

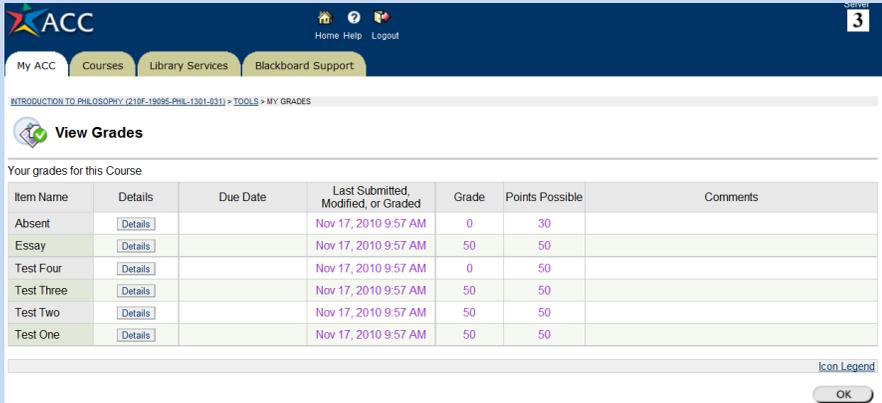
Assignments and Announcements

Introduction to Philosophy (PHIL 1301)

Fall 2010

Last updated: Tuesday, November 30, 2010 at 11:13 AM.

There may be more than one entry for one day. The most recent entries are at the top of the list.

Tuesday, November 30, 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students have asked about the grade in the “Absent” column in the Blackboard grade center. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The best grade is zero (no absences). • Whatever grade you have in the Absent column will be subtracted from your final numeric grade before I calculate your final letter grade. • See the course syllabus, lines 84-96.
Wednesday, November 17, 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This applies to the Blackboard display for both my Pinnacle and Riverside students: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A student in the Pinnacle class alerted me to problems displaying my grades in Blackboard. • I had no idea that what you were seeing was such a mess, but I have worked with the Blackboard Administrator and I think I fixed it. • You should see only six items now: four tests, an essay, and absenteeism. • At present there should be no numeric entries for test four (since it won’t be administered until December 8/9) nor for days absent. • I have entered all other grades. However, students who did not take the test on the original day it was administered may have a zero entered for their grade. As I receive completed tests from the Testing Center or OSD I will grade these tests and replace the zero with your test grade. This could take up to a week after you take the test. • Your Blackboard view for my course should look pretty much like this now: <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;">  </div> • If it doesn’t look like this, or if you have any other problems, contact me right away. Send me a screenshot of the problem if you can.
November 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be no make-up privilege for the last test (test 4, December 8/9). • We will start the last section of the course in the next class. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readings (and material for test 4): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All of chapter 5, plus the subchapter on Nietzsche. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the subchapter on Descartes before the next class. • The little section on Chuang-tzu’s Butterfly Dream in the Daoism notes (reading 16). • The pieces by Bishop Berkeley, David Hume, and Friedrich Nietzsche (readings 11, 12, and 13).

