

Sabancı University  
FALL 2020

## **HUM 207: MAJOR WORKS OF WESTERN PHILOSOPHY**

Instructors: Elif Yavnık, Gürol Irzık

[eyavnik@sabanciuniv.edu](mailto:eyavnik@sabanciuniv.edu)

[gurol.irzik@sabanciuniv.edu](mailto:gurol.irzik@sabanciuniv.edu)

TAs: Haydar Oğuz Erdin, Bilge Özensoy

[oguz.erdin@sabanciuniv.edu](mailto:oguz.erdin@sabanciuniv.edu)

[bilgeozensoy@sabanciuniv.edu](mailto:bilgeozensoy@sabanciuniv.edu)

Tuesday (Lecture) 14.40-16.30

Thursay (Discussion Sections) A: 10.40-11.30; B: 11.40-12.30; C: 14.40-15.30

Office hours:

Gürol Irzık: Wednesday 4.30-6.00 pm or by appointment

Elif Yavnık: by appointment, via Zoom

\*Please note that this syllabus is tentative and subject to change.

### **Course Description**

This course introduces the students to certain fundamental texts and key discussions in Western philosophy. It does not require any background in philosophy, but through a rigorous exploration of some of the key debates in the history of philosophy, it provides a comprehensive overview of the development of Western philosophy and of its defining moments. The readings are selected from the Ancient Greek, Hellenistic, Medieval, and Enlightenment periods, when some of the classical discussions of philosophy have been articulated; and they represent discussions from different philosophical areas, such as moral philosophy, philosophy of being, and philosophy of knowledge. The discussions are presented with emphases also on their historical context, on their relationship to the intellectual climate of their time, as well as on how they contrast with the opposing views on the same question.

### **Course Requirements and Grading**

#### Attendance:

The course will be held synchronously on Zoom.

Attendance will be taken during all live sessions. Attendance follow-up starts at the end of the add-drop period.

Please keep your cameras on during class.

After 2 unexcused absences your attendance grade will fall 1 point with every unexcused absence. (That is to say, with 3 unexcused absences you get a 9/10, with 4 you get 8/10, etc.)

Absences for medical reasons are excused when documented with a doctor's report. An absence may also count as excused in case a life situation that you need to attend arises: in that case email and check with me beforehand.

### Participation in class:

Thoughtful and meaningful participation in class and during the discussion sessions is highly encouraged. Outstanding contribution to the class and proof of engagement with the course material beyond course requirements may bring your final course grade by half a letter (thus bringing it up from a B- to a B, for example), at the instructor's discretion.

### Grading:

Attendance: %10

Participation: %10

In-class Quizzes: %20

Midterm: %30

Final: %30

### In-class Quizzes:

There will be unannounced quizzes during class time. There will be no make ups for missed quizzes. If a student is absent on the day we have a quiz but they have emailed me before class to let me know about their excuse, that quiz will not be included in their quiz average. Anyone who is absent without an excuse will automatically get a zero on that quiz. At the end of the semester everyone's lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

### Point to letter grade conversion chart:

A	100-96
A-	95-92
B+	91-88
B	87-84
B-	83-80
C+	79-76
C	75-72
C-	71-68
D+	67-64
D	64-59
F	58-0

### **Academic Integrity**

Major Works courses do not tolerate dishonesty and plagiarism.

Plagiarism is an ethical and academic offense.

Papers with plagiarism issues will be graded F, and your semester grade may be F depending on the severity of the offense.

The offense may also be referred to as the University Ethics Committee.

Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, fraud, and any failure to cite all materials and sources in your work.

### **Anti-Discrimination Policy**

The classroom will be free from all discrimination based on, including but not limited to, race, ethnicity, creed, religion, language, disability, gender, and sexual orientation. The students are expected to maintain this environment.

## **Special Needs**

It is the policy of Sabancı University to accommodate students with special needs and disabilities. To determine accommodations and/or academic adjustments, please let us know and contact the Disabled Students Support Unit of CIAD ([specialneeds@sabanciuniv.edu](mailto:specialneeds@sabanciuniv.edu)).

**Reading and Course Schedule** – All readings will be made available on SUCourse.

## **INTRODUCTION**

### WEEK 1

October 6&8            INTRODUCTION

## **PHILOSOPHY OF GOOD LIFE**

### WEEK 2

October 13&15        Plato, *Apology*, selections

### WEEK 3

October 20&22        Plato, *Phaedo*, selections  
Plato, *The Republic*, selections

### WEEK 4

October 27&29        Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, selections

### WEEK 5

November 3&5        Epicurus, *Principal Doctrines*, *Letter to Menoecus*;  
Seneca, *On the Happy Life*, selections

### WEEK 6

November 10&12      Seneca, con'd;  
Saint Augustine, *On the Free Choice of the Will*, selections

### WEEK 7

November 17&19      Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil*, selections

### WEEK 8

November 24        **MIDTERM**  
November 26        No class

## **BEING AND KNOWLEDGE**

### WEEK 9

December 1&3        Plato, *The Republic*, selections;  
Aristotle, *Metaphysics*, selections

### WEEK 10

December 8&10        Aristotle, con'd  
Sextus Empiricus, selections

### WEEK 11

December 15&17      Descartes, *Meditations*, selections

### WEEK 12

December 22&24      Descartes, *Meditations*, selections

### WEEK 13

December 29&31      Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, selections

### WEEK 14

January 5&7            Kant, *Prolegomena*, selections