

**Introduction to Philosophy & English 112**  
**Tufts University and Bunker Hill Community College**  
**Fall 2019**

Location: Massachusetts Correctional Institution-Concord

Instructors: Erin Kelly and Allison Hannah

Class time: Tuesday afternoons

Lab time: Thursday afternoons

This course deals with both classical and contemporary works by philosophers on questions about the nature of knowledge, justice, morality, and the concept of a person. We will also investigate the following: What do morality and justice require of us in our interactions with one another? What makes someone one and the same person over time? What are the personal and social conditions of self-awareness?

There will be several short writing assignments and a longer research paper. Readings from Plato, Locke, Hume, and several contemporary philosophers.

This course will be co-taught with a philosophy professor and a writing instructor as it fulfills the second half of the College Writing requirement for the degree in the liberal arts from Bunker Hill Community College.

### **Learning Outcomes**

Students completing this course will have learned:

#### **Critical Reading**

- Identify the thesis and supporting evidence within a source.
- Evaluate supporting evidence in a source for logical flaws.
- Evaluate whether evidence supports a source's claims.
- Evaluate relative strength of competing claims in multiple sources.

#### **Research**

- Learn about multiple types of appropriate sources (including print, Web, online academic databases / search engines and multimedia resources). There will be NO direct or hands-on use of the internet.
- Evaluate the authority, currency, relevancy and bias of sources.
- Take notes, including summaries, paraphrases, and quotes, which will effectively support a thesis-driven paper.

#### **Critical Writing**

- Use a writing process which moves from gathering ideas through planning, drafting, revising and editing.
- Choose appropriate evidence from sources to effectively support a paper's thesis.
- Incorporate multiple perspectives in written discussion of an issue.
- Develop a paper's thesis through logical analysis, evaluation and/or synthesis.
- Apply MLA documentation guidelines for parenthetical citations and works cited.

### **Assignments**

### **Evaluation/Assessment**

### **Schedule of Readings**

## The Idea of Philosophy

Sept 10 Plato, *Apology*  
Plato, Allegory of the Cave

## Justice

Sept 17 Plato, *Republic*, Book I (pp. 2-31)  
LAB

Sept 24 Plato, *Republic*, Book II, 357-376c (pp. 33-51)  
LAB Thesis workshop first paper

Oct 1 Plato, *Republic*, Book IV, 427-445b (pp. 102-121), Plato, *Republic*, Book IX, 580-592 (pp. 250-263)  
**First paper due (900-1500 words)**  
LAB

Oct 8 Rawls, *A Theory of Justice*, 1-4, 11  
First paper returned  
LAB Revision workshop

## Personal Identity

Oct 15 Perry, *A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality*, Part 1.  
**Revision first paper due**  
LAB

Oct 22 Perry, *A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality*, Parts 2 and 3.  
LAB

Oct 29 Locke in *Personal Identity*, Perry, ed.  
LAB Thesis workshop second paper

Nov 5 Parfit *Reasons and Persons*, selections  
**Second paper due (900-1500 words)**

Nov. 12 Parfit, *Reasons and Persons*, selections  
Second paper returned  
LAB Revision workshop & research paper topic brainstorm

## Free Will

Nov 19 Nagel, "Moral Luck"  
**Revision second paper**

LAB Bibliography workshop

### NOVEMBER BREAK

Nov. 26 Frankfurt, "Freedom of the Will and the Concept of the Person"

**Annotated Bibliography due for Research Paper**

LAB

Dec 3 W. E. B. Du Bois, "Of Our Spiritual Strivings"

Martin Luther King, Jr. *Strive Toward Freedom: The Montgomery Story*, Chs 4-6

LAB Research paper thesis/outline workshop

Dec. 10 Frederick Douglas, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglas*, selections

Bernard Boxill, "The Roots of Civil Disobedience in Republicanism and Slavery"

LAB Research paper draft due for workshop but not turned in

### LAST CLASS MEETING

Dec. 17 Martin Luther King, Jr. "Pilgrimage to Nonviolence"

Cornell West, "Hope and Despair"

**Research paper due (2000-2500 words)**

### Course Requirements

Class attendance and participation	20%
Two shorter papers + revisions (900-1500 words)	20% each
Final Research Paper (with annotated bibliography) (2000-2500 words)	40%