

## PHI 202 | Logistics

Michal Masny | 10 Sep 2020

MY WEBSITE. You will find information about my office hours, precept handouts, and various other resources related to this course on my website: <https://michalmasny.com/teaching.html>

CONTACT: My office hours will be on Thursdays **1:30-2:30pm and 5:30-6:30pm**. The easiest way to make an appointment is use the WASE scheduling system. Use the link below and search for my name (Michal Masny), and then sign-up for a 20-minute slot.

<https://wase.princeton.edu/princeton/views/pages/makeappt.php>

If these times do not suit you, e-mail me at [mmasny@princeton.edu](mailto:momasny@princeton.edu) to set up an appointment. I welcome you to use this opportunity. You don't need to come with a specific question. We can grab a virtual cup of coffee and just talk about ethics and philosophy. Unfortunately, you cannot reach me by e-mail on weekends.

READINGS. They are very important for this class. 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. Prof. Frick 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 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.

(i)	04 Oct 2020 at 11:59pm ET	First paper (1000 words)	20%
(ii)	07 Nov 2020 at 11:59pm ET	Second paper (1500 words)	25%
(iii)	08 Dec 2020 at 11:59pm ET	Third paper (2500 words)	35%
(iv)	Whole semester	Participation in the precepts and the town hall	20%

Other things equal, a shorter paper is always better. But the word limits are 'soft': if you send me an essay that is 10-20% longer, you won't be penalized.

PARTICIPATION. Ask questions and make contributions to discussions in the precepts and in the town hall. 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 or lectures by 11:59pm ET 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.

CLASSROOM DISCUSSIONS. Raise your virtual hand in Zoom to make a new point. Raise your index finger in front of the camera 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.