Contact Information: My office hours will be held via zoom from 3-5 on Tuesdays and Thursdays, or by appointment. Do not be afraid of coming to office hours! My office hours are very casual, and you do not even need to have a question to drop by—I love it when students drop in just to say hi or have a chat. If you are unsure of how to approach Zoom office hours, send me an email and we can schedule a private meeting to discuss this. My email is: megan.fritts@usu.edu. You may also message me through our course Canvas page.

Learning Outcomes for this course include:

- Learning fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories
- Developing skills in expressing yourself orally or in writing
- Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.

Textbook:

There is no textbook for this course; all readings will be uploaded to Files on Canvas.

Preparing for Class:

You should be signed into the Zoom classroom at or before 8:30 every class morning. Additionally, you should have already read the material that we will be covering that day (the material listed next to the corresponding day on the schedule) and (if relevant) taken the reading quiz. You should listen to the lecture with your microphone muted and your camera on (if you are listening in a public place, it is perfectly fine to be wearing a face mask).

Academic Integrity:

It is imperative that each student does his/her own work. The following policy will apply to all students in class.
Infractions of academic integrity (honesty) shall include:

- Using another student’s work without giving the student credit for the work. In other words, taking someone else’s work and placing your name on it and claiming it is yours, using another student’s quiz, or help on a quiz/exam.
- Giving other students your work knowing that they intend to turn it in as their own creation, giving other students your quiz, or help on a quiz/exam.

It is not an infraction of the policy to help other students understand how to do an assignment if they do the work themselves with your assistance.

Plagiarism:
“Plagiarism includes knowingly "representing by paraphrase or direct quotation, the published or unpublished work of another person as one’s own in any academic exercise or activity without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials." The penalties for plagiarism are severe. They include warning or reprimand, grade adjustment, probation, suspension, expulsion, withholding of transcripts, denial or revocation of degrees, and referral to psychological counseling.”

Penalties for Infractions:
Students who violate Academic Integrity Policies will face one of the following consequences, depending upon the severity of the case:

- The student will have to re-do the assignment.
- The student will receive an F for the assignment.
- The student will receive an F for the class.
- The student will be recommended for disciplinary action.

Grade Scale:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93 or higher</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 – 92.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 – 89.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83 – 86.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 – 82.9</td>
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</tbody>
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Assignments:

Reading Quizzes – 30% (30 points)
Reading quizzes will occur every Monday (except for Labor Day—the reading quiz will take place on the Wednesday of that week) and are worth two (2) points each (one point per question). The quizzes can be found on Canvas, under the Quizzes tab. They will be available the evening before they are due and must be complete before lecture.

Midterm Exam – 30% (30 points)
This exam will consist of several multiple choice and short answer questions, as well as one essay question. A study guide will be provided the week before the exam.

Argument Draft – 10% (10 points)
This assignment is a draft of an argument (obviously) which will be due approximately two weeks before the final exam. More details on this assignment to follow.

Final Exam – 30% (30 points)
This exam will consist of several multiple choice and short answer questions, as well as one essay question. A study guide will be provided the week before the exam.

Schedule:

*THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

1/20: Introduction/Syllabus Reading Quiz 1

1/22: What is Philosophy?: Read “This Is Water” by David Foster Wallace

1/25: Read Apology by Plato Reading Quiz 2
1/27:

1/29: Logic – read handout.

2/1: Ethical Theory: Read Rachels “The Challenge of Cultural Relativism”. Reading Quiz 3


2/5: No Reading

2/8: Ethical Theory: Read Shafer-Landau “The Kantian Perspective”. Reading Quiz 4

2/10: Ethical Theory: Read Rachels “The Ethics of Virtue”.

2/12: No Reading

2/15: no class

2/17: The Good Life: Read Nozick selection. Reading Quiz 5

2/19: No Reading

2/22: The Good Life cont: Read The Myth of Sisyphus Reading Quiz 6

2/24: The Good Life cont: Read The Sickness Unto Death selections.

2/26: No Reading

3/1: Philosophy of Religion: Read The God Dialogues selections. Reading Quiz 7


3/5: MIDTERM EXAM

3/8: Philosophy of Religion: Mackie, “Evil and Omnipotence” Reading Quiz 8


3/12: NO CLASS DAY


3/19: No Reading


3/26: No Reading

3/29: Ethics of Belief: Clifford. Reading Quiz 11

3/31: Ethics of Belief: James, The Will to Believe selections.

4/2: No Reading

4/5: Pascal, The Wager. Reading Quiz 12

4/7: No Reading

4/9: NO CLASS DAY

4/12: Reading Quiz 13


4/19: Reading Quiz 14

4/21: The True Cost documentary

4/23: Documentary con’t.

4/26: No Reading.