

PHI 202 | Logistics

Michal Masny | 18 Sep 2019

MEETINGS. My office hours are on Tuesdays 2:00–3:00pm @ Marx Hall, Room 103. If this time does not suit you, e-mail me at mmasny@princeton.edu to set up an appointment. I am generally available to meet on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. I welcome you to attend. You don't need to come with a specific question: we can grab a cup of coffee, hang out in the lounge, and just talk ethics. Unfortunately, you cannot reach me by e-mail on weekends.

READINGS. They are very important for this class. Note that, unlike in some other courses at this level, you are not asked to read an introductory textbook. Instead, you get to read original articles published in philosophy journals. Johann selected them with utmost care, but some are less accessible than others. Don't be discouraged if you have difficulty following the argument or if you misunderstand something. Philosophy is challenging and many philosophers are poor writers. I often read philosophical articles twice. I encourage you to do the same.

ASSESSMENT. It has a number of different components. This is so for a number of reasons. First, you will get feedback at various stages of the course which will help you improve. Second, even if you have a bad day and get a lower grade on one occasion, you will be able to make up for it on others. Third, everyone will be able to showcase their strengths.

(i)	08 Oct 2019 at 10:00	Short paper of 1000 words	15%
(ii)	24 Oct 2019 at 12:30	Midterm examination	20%
(iii)	03 <i>or</i> 10 Dec 2019 at 10:00	Short paper of 1500 words	15%
(iv)	Jan 2020	Final examination	25%
(v)	Whole semester	Participation in lectures and seminars	25%

PARTICIPATION. Your participation grade is entirely up to me. Ask questions and make contributions to discussions in lectures and seminars. In addition, on Blackboard, you can find a discussion board for your precept. There is a separate thread for each meeting. Please post a reaction to at least one of the preceding two readings by 10pm on the day before the precept. You can clarify a tricky aspect of the paper, raise an objection, raise some pertinent questions, add a neglected supporting argument, or simply identify an issue that you would like us to talk about during the precept. I will read your responses and do my best to structure the precept around them.

TECHNOLOGY. I acknowledge that some find note-taking easier and more effective on laptops, but I reserve the right to prohibit their use if I find them to be excessively disruptive of the learning environment. Mobile phones, on the other hand, do nothing but distract. Please put your phones in silent mode at the beginning of the class and refrain from using them.

CLASSROOM DISCUSSIONS. Raise your hand to make a new point. Raise your index finger to follow-up on the present discussion. The topics covered during this course can be controversial and emotional. Be respectful for one other. At the same time, do not hesitate to present arguments in support of unpopular positions and objections to those widely held. We are not really interested in what *you think* about a particular issue, but rather what *can be said* about it.

ADVICE ON READING AND WRITING. Jim Pryor (philosophy professor at NYU) website has some useful advice on reading philosophy (<http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/reading.html>) and writing philosophy papers (<http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/writing.html>). We will talk more about writing philosophy papers and examinations later in the semester.

PLAGIARISM. Students are responsible for knowing the university's policy on plagiarism and academic dishonesty and for following that policy. If you have any questions about what does and what does not constitute plagiarism, do not hesitate to contact me.