Intro to Philosophy

PHIL S110
Yale Summer School 2023, Session B
TTh 9.00-12.15
Instructor: Sadie McCloud
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Location: TBD

Course Description
This course will introduce students to philosophy through engagement with perennial philosophical concerns through the study of several of the most important works in the western philosophical tradition.

Intended Audience
This course is aimed at students who have had very little exposure to philosophy. The course aims to develop appreciation in students for perennial philosophical concerns, the approaches taken to these concerns by those philosophers read during the course, and for philosophical approach more generally. Through the course, students will develop their ability to engage philosophically with important issues, learn to evaluate arguments, and develop the ability to construct strong arguments of their own.

Assignments and Grading
Before each class, students will be required to post a question or brief comment (up to 3 sentences) on a Canvas discussion board about the reading assigned for that class. Students are also required to participate in classroom discussion.
Students will be required to write three short papers (2-3 pages). One short paper will be due at the end of each of the first three weeks. These papers should be about course material covered during the week in which the paper is due. Students are also required to write a final paper (5-7 pages) which will be due in two installments. A proposal and brief outline of the final paper will be due at the end of the fourth week of the course. The final paper will be due by the end of the day on August 4. Grades will be calculated as follows:

25% Classroom participation
15% Completion of discussion board posts
30% Three short papers
30% Final paper

Policies

Attendance: Attendance is required and essential to success in the course. Because of the short length of the course, any absences will severely impact a student’s learning. Repeated absences will affect a student’s final grade: three absences will result in failing the class.
**Academic integrity:** Academic integrity ensures respect for the academic reputation of Yale University, its students, faculty and staff, and the degrees it confers. In this course, you are expected to conduct yourself in an honest and ethical manner and respect the intellectual work of others. Any work that you submit at any stage of the writing process must be your own. You may not use material generated by ChatGPT or any other AI writing software. Any words, ideas, or data that you borrow from other people and include in your work must be properly documented. Failure to do either of these things is plagiarism. This webpage provides more details on Yale University’s standards for Academic Integrity. If you have further questions, please consult your instructor or TF.

**Accessibility and Inclusion** Yale University values diversity and inclusion; I am committed to a climate of mutual respect and full participation. My goal is to create a learning environment that is equitable, inclusive, and welcoming. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your inclusion, accurate assessment, or achievement, please notify me as soon as possible. You are also welcome to contact Student Accessibility Services in order to discuss a range of options to removing barriers in the course, including accommodations.

**Texts**

Students should purchase the following texts. All other readings will be made available on Canvas.


**Course Schedule**

July 4  
Plato, *Apology*

July 6  
Plato, *Phaedo*

July 11  
Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* I-III.5

July 13  
Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* X

July 18  
Descartes, *Meditations*

July 20  
Hume, *First Enquiry*

July 25  
Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*

July 27  
Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morality*, Essays 1, 2

August 1  
Simone de Beauvoir, *The Ethics of Ambiguity*

August 3  
Iris Murdoch, “The Idea of Perfection”