



Course Syllabus

PHIL 150 - Introduction to Philosophy

The session begins on the 1st day of the enrollment month and ends on the last day of the 6th month.

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Jim Comer

UIU Faculty Email: comerj@uiu.edu

Telephone Number: 225-401-8229

Office Location: Email at comerj@uiu.edu. You may also text at 225-401-8229

Availability: Call or email when you need me. Will reply soon as I can the same day.

Course Description

Semester Credits: 3

Catalog Course Description: Introduction to Philosophy explores foundational questions about human existence, delving into the nature of our being, origins, and ultimate destiny. This survey engages with significant theories and philosophers that have shaped our understanding of the universe and our place within it. Students are encouraged to critically analyze various philosophical perspectives and articulate their own viewpoints, fostering a profound engagement with the classic dilemmas of philosophy. Meets the creative expression requirement in The Peacock Professional Experience ("general education").

Credit Hour Policy: As a requirement of HLC Accreditation, all UIU courses, regardless of meeting schedule or instructional mode, follow the Federal Credit Hour Definition. As such, each credit hour earned at UIU is equivalent to a minimum of 45 hours of student engagement.

For more information on how specific instructional modes meet this requirement, please see UIU's Policy Guidelines for Instructional Time Expectations: [UIU Policies](#).

Roots of Wisdom (Required textbook)

Mitchell, Helen Buss

Edition: 8th

Publisher: Cengage Learning

ISBN 978-1-3377-55-980-5

Course Outcomes

- Students will be able to recognize what makes: a conclusion valid or an inductively strong argument; an action moral or immoral; a statement believed to be true
- Students will be able to explain the various schools of philosophical and moral thought; the history of their development and the rationale for acceptance and their practice by society
- Students will be able to competently appraise valid conclusions about perception and belief
- Students will be able to describe what it means to be moral
- Students will be able to explain the process of coming to know that which is called reality
- General Education Outcome: Students will be able to effectively evaluate or critique artistic or creative works.

General Education Assessment

Upper Iowa University is committed to ensuring that all undergraduate students participating in its general education program receive a broad education, while gaining essential professional skills across multiple disciplines. The Peacock Professional Experience provides nine learning outcomes, each of which articulates a specific skill students should gain, and are supported by knowledge provided by the courses students choose to take within the guidelines of the program. The outcome assessed in this course is the last outcome listed under Course Outcomes.

Course Requirements and Grading Criteria

Course Requirements

1. Read the assignment chapters
2. Make meaningful replies to the assignments.
3. Try to spread your work out so that it doesn't become too much near the end of the allotted time for the self-paced course.
4. The university supports a tiered model of AI use in academic settings. For this course will use **Tier 3: AI-Freer Assignments.**

This means the use of generative AI is not permitted for assignments requiring independent analysis, critical thinking, or or personal reflection. Unauthorized use constitutes a violation of academic integrity and may fall under the Academic Misconduct Policy. **What this means is this:** the instructor wants your own thinking. While there are good, competent analysis and conclusion pieces on AI, I want to know what you think. It does not have to be as complete as a prominent thinker. It just needs to be you. We have a diverse student body and I like to see and learn from what you think.

Scheduling your time

Post your reflections on a regular schedule that best fits your schedule and allows you to finish in good order.

Course Policies

Posting is important. Try to stay within the schedule. Always write if you have questions, I will do all I can to help you get through the course.

Grading Criteria

Criteria	Points
Assignments	34
Mid term	26
Final	26
General Education task	14
Total points	100

Grading Scale

Letter/Grade	Percentage
A	93 plus

A- (minus)	83-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B- (minus)	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-(minus)	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-(minus)	60-62
F	0-59

Grades and Feedback

All graded work available must be posted in the uiuLearn Gradebook by Sunday at 11:59pm (CT) one week prior to the course drop date, as well as posted by Sunday at 11:59 pm prior to the final week.