<p>Wednesday, November 10</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test 3 and essay data: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These grades have been entered into Blackboard. • Section 031 (Riverside TTh): <table border="1" data-bbox="472 336 1333 551"> <thead> <tr> <th>Test</th> <th>1</th> <th>2</th> <th>3</th> <th>4</th> <th>Essay</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Max possible</td> <td>50</td> <td>50</td> <td>50</td> <td>50</td> <td>50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Average</td> <td>31</td> <td>35</td> <td>33</td> <td></td> <td>47</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Highest</td> <td>43</td> <td>45</td> <td>45</td> <td></td> <td>50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lowest</td> <td>18</td> <td>22</td> <td>19</td> <td></td> <td>35</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> • Section 039 (Pinnacle MW): <table border="1" data-bbox="472 594 1333 809"> <thead> <tr> <th>Test</th> <th>1</th> <th>2</th> <th>3</th> <th>4</th> <th>Essay</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Max possible</td> <td>50</td> <td>50</td> <td>50</td> <td>50</td> <td>50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Average</td> <td>31</td> <td>34</td> <td>33</td> <td></td> <td>46</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Highest</td> <td>42</td> <td>43</td> <td>42</td> <td></td> <td>50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lowest</td> <td>16</td> <td>21</td> <td>18</td> <td></td> <td>30</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> 	Test	1	2	3	4	Essay	Max possible	50	50	50	50	50	Average	31	35	33		47	Highest	43	45	45		50	Lowest	18	22	19		35	Test	1	2	3	4	Essay	Max possible	50	50	50	50	50	Average	31	34	33		46	Highest	42	43	42		50	Lowest	16	21	18		30
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<p>Monday, November 1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Pinnacle students only: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I made a mistake this morning about the due date for your essays. Thanks to the students who stayed after class and pointed it out. • Your essays are due in one week, on Monday, November 8, and test 3 is on Wednesday, November 10. • Riverside students, your essays are due this week, on Thursday, November 4, and test 3 is Tuesday, November 9. • Once again, a recommendation for those who haven't chosen a topic or started their essay: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just write a summary of the argument of one of the pieces in the required readings list by Shinn, Berkeley, Hume, or Nietzsche. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those are numbers 4, 11, 12, or 13 on our new required readings list. • Before going to the last 3 pieces (11, 12, or 13), read the corresponding section in the textbook (e.g., the subchapter on Nietzsche). • My guess is that most students would find the Shinn or Nietzsche pieces the easiest to comprehend, and Shinn would have the greatest personal usefulness • Re Shinn: you could summarize or outline all or just several chapters of her book. • A note about length: 600-1000 words, no more, no less. Type the word-count at the end of your essay. • For both Pinnacle and Riverside: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I expect to finish section 3 in the next class and then start on chapter 5 of the textbook, starting with Descartes. • Only section 3 will be on test 3. 																																																												
<p>Sunday, October 31</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have uploaded a new version of the course's required readings list. There is very little new on the list, but the numbering has changed. • This coming week I will finish section 3, and start section 4 if there is time. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 4 (and test 4 on the last day of class), the last section in the course, will cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbook pages 160-231 (Descartes to Kant), and 279-287 (Nietzsche). • The short section on Chuang-tzu's Butterfly Dream in the notes on Daoism. • Required readings by Berkeley, Hume, and Nietzsche. • Video: lecture by Professor Kors on Descartes. If there is time I have a very good video lecture on Nietzsche by Professor Cahoone. • If we have time I would like to discuss the American philosophy of 																																																												

	<p style="text-align: center;">Pragmatism (textbook pages 305-318).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The essays are due either Thursday, November 4 (Riverside) or Monday, November 8 (Pinnacle). Test 3 will be Tuesday, November 9 (Riverside) or Wednesday, November 10 (Pinnacle). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test 3 will cover the following material, as previously stated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Textbook pages 42-107. Plato's Allegory of the Cave. The short section on the Cynic philosophy in the notes on Daoism. 																																																												
Thursday, October 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should it make a difference to anyone: my spring 2011 assignment has been changed from NRG to SAC. See my course home page about this. 																																																												
Monday, October 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I have added a reading on the Cynic philosophy from reading 3 (see below). Test 2 data: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your test 2 grades have been entered into Blackboard. Section 031 (Riverside TTh): <table border="1" data-bbox="469 908 1333 1123"> <thead> <tr> <th>Test</th> <th>1</th> <th>2</th> <th>3</th> <th>4</th> <th>5</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Max possible</td> <td>50</td> <td>50</td> <td>50</td> <td>50</td> <td>50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Average</td> <td>31</td> <td>35</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Highest</td> <td>43</td> <td>45</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lowest</td> <td>18</td> <td>22</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> Section 039 (Pinnacle MW): <table border="1" data-bbox="469 1163 1333 1378"> <thead> <tr> <th>Test</th> <th>1</th> <th>2</th> <th>3</th> <th>4</th> <th>5</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Max possible</td> <td>50</td> <td>50</td> <td>50</td> <td>50</td> <td>50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Average</td> <td>31</td> <td>34</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Highest</td> <td>42</td> <td>43</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lowest</td> <td>16</td> <td>21</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> 	Test	1	2	3	4	5	Max possible	50	50	50	50	50	Average	31	35				Highest	43	45				Lowest	18	22				Test	1	2	3	4	5	Max possible	50	50	50	50	50	Average	31	34				Highest	42	43				Lowest	16	21			
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Friday, October 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test schedule. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Test 2 will be Thursday, October 14 (Riverside) or Monday, October 18 (Pinnacle). Test 3 will be Tuesday, November 9 (Riverside) or Wednesday, November 10 (Pinnacle). The material for section 2/test 2 was listed below (Sept. 17). Material for section 3/test 3: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Textbook pages 42 to 107. Required readings numbers 10 and 11, and the section on the Cynic philosophy in reading 3. The philosophers we will discuss had a tremendous impact on Western thought, but their philosophies were what one philosopher has called "theorymongering," because they lack a solid foundation in ontology. Their ontological foundations are speculative instead of based on logic and direct experience as Parmenides had taught. They are like houses built, as the Bible says, on foundations of sand instead of rock. For the remainder of section 2 we will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read all of <i>Ashtavakra Gita</i> chapters 1 to 4. This is an example from Hindu Vedanta philosophy of nondualism. Compare it to Parmenides' nondualistic philosophy. Discuss Empedocles. Was he a pluralist or a follower of Parmenides? Discuss the 12 points in the conclusion of reading 17. Did Parmenides contribute more to philosophy than any other philosopher in history? 																																																												
Saturday,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Philosophy Department has just instituted a requirement of at least one written 																																																												

