

PHI 301 - Writing Philosophy
Spring 2022

Instructor: Dr. Duane Long
Email: hdlong@buffalo.edu
Office: Park 122
Office Hours:

Days/Times TR 12:20-1:40
Class Number: 24471
3 credits

Course Requirements

- Weekly writing assignments, approx. 900 words (8 x 5% = 40% of grade)
- Annotated bibliography (10%)
- Term paper first draft, minimum 2,500 words (10%)
- Revision log (10%)
- Term paper final draft, minimum 3,500 words (30%)

Prerequisites

In order to register in this course, you must have taken at least two (2) prior courses in philosophy, and either ENG 101 or 105 (or an equivalent). PHI 301 satisfies the Communication Literacy 2 (CL2) requirement, and is highly recommended for Humanities majors.

Texts

- Federico Lauria and Julien A. Deonna, *The Nature of Desire*, Oxford University Press, 2017

Description

This course is a writing-intensive undergraduate seminar-style course designed to provide detailed guidance in the construction of philosophical essays. Developing this skill is of central importance to anyone interested in serious work in philosophy, but is useful for anyone in disciplines or trades that seek written work with clearly articulated argumentative structure. This will take us through the full process of developing a paper, from conception to development, research, and revision. (Adapted from A. King, Spring 2019 syllabus)

Grade distribution:

Grade	Quality Points	Percentage
A	4.0	93.0% - 100.00%
A-	3.67	90.0% - 92.9%
B+	3.33	87.0% - 89.9%
B	3.00	83.0% - 86.9%
B-	2.67	80.0% - 82.9%
C+	2.33	77.0% - 79.9%
C	2.00	73.0% - 76.9%
C-	1.67	70.0% - 72.9%
D+	1.33	67.0% - 69.9%
D	1.00	63.0% - 66.9%
F	0	62.9 or below

- The default assumption of the class is that all grade fractions will be rounded DOWN to the nearest whole percent (i.e. an 89.999% is a B+, not an A-). However, the professor, at his sole discretion, reserves the right to round grades up instead of down if he feels the result better reflects a student's efforts, participation, and mastery of the material.

Incompletes

- An instructor may award a grade of "I" (Incomplete) if a student was unable to complete all of the objectives for the passing grade in a course. An incomplete grade cannot be carried beyond the established date in the following semester. The completion date is determined by the instructor. For more information on incompletes, see <http://www.buffalo.edu/recreation/services/academics/academic-incomplete-policy.html>

EXPECTATIONS AND POLICIES

It is critical for success that you take the class and its participants (students and professor) seriously. With that in mind, you are expected to:

- Attend
 - Contact me ahead of time if you have to miss (or ASAP in emergencies)
 - Arrive on time and stay until dismissed
- Participate
 - Do the readings
 - Pay attention in class
 - Eating food is fine
 - No computers without a need-based exemption
 - Keep cell phones put away
 - Contribute to discussion in a respectful way
 - Submit assignments on time (-1% per 24 hours late)
- Use the Center for Excellence in Writing (209 Baldy Hall) as necessary

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

1) You are expected to be familiar with the rules and standards regarding academic integrity as laid out by the Academic Integrity Office. You will be held responsible for any violations of the rules of academic integrity even if you were unaware that you were violating those rules. For full information on what constitutes academic misconduct, see

https://catalog.buffalo.edu/policies/academic_integrity_2021-22.html

2) Important: Aiding another in committing academic dishonesty, including failing to report an instance of academic dishonesty of which you are aware, is itself a violation of the rules of academic integrity. If you know someone is cheating, it is your responsibility to inform the professor.

3) All suspected instances of academic misconduct will be reported to the university. Students determined to have committed academic misconduct will receive a failing grade in the class and the professor will submit a recommendation to the Academic Integrity Office that the student's transcript permanently include a notice that the failing grade was the result of academic misconduct. For repeat offenders, the professor will recommend expulsion.

ACCESSIBILITY RESOURCES

If you have any disability which requires reasonable accommodations to enable you to participate in this course, please contact the Office of Accessibility Resources, 25 Capen Hall, 645-2608, and also the instructor of this course. The office will provide you with information and review appropriate arrangements for reasonable accommodations.

<http://www.student-affairs.buffalo.edu/ods/>

Critical Campus Resources

Sexual Violence

UB is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic and dating violence and stalking. If you have experienced gender-based violence (intimate partner violence, attempted or completed sexual assault, harassment, coercion, stalking, etc.), UB has resources to help. This includes academic accommodations, health and counseling services, housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and assistance with reporting the incident to police or other UB officials if you so choose. Please contact UB's Title IX Coordinator at 716-645-2266 for more information. For confidential assistance, you may also contact a Crisis Services Campus Advocate at 716-796-4399.

Mental Health

As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning or reduce your ability to participate in daily activities. These might include strained relationships, anxiety, high levels of stress, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, health concerns, or unwanted sexual experiences. Counseling, Health Services, and Health Promotion are here to help with these or other issues you may experience. You can learn more about these programs and services by contacting:

Counseling Services:

120 Richmond Quad (North Campus), 716-645-2720

Health Promotion:

114 Student Union (North Campus), 716-645-2837

Class Schedule

Week 1

2/1: Welcome, syllabus, expectations

2/3: *Nature of Desire* pp. 1-23

Ungraded writing assessment assigned, due Sunday, 2/6

Week 2

2/8: Continue discussion + How to read philosophy

2/10: *Nature of Desire* pp. 27-56

Weekly paper 1 due

Week 3

2/15: Continue discussion + Argument-objection-reply structure

2/17: *Nature of Desire* pp. 57-76

Weekly paper 2 due

Week 4

2/22: Continue discussion + Kinds of philosophy papers and how to write philosophy

2/24: *Nature of Desire* pp. 77-100

Weekly paper 3 due

Week 5

3/1: Continue discussion + Searching for sources and securing readings

3/3: *Nature of Desire* pp. 100-118

Weekly paper 4 due

Week 6

3/8: Continue discussion + picking a topic

3/10: *Nature of Desire* pp. 119-136

Weekly paper 5 due

Week 7

3/15: Continue discussion + making an annotated bibliography

3/17: *Nature of Desire* pp. 137-164

Weekly paper 6 due

Week 8

3/22: SPRING BREAK

3/24: SPRING BREAK

Week 9

3/29: *Nature of Desire* pp. 165-200

3/31: Continue discussion + outlining

Weekly paper 7 due

Week 10

4/5: *Nature of Desire* pp. 201-218

4/7: Continue discussion + formulating objections, signposting, tone

Weekly paper 8 due

Week 11

4/12: Quinn, "Putting Rationality in its Place", *Morality and Action*, 228-255

4/14: Continue discussion + citations, footnotes

Annotated bibliography due

Week 12

4/19: Scanlon, *What We Owe to Each Other*, 37-55

4/21: Continue discussion, relax

Term paper first draft due

Week 13

4/26: Shapiro, "What are Theories of Desire Theories Of?"

4/28: Revising

No weekly assignment!

Week 14

5/3: Writing an abstract, introduction, and conclusion

5/5: Workshopping

Revision log due

Week 15

5/10: Workshopping

5/12: Knowing when enough is enough

5/13: Final paper due!