

Professor Warner  
Fall 2013  
Roosevelt University  
PHIL 101—Introduction to Philosophy

### Course Description

Humans are unique in any number of ways, not the least of which is that we are questioning beings—that is, we ask questions. Sometimes we ask questions about the world of nature, sometimes we ask questions about ourselves, sometimes we ask others questions, and sometimes they ask questions of us. At the risk of being simplistic, we can say that one way to distinguish various disciplines or subject matters is by distinguishing the kinds of questions they ask. History asks questions about the past: What happened? Why did it happen? Physics asks questions about the fundamental nature of the universe: What is the nature of sub-atomic particles? Why do physical bodies move as they do? How do particles combine to form new bodies? Linguistics asks questions about language: What is language? Is language ruled governed? Can we have a language without nouns or verbs? Why are there so many languages? How is language taught? What about philosophy—what kind of questions does philosophy ask? This turns out to be a much more difficult question than it might seem. One reason for this is that in a certain way all questions lead to philosophical questions. Another reason for this, and a more important reason, is that philosophy is less a discipline or subject matter than it is a way of life, a way of life that involves wonder and questioning about the deepest, most fundamental things about ourselves, the universe, and our relationship to it. The best way to come to understand philosophy, and what it means to be philosophical, is to read and think about some great philosophical books, which is exactly what we will be doing this semester.

### Books

*Four Texts on Socrates* (translated by West and West)—includes Plato's *Euthyphro*, *Apology of*

*Socrates*, and *Crito*—Cornell University Press

Descartes, *Discourse on Method* (translated by Kennington), Focus Publishing

Nietzsche, *The Gay Science* (translated by Kaufmann), Vintage Books

### Reading Assignments

August 26	<i>Euthyphro</i> , 2a-5c
August 28	<i>Euthyphro</i> , 5c-8e
September 4	<i>Euthyphro</i> , 8e-12d

September 9	<i>Euthyphro</i> , 12e-16a
September 11	<i>Apology of Socrates</i> , 17a-20d
September 16	<i>Apology of Socrates</i> , 20d-27c
September 18	<i>Apology of Socrates</i> , 27c-30d
September 23	<i>Apology of Socrates</i> , 30d-35d
September 25	<i>Apology of Socrates</i> , 35e-42a
September 30	<i>Crito</i> , 43a-48d
October 2	<i>Crito</i> , 48d-54e
October 7	<i>Discourse on Method</i> , "Précis" and Part I
October 9	<i>Discourse on Method</i> , Part I
October 14	<i>Discourse on Method</i> , Part II
October 16	<i>Discourse on Method</i> , Part II
October 21	<i>Discourse on Method</i> , Part III
October 23	<i>Discourse on Method</i> , Part III
October 28	<i>Discourse on Method</i> , Part IV
October 30	<i>Discourse on Method</i> , Part IV
November 4	<i>Discourse on Method</i> , Part V
November 6	<i>Discourse on Method</i> , Part VI
November 11	<i>The Gay Science</i> , Section 125; 343-47 (and page 277)
November 13	<i>The Gay Science</i> , Section 348-355
November 18	<i>The Gay Science</i> , Section 356-360
November 20	<i>The Gay Science</i> , Section 361-370
December 2	<i>The Gay Science</i> , Section 371-376
December 4	<i>The Gay Science</i> , Section 377-383