October 2	<p>essay per course.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See the essay instructions. • Your essay will be due one class before test 3. • It will replace one of the five tests. 																																																												
Monday, September 20, 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before the next class read textbook pages 35-40, and give a quick read to required reading #17 (Prof's notes on Parmenides). • Test 1 data: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your test 1 grades have been entered into Blackboard. • Section 031 (Riverside TTh): <table border="1" data-bbox="472 620 1333 835"> <tr><td>Test</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>Max possible</td><td>50</td><td>50</td><td>50</td><td>50</td><td>50</td></tr> <tr><td>Average</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Highest</td><td>43</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Lowest</td><td>18</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> • Section 039 (Pinnacle MW): <table border="1" data-bbox="472 876 1333 1091"> <tr><td>Test</td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>Max possible</td><td>50</td><td>50</td><td>50</td><td>50</td><td>50</td></tr> <tr><td>Average</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Highest</td><td>42</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Lowest</td><td>16</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> 	Test	1	2	3	4	5	Max possible	50	50	50	50	50	Average	31					Highest	43					Lowest	18					Test	1	2	3	4	5	Max possible	50	50	50	50	50	Average	31					Highest	42					Lowest	16				
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Friday, September 17, 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test 1 grades for the Riverside class have been entered in Blackboard. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note that the grades are based on a maximum of 50 points. • Section 2 of the course will start on Tuesday/Wednesday. Read the textbook sections (pages 35-40) on Parmenides and Zeno before that class. Parmenides will be treated as the most important philosopher in our course. • Required readings and A/V for section 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbook pages 35-42. • From the Required Readings list, numbers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 (Heart Sutra), • 6 (Ashtavakra Gita), • 7 (Svetaketu), • 9 (Psalm 82), • 17 (prof's notes on Parmenides). • Listen to the Heart Sutra online. I will show a half-hour video by Professor Eckel of Boston U. on emptiness and the two-truths in Mahayana Buddhism. I plan to show this lecture twice because you probably won't be able to understand all of it the first time. 																																																												
Friday, September 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change of dates for test #1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riverside: Thursday, September 16. • Pinnacle: Monday, September 20. • In the next class we will discuss the textbook pages 23-35. In the two following classes we will discuss <i>Tao Te Ching</i>. • For the test you will be responsible for pages 2 to 35 in the text, and all of <i>Tao Te Ching</i> and the guide to it (required readings 2 and 3), as well as my comments on this material in the lectures. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although other material is important (e.g., the piece on meditation), it will not be tested. • I do not do reviews before tests, but ask questions in class about anything you don't understand in the text or in <i>Tao Te Ching</i>. 																																																												
Saturday,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will definitely start using our textbook on Mon/Tues, so read ahead. 																																																												

August 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • But we will first finish working with the chapter from Shinn (required reading #4) on the important topic that Tao Te Ching 1 calls “naming.”
Wednesday, August 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attention Riverside students, re the textbook: Students in my Pinnacle class today said they have seen lots of our textbooks in the campus bookstores at South Austin, Pinnacle, and Rio Grande. I expect to start coordinating much of my lecturing with the textbook starting with my first classes next week. Get the textbook and read at least through page 23 before classes on Mon/Tues. • In class today at PIN we discussed readings 1, 2 (poem 1 re “naming”), touched on 4 (also on “naming” and will cover it in next class), and 8.
Wednesday, August 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our first class meetings are on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 039: Monday, August 23, at noon in room 506 on the Pinnacle campus, or • Section 031: Tuesday, August 24, at 4:15pm in room 2265 on the Riverside campus. • See the Required Readings list for our course (linked on the course home page) for textbook and other information. • Required readings for the first classes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Syllabus (linked on course home page, paper copy distributed to all students in first class meeting). • Calendar (linked on course home page). Note test dates and number of tests are subject to adjustment. • How to Study (linked on course home page). • Start reading the textbook. The course is in five sections, each with a test at the end of the section, and for section 1 read the textbook from page 2 to 35. It is to your advantage to “read ahead” (see the How to Study article). • Print readings 1, 2, 3, 4, and 8 on the required readings list and bring them with you to class. Read #1 and #8 before the first class if possible. Read #4 in conjunction with the section on visualizing academic success, in my article on How to Study.