

Second Semester Outline for Philosophy

During the second semester our focus shifts to a study of ethics and to our prescribed text *The Ethics of Authenticity* by Charles Taylor. While these are separate areas of study, it will become immediately apparent that they are very closely related.

As with the first semester, the points are backloaded. **Please be aware that, due to the IB assessment structure, 70-80% of your semester grade will be determined during the fourth quarter.**

Grade weighting for the second semester will be as follows:

- Taylor midterm 20%
- Ethics midterm 20%

Both the Taylor and Ethics midterms will be different than the exams in the first semester. About three weeks prior to each exam, I will give you four questions that relate to the material covered over the course of the semester. On the day of the exam I will randomly select one of the questions and you will construct an essay which answers the question. You will again be allowed a single sheet of notes. While these exams do not necessarily follow an ACAR structure, the elements of ACAR must be present for the exam to receive full credit.

- Philosophical analysis 20%

The philosophical analysis is a formal, out of class paper. Students will identify a non philosophical stimulus from a book, short story, movie, tv show or work of art (or other stimulus) and use it as a way to explore an aspect of philosophy. In many ways, it is like the first semester exams, except that you will choose the stimulus and the area of philosophy on which your analysis will focus, and you will complete the analysis outside of class. Students are encouraged to use units from the first semester for their PAs, but may, with permission, use units from second semester as well (My only concern here is that the unit be taught prior to the paper being written). Students must get their stimuli/topic choices approved prior to March 1, and are encouraged to speak with me if they have questions about the selection process. PAs will be between 1600 and 2000 words in length, and, for those testing, will be submitted as the internal assessment (all students, testing or not, must complete the PA). Students will submit a full draft of the essay and I will return comments on this draft so that improvements can be made prior to the final assessment. I will return only the score of the final draft, no additional comments are allowed by IB. If the first draft of the PA is at least 1500 words **and** meets the source citations requirements, the draft will count as 5% of the semester grade and will automatically receive a score of 100%. This means that the final version of the PA, which I will score using the IB rubric will be worth 15% of your semester grade. Drafts that don't meet the above criteria will not count for a grade and that means the final scored version of the PA will be worth 20% of your semester grade. Drafts will not be accepted late for any reason including travel study or excused absences.

- Participation

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| Taylor reading guides and quizzes | 15% |
| Annotations | 10% |
| Class participation | 15% |

30 participation points are required for the second semester. The first assignment in the grade book will be "second semester participation." I will tally participation three times and will add ten points to the value of the assignment at each entry. At 3rd quarter progress report time the participation assignment will be out of 10. At the end of the third quarter it will be worth 20 and on May 3 it will be worth 30. Participation after May 3 will be incorporated into the May assignment.

Ethics

Schedule of topics for the ethics. All dates are approximate and subject to change.

1. Core theme 5 - the problem of personal identity (week of January 1-January 8)
2. The challenge of relativism and subjectivism (week of January 15 and 22) (**no school on 1.15.18 and 1.26.18**)
3. Immanuel Kant's deontological ethics (week of January 29 and February 5)
4. Emmanuel Levinas (Week of February 12) (**no school on 2.12.18 and 2.19.18**)
5. Utilitarianism (Week of February 26 and March 10) (**no school on 3.2.18**)
6. Aristotle's virtue Ethics (week of March 12 and March 19)
7. Egosim, contractarianism and distributional ethics (week of April 9)
8. Environmental ethics (weeks of April 16 and 23)

As with the previous semester, owing to the fact that we have no textbook, most of the information regarding these units will be delivered in lecture. This means that note taking (which is mandatory) is particularly important.

Taylor's *The Ethics of Authenticity*

Next week we will begin reading Taylor's *Ethics of Authenticity*. Our approach to Taylor will generally follow the pattern below:

You will receive the reading guide for the chapter we will discuss the next week each Monday. Reading guides and chapter annotations will be due the following Monday. Reading guides count for 15% of your semester grade and will be assessed based upon completion and quality (the latter will generally be a spot check reading of one or more questions from the

reading guide.) Completed reading guides should be around two sides of a standard page (which is to say one page front and back). I will provide electronic templates that will allow you to type the reading guides. This templates should either be downloaded and complete on your computer (using Adobe Acrobat) or downloaded and filled out by hand. Please note that these reading guides are worth far more than homework in this class generally. This is meant to emphasize that a close reading of Taylor is necessary for success in this section of the class. I will return the graded guides to you prior to class discussion of each chapter..

We will generally discuss on chapter of Taylor on Thursdays and/or Fridays. As is typical in this class, we will start with informal discussion and questions on each chapter, and then I will present a formal lecture on each chapter. Some weeks we may do formal small group discussions as well.

I want to be very clear about the fact that this book is quite challenging. While I do not expect that you will come to the weekly discussions with a perfect (or even a good) understanding of the chapter, I do expect that you will make every effort to read, think about and ask questions regarding each chapter. Your understanding should be much better following the discussion and lecture if you make a good effort to grapple with the text beforehand.

Schedule of readings and quizzes for Taylor:

| Chapter | Date the reading guide will be due | Assessments | Lecture/Discussion dates |
|---------|------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | January 22 | | January 24-25 |
| 2 | January 29 | | February 2 |
| 3 | February 5 | | February 9 |
| 4 | February 16 | | February 20-21 |
| 5 | February 20 | | February 22-23 |
| 6 | March 5 | | March 8-9 |
| 7 | March 12 | | March 16 |
| 8 | March 19 | | March 22-23 |
| 9 | March 23 | | March 26-29 |
| 10 | March 26 | | March 26-29 |

Important dates for the second semester:

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| Deadline for PA topic approval | March 1 |
| PA drafts due | March 20 |
| PA drafts returned by Mr. Haydock | March 29 |
| Final PA due | April 10 |
| Taylor midterm* | April 20 |
| IB review sessions | TBA |
| Ethics Midterm* | April 27 |
| IB Philosophy exam | May 3-4 |
| Philosophy in May (discussions, thought experiments and movies) | Week of May 7 and 14 |

Our curriculum is complete by May 3.

While these dates are subject to change, I will make every effort to do so only when absolutely necessary.

*Some might wonder, “2 midterms and 40% of the grade in 1 week? Why? Two reasons. First, the way IB tests requires the entire prescribed text/optional theme be concluded prior to testing. Second, by testing just before the IB exam, those who prepare for the class exams are also studying for the IB exam which will take place shortly thereafter. Many students in past years who have tested have remarked on how useful it was to prepare for class exams only to find some of the very same questions appear on the IB exam. While not everyone in this class tests, I have an obligation to make sure those who do are as prepared as possible.