Socrates and the pre-Socratics; (2) as a general term for thinking correctly, and as such, an intellectual tradition each civilization has developed uniquely; (3) as a rival discourse of theology, directly informing, intervening on, and being acted upon by theology. While most courses on philosophy focus on Western philosophy, we will try to get a more balanced view on philosophical ideas at large to gain insight on how ideas developed independently, cross-pollinated, and were synthesized.

Throughout the course, we will keep in mind the historical context in which the philosophers were working in, and how the historical context may have affected their ideas. By the end of the course, students will have gained an understanding of the development of major philosophical ideas in Western philosophy. Students will understand how theological ideas informed philosophy. Students will also gain a substantial grasp on Confucian philosophy, and will be able to compare and contrast Confucian philosophy with the Western tradition.

We will discuss the following books and papers. Buying whole books is always good, but we will rarely read whole books, so it is not necessary. Printouts of excerpts will be provided.

- Ancient Greek Philosophy
 - *On Nature*, Parmenides
 - *Republic*, Plato
 - *The Apology*, Plato
 - *Nicomachean Ethics*, Aristotle
 - *Metaphysics*, Aristotle

- *Money and the Early Greek Mind*, Richard Seaford (Historical Context)
- East Asian Philosophy
 - *Analects*, Kongzi
 - *Mengzi*, Mengzi
 - *Zhuangzi*, Zhuangzi
 - *Basic Writings*, Han Feizi
- Christian Philosophy / Theology
 - *Confessions*, Augustine
 - *Opus Oxoniense*, Duns Scotus
 - *Summa Theologica*, Aquinas
- Modern Philosophy
 - *Meditations on First Philosophy*, René Descartes
 - *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, David Hume
 - *Ethics*, Baruch Spinoza
 - *On Universal Synthesis and Analysis*, Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz
 - *Critique of Pure Reason*, Immanuel Kant
 - *Critique of Practical Reason*, Immanuel Kant
 - *On the Genealogy of Morals*, Friedrich Nietzsche
 - *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, Friedrich Nietzsche
 - *Fear and Trembling*, Søren Kierkegaard
 - *Phenomenology of Spirit*, Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel
 - *Capital Volume I*, Karl Marx
 - *Africa, Asia, and the History of Philosophy*, Peter K. J. Park (Historical Context)
- Neo-Confucian Philosophy
 - *Basic Teachings*, Zhuxi

- *Instructions for Practical Living and Other Neo-Confucian Writings*, Wang Yangming
- Korean Philosophy
 - *The Four-Seven Debate*, trans. Michael C. Kalton and Oaksook Chun Kim
 - *Emotions in Korean Philosophy and Religion*, edited by Edward Y. J. Chung and Jea Sophia Oh (Secondary Literature)
- Contemporary Philosophy
 - *Being and Time*, Martin Heidegger
 - *Being and Event*, Alain Badiou
 - *Difference and Repetition*, Gilles Deleuze
 - *Writing and Difference*, Jacques Derrida
- Contemporary East Asian Philosophy
 - *Late Works of Mou Zongsan*, Mou Zongsan
- Mathematical Logic and Philosophy
 - *Principia Mathematica*, Bertrand Russell
 - *On Computable Numbers, with an Application to the Entscheidungsproblem*, Alan Turing
 - *Outline of a Theory of Truth*, Saul Kripke
 - *Logicomix*, Apostolos Doxiadis and Christos Papadimitriou (Historical Context)