

syllabus

Core Curriculum 3105: Philosophical Issues in Literature (and Film)

Tuesday & Thursday 3:40-4:55PM

206 A

OVERVIEW: Some of our first lessons about human nature and the universe are learned through the many stories we were told and read as children and then as young adults. Even a fictional narrative is about something real and familiar. A good story provides a glimpse into human nature. An exceptional story holds up a mirror to humanity and dares us to behold its very soul in all its contradictions.

Literature is full of exceptional stories that tackle some fundamental human questions in a very honest way. By studying some examples of such works we discover that philosophy is not some purely intellectual pursuit completely removed from ordinary life but is the very driving force in our life. Philosophy is the expression of our eternal curiosity.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To recognize and discuss major philosophical themes in various works of literature and film;
2. To be able to critically assess and compare philosophical views expressed in works discussed during the course.

GRADE BREAKDOWN:

10% - participation

15% - journal

15% - midterm

15% - term paper

20% - group project & report

25% - final exam

Extra credit: up to 5% can be earned by leading or participating in online discussions on the Blackboard course website.

REQUIRED TEXT: The required reading materials are compiled into a **course packet** available for purchase at Far Better Copy (Campus Rd. & Hilel Pl.) starting 9/1/12.

COURSE POLICIES:

ABSENCES: Attendance is mandatory. You are allowed **up to three** unexcused absences. Any other unexcused absences will adversely affect your grade.

LATENESS: Anyone arriving after 4PM will receive ½ of an absence.

OFFICE HOURS: All meetings except in rare circumstances **must be by appointment** in 3316B.

EMAILING PROCEDURES: You are always welcome to email me with any course-related questions. However, you **MUST** adhere to the following rules:

1. The SUBJECT **must** contain the title and section of the course (CORC3105 TR3F) and your FULL NAME;
2. Do NOT send any attachments (i.e. assignments, essays, etc.) as I will not open them unless I specifically request them from you;
3. You must state your FULL NAME in your email.

If you do not stick to these rules, your message will remain unanswered.

CELL PHONES & PDAS: all cell phones, pagers, PDAs, etc. **must be turned off** at the beginning of class **and put away**. Any ringing, clicking, or vibrating cell phone will result in the user's exclusion from class activities and an automatic absence. No text-messaging, picture-taking, or any other behavior unrelated to class activities will be tolerated. This policy WILL BE strictly enforced.

University's policy on Academic Integrity:

The faculty and administration of Brooklyn College support an environment free from cheating and plagiarism. Each student is responsible for being aware of what constitutes cheating and plagiarism and for avoiding both. The complete text of the CUNY Academic Integrity Policy and the Brooklyn College procedure for implementing that policy can be found at this site: <http://www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/bc/policies>. If a faculty member suspects a violation of academic integrity and, upon investigation, confirms that violation, or if the student admits the violation, the faculty member **MUST** report the violation.

Students with Disabilities:

In order to receive disability-related academic accommodations students must first be registered with the Center for Student Disability Services. Students who have a documented disability or suspect they may have a disability are invited to set up an appointment with the Director of the Center for Student Disability Services, Ms. Valerie Stewart-Lovell at 718-951-5538. If you have already registered with the Center for Student Disability Services please provide your professor with the course accommodation form and discuss your specific accommodation with him/her.

Other Academic Regulations:

Consult pp. 35-51, pp. 52-59, and pp. 74-83 in the Brooklyn College Bulletin, for a complete listing of academic regulations of the College.

Important Dates:

Friday August 31- Last day to add a course

Monday September 10 - Last day for undergraduate students to file Pass/Fail application

Friday September 14 - Last day to drop a course without a grade

Monday October 15 - Last day to file for Fall 2012 Graduation

Friday November 9 - Last day to apply for withdrawal from a course with a W (non-penalty) grade

COURSE CALENDAR:

TUE 8/28	Intro
THU 8/30	Fables, fairytales & allegories
TUE 9/4	"The Allegory of the Cave", Plato
THU 9/6	Viewing of "Soylent Green"
TUE 9/11	Viewing of "Soylent Green" (start reading <i>The Leviathan</i> , Thomas Hobbes)
THU 9/13	Group Work
TUE 9/18 - NC	No Class
THU 9/20	<i>The Leviathan</i> , Thomas Hobbes (start reading <i>Planet of the Apes</i> , Pierre Boulle)
TUE 9/25 - NC	No Class
THU 9/27	<i>Planet of the Apes</i> , Pierre Boulle Group #1
TUE 10/2	<i>Planet of the Apes</i> , Pierre Boulle
THU 10/4	"Welcome to the Monkey House", Kurt Vonnegut Group #2
TUE 10/9	<i>On Liberty</i> , John Stuart Mill Chapter II
THU 10/11	<i>On Liberty</i> , John Stuart Mill Chapter II Group #3
TUE 10/16	<i>On Democracy</i> , John Dewey
THU 10/18	Group Work Journals collected
TUE 10/23	Midterm
THU 10/25	"Women and the Family", excerpt from <i>The Republic</i> , Plato
TUE 10/30	<i>The Stepford Wives</i> , Ira Levin Group #4
THU 11/1	<i>The Stepford Wives</i> , Ira Levin Group #5
TUE 11/6	<i>The Stepford Wives</i> , Ira Levin
THU 11/8	<i>Media</i> , Euripides
TUE 11/13	<i>A Vindication of the Rights of Women</i> , Mary Wollstonecraft (Chapter IX)

THU 11/15	"Alienation of Labor", Karl Marx Journals collected
TUE 11/20	"Alienation of Labor", Karl Marx
THU 11/22 - NC	Thanksgiving Break
TUE 11/27	<i>Animal Farm</i> , George Orwell Group #6
THU 11/29	<i>Animal Farm</i> , George Orwell Group #7
TUE 12/4	Term paper due Journals collected Film
THU 12/6	Film & Discussion
TUE 12/11	Final Exam review
TUE 12/18	FINAL EXAM 3:30-5:30PM