



**National Taiwan University of Science and Technology  
2016 Summer Program**

**PHIL 101 Introduction to Philosophy: From the Pre-Socratics to Heidegger**

**Course Outline**

**Course Code: PHIL 101**

**Instructor: Ross Hamilton**

**Home Institution: Columbia University**

**Office Hours.: TBA and by appointment**

**Email: rhamilto@barnard.edu**

**Class Hours:** According to the regulations of Minister of Education, R.O.C, 18 class hours could be counted as 1 academic credit in all universities in Taiwan. This course will have 72 class hours, including 40 lecture hours, professor 10 office hours, 10-hour TA discussion sessions, 2-hour review sessions, 10-hour extra classes.

**Course Number**

**Instructor:** Ross Hamilton, Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature

**Home institution:** Barnard College, Columbia University

**Email:** rhamilto@barnard.edu

**Office Hour:** TBA

**Course Description:**

Across five weeks of intensive lectures, this course will survey the history of philosophy from Plato to Heidegger by means of central categories in our understanding of the world. Lectures and discussion will be supplemented by exercises in philosophical speculation.



### Required Textbooks:

John Cottingham, ed. Western Philosophy: An Anthology (Wiley-Blackwell) (WP)

There will also be essays assigned for discussion

### Course Requirements

#### Final Grade Percentages

- Class Participation 10%: regular attendance and participation is requested.
- Reaction Papers 30% (15% each): you will be asked to write two reaction papers (4-5 pages) on key readings throughout the course. Reaction papers summarize the article or primary source assigned, identify the main arguments made by authors and briefly discuss them.
- Midterm Exam 20%: an evaluation of your knowledge at mid-point in the semester
- Final Exam 40%: overall evaluation at end of semester

### Course Schedule:

#### Week 1: Knowledge and Being

Session 1: Introduction to Philosophy  
Reading WP Part 1

Session 2: Knowledge and Certainty  
Reading: WP Part 2

Session 3: Being and Reality  
Reading: WP Part 2

Session 4: Language  
Reading: WP Part 3

#### Week 2: Mind and Body, Self and God

Session 1: Mind  
Reading: WP Part 4



Session 2: Body

Reading: WP Part 4

**Reaction Paper One Due Today on Descartes's Meditations**

Session 3: Self and Freedom

Reading: WP Part 5

Session 4: God and Religion

Reading: WP Part 6

Screening: The Matrix

### **Week 3: Religion, Science and the Good Life**

Session 1: Religion

**Reaction Paper Two Due Today on Descartes Meditations (WP)**

Reading: WP Part 6

Session 2: Science and Method

Reading: WP Part 7

Session 3: Morality

Reading: WP Part 8

Session 4 : The Good Life

Screening: Adam Curtis, "All Watched Over by Machines of Loving Grace"

**Reaction Paper Two Due on Adam Curtis**

### **Week 4: Ethics, Authority, Aesthetics**

Session 1: Ethics

Reading: WP Part 9

Session 2: Authority and the State

Reading: WP Part 10



Session 3: Beauty and Art

Reading: WP Part 11

Session 4 Thinking Section: What is the Meaning of Life?

Reading: WP Part 12

## **Section 5 Philosophy in Contemporary Culture**

Session 1: Political Philosophy

Session 2: Philosophy of Religion

Session 3: Aesthetics

Session 4: Review

**FINAL EXAM**

