

## 2015 Spring Semester < Introduction to Philosophy > (GEK 10030) Syllabus

### 1. Objectives of the Lecture

- Overcome the ungrounded fear of philosophy
- Experience philosophical thinking
- Understand most influential theories in philosophy
- Equip students for further studies of philosophy
- Seek and learn how philosophy and Christianity meet

Hour: Tuesdays and Fridays 11:30~12:45

Classroom: OH 405

Professor: Wha-Chul Son

Office Hours: Mon. 10:00~12:00

Thur. 13:00~14:15 or

schedule an appointment by e-mail

### 2. Introduction to the Lecture

Philosophy begins with reflective and critical thinking. This course investigates how reflective and critical thinking has been conducted in the history of philosophy and how philosophy has influenced human lives. Following a simple introduction to the first stage of philosophy, a few important issues in philosophy are discussed. Several short texts will be used as the guidance for our investigation.

### 3. Main Texts (list subject to possible change)

- Peter Singer, Animal Liberation
- Plato, Apology/Crito
- J.S. Mill, On Liberty
- Rene Descartes, Meditation
- Karl Marx, Communist Manifesto

### 4. Supplementary Texts

- Plato, Republic/ Phaedo
- Anselm, Proslogion
- Luther, 95 Thesis
- Kant, An Answer to the Question: "What is Enlightenment?"
- Nietzsche, Mad Man / The Three Metamorphoses
- Freud, A Note on the Unconsciousness in Psycho-Anlysis
- Alister E. McGrath, Christian Theology: An Introduction
- Frederic Copleston. History of Philosophy
- Jostein Gaarder, Sophie's World

### 5. Evaluation

- Mid-term exam and final exam: 25% each
- Question and Comment Sheets, Participation : 20%
- Reading Assignments: 30% - The criteria for evaluation are:
  - (i) how carefully and thoroughly one has read the given text and;
  - (ii) how logically and critically one analyzed the text from one's own point of view.
- In each session, 3 or 4 questions for exam will be provided. Exam consists of three randomly chosen questions from the pre-given list and one comprehensive question.
- A few optional and additional assignments will be given and minimum reward will be granted.

### 6. Special Notes

- English should be no obstacle to attend the class. This is a philosophy class, not English. Students whose mother tongue is Korean are encouraged to take this course. The lecture will be given in English, but students are free to use Korean for their assignments, exams, and study outside of class. All reading materials are available both in English and in Korean. Every measure within the capacity of the instructor will be taken to assist non-native English speaker.
- Every 2 or 3 weeks, there will be a Q&A session (in Korean) after the class. Appropriate measures will be taken in order to support students with physical challenges or other difficulties.
- The weekly plan is subject to change according to the instructor's professional decision. Thoughtful and constructive suggestions for change by students are welcome, too. The instructor is determined, however, to resist against all unreasonable and ungrounded political pressures by others concerning the content of this lecture.

- Recording of the lecture is allowed on three conditions. (i) Student must send an e-mail agreeing with the condition and get a written permission. (ii) Student should use the recorded data ONLY for personal study. (iii) Student must delete or destroy the recorded data when the semester is over.
- Appropriate measures will be taken in order to support students with physical challenges or other difficulties.

## 7. Weekly plan

Week	Date	Topics	Reading Material	Assignments
1 <sup>st</sup> Week	3/3	Introduction to the course/On Language		
	3/6	What is Philosophy?/Why for Christians?		
2 <sup>nd</sup> Week	3/10	Academic Integrity		
	3/13	On Eating Meat	<Animal Liberation> Ch. 1	YES 3/13
3 <sup>rd</sup> Week	3/17			
4 <sup>th</sup> Week	3/20	Thales and Ancient Philosophers: From		
	3/24	Myth to Natures		
5 <sup>th</sup> Week	3/27	Socrates: From Nature to Human	<Apology> <Crito>	YES 3/27
	3/31			
6 <sup>th</sup> Week	4/3	Plato	<Republic> <Phaedo>	
	4/7			
7 <sup>th</sup> Week	4/10	Aristotle		
	4/14	Faith and Reason: Problems of Middle	<Anselm's Prayer>	
8 <sup>th</sup> Week	4/17	Age	<95 Thesis>	YES 4/14
	4/21	Mid-term Exam		
4/24				
9 <sup>h</sup> Week	4/28	Cogito Ergo Sum: Descartes and	<Meditation> 1 and 2	YES 4/28
	5/1	Modernity		
10 <sup>th</sup> Week	5/5	No Class: Public Holiday		
	5/8	No Class: Festival		
11 <sup>th</sup> Week	5/12	Mill: On Liberty	<On Liberty>Ch. 2	YES 5/12
	5/15	Kant: Enlightenment	<What is Enlightenment?>	
12 <sup>th</sup> Week	5/19			
13 <sup>th</sup> Week	5/22	Marx: Historical Materialism	<Communist Manifesto>	YES 5/22
	5/26		Ch. 1 & 2	
14 <sup>th</sup> Week	5/29	Nietzsche	<Mad Man>	
	6/2			
15 <sup>th</sup> Week	6/5	Freud and Darwin	Note on Unconsciousness	
	6/9			
16 <sup>th</sup> Week	6/12	Conclusion		
	6/16	Final Exam		
6/19				