

CENTRAL EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY

OLIVE UP 2017-18

FALL TERM

## INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY I

TUTOR: DÓRA KIS-JAKAB

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

The aim of this course is to introduce students to some of the classic texts of Western philosophy and to cultivate their analytical and critical skills that are necessary to engage with philosophical texts in a meaningful way. Throughout the course students read primary philosophical texts, participate in in-class discussion and write papers on several philosophical topics, such as epistemology, ethics, philosophy of religion, and political philosophy.

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### COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the semesters students will be familiar with some of the important texts and key concepts of philosophy. They will have a basic grasp on typical problems raised by specific branches of philosophy and on the methods and approaches of philosophers. Students will be able to think in theoretical and analytical terms on various topics of philosophy. They are expected to learn how to read, analyze and criticize philosophical texts.

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### GRADING

The final grade will consist of the followings: class participation (30%); 2 response papers, one of which can be substituted by student presentation (20%); mid-term paper (20%); final paper (30%).

#### CLASS PARTICIPATION (30%)

Readings, attendance and participation are mandatory and account for 30% of the grade. Readings for this course are available online on the courses' e-learning page.

#### WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS (70%)

- 2 response papers (10% each). The first response paper must be on topics covered between Week 1- Week 6 and is due by the 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2017, the

second response paper on topics covered between Week 6-Week 10, due by 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2017.

Each response paper should be 500-700 words in length. Response papers must outline the main arguments and key concepts of the discussed text and present the student's critical reaction to the text's arguments and concepts.

- The second response paper can be substituted by student presentation on the student's topic of interest, if the topic is not included in the syllabus. The student presentations will take place on Week 11. If students wish to take this option, they must let the tutor know by the end of Week 8.
- Mid-term paper of 1,000 words, due by 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2017. (20%)
- Final paper of 1,500 words, due by 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2017. (30%)

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## CONSULTATIONS

By the end of the semester, students must have a minimum of 5 consultations with the tutor. To arrange a consultation, please contact the tutor in person or via e-mail.

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## INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY I

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### WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION

Class 1: Bertrand Russell (1912). *The Problems of Philosophy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 89-94.

Class 2: Bertrand Russell (1961). *An Outline of Philosophy*. Cleveland: World Pub. Co. Chapt. 1

### WEEK 2: METHODOLOGY

Class 1: Daniel C. Dennett (2013). *Intuition Pumps and Other Tools for Thinking*. London: Penguin Books. (selections)

Class 2: Joel Feinberg (2014). *Doing Philosophy*. Wadsworth: Cengage Learning. 77-83.

### WEEK 3: ANCIENT GREEK PHILOSOPHY I: PLATO

Class 1: Plato: *The Republic*. Book VI (504d-508e)

Class 2: Plato: *The Republic*. Book VII (514a-519e)

### WEEK 4: ANCIENT GREEK PHILOSOPHY II: ARISTOTLE

Class 1-2: Aristotle: *Nicomachean Ethics*. Book II (Chapter 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 9)

#### WEEK 5: MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY I: ST. AUGUSTINE

Class 1-2: St. Augustine. *On the Free Choice of the Will* (1-7, 76-81)

#### WEEK 6: MEDIEVAL PHILOSOPHY II: ANSELM AND THOMAS AQUINAS

Class 1: St. Anselm. *Proslogium* (selections)

Class 1: Thomas Aquinas. *Summa Theologiae* I. 2.

#### WEEK 7: DESCARTES

Class 1-2: Descartes: *Meditations on First Philosophy* (selections)

#### WEEK 8: CONTRACT THEORIES I.

Class 1 -2: Thomas Hobbes. *Leviathan* (selections)

#### WEEK 9: CONTRACT THEORIES II.

Class 1-2: John Locke. *Two Treatises of Government*. Second Treatise (selections)

#### WEEK 10: KANT

Class 1-2: Kant. *Critique of Pure Reason* (selections)

#### WEEK 11: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Required readings are to be assigned by the students presenting the topic of their interest.

#### WEEK 12: RESEARCH/WRITING (FINAL PAPERS)