Extension Policy

Students will be allowed to request an extension and receive an 'X' (extension grade) at the end of their original six-month enrollment period if:

- A minimum of one assignment has been received for grading per guidelines
AND
- All course units and exams are not completed and submitted OR
- A course withdrawal has not been initiated.

Note: The fee for a self-paced extension is \$99 per course. The request for an extension must be submitted no earlier than one month before the end of the course and no later than a week before the end of the course.

Extension grade details

- When the extension is granted and an “X” grade is issued, the student will receive a four-month enrollment period to complete the course.
- Students do not have the option to withdraw from a course after the initial six-month enrollment period.
- An ‘X’ grade posted to the student’s official record will be replaced with a final letter grade; however, the extension will remain on the official transcript as a notation.
- If the course is not completed by the end of the extension period, the instructor will assign a final grade (A-F) based on work completed in relation to the total course requirements.
- If credit is not earned by the end of the extension period, students can re-enroll and repeat the entire course for credit.

Note: Students are not reported as enrolled during the extension period and are not eligible for student loan deferment. No more than one extension will be granted.

Course Schedule

Course Schedule

Unit 1

This week we will look at the ways we think about philosophy and discuss what it means to think and read deeply. Chapter 1: Why Philosophy?

Unit 2

We examine the ways we look at the nature of reality. Chapter 2

Unit 3

This week our subject is human nature. Chapter 3.

Unit 4

Let's look at aesthetics and the ways it leads us to knowing. Chapter 7.

Unit 5

By what values shall we live in the world. (The is part 3 in the textbook). From the modern to the postmodern. Read chapter 8, Political Philosophy. We will examine the various political philosophies in America. Assessments: how well do you see the differences in various political views

Unit 6

Read Chapter 9, Social Philosophy. Am I my Brothers, or Sister's keeper? That is the key question .. Assessments: how well do you relate the philosophical with the actual day to day encounters with race, gender, religion, sexual orientation.

Chapter 10, Ethics. Activities: this is the big question on how we live. Are you beginning to see that ethics is relating to your everyday life. How does ethics shape your daily decisions.

Assignments

1. Werner Heisenberg said the observer is a part of what is being observed. What do you think he means by this?
2. It is possible to be an objective "observer"? Why or why not.
3. We "know" there was a War Between the States. How would you say is the best way that you could "know?"
4. John Locke (political philosophy) thought that the government was the servant of the people. How might the government best serve the people of the United States today?
5. Ponder this question from the chapter on Social Philosophy: Am I my Brother's or my Sister's keeper? If so, in what ways can this be applied between people. Now that you are entering the end of the course, rethink these questions from

week one: Why am I here and where am I going;. In other words do you see the purpose for your life.

6. When you look at your talents and interests, how would you now answer the question: Why am I here?

Course Expectations

Email

Upper Iowa University employees and students are issued a UIU email account (doej@uiu.edu). University email communications will only be sent to UIU email address. Faculty and staff are not obligated to respond to students using non-UIU email accounts.

Technology Requirements

A reliable up-to-date computer is essential with Internet connection. Have updated virus protection.

Professional Writing and Speaking Guidelines

Communications in class and online should follow the Student Conduct and Discipline, Respect for the University Environment, and Code of Student Responsibility in the [Student Handbook](#). Respect the opinions of others using appropriate language and communications.

University Policies

Withdrawal (W)

If a student decides to withdraw from a course before the end of an enrollment period, the student's charges, financial aid, tuition assistance, and/or veteran benefits could be affected. All students should consult with the Business Office and Financial Aid Office to understand the financial impact of withdrawing prior to initiating the withdrawal process.

Students who have registered for this course through our partnership are required to follow the withdrawal policy outlined on the partnership website. Please refer to the partnership site for official withdrawal procedures and deadlines.

Tuition adjustments are independent from academic and financial aid deadlines. Upon receiving a request for withdrawal, using the number of lessons submitted as compared to the total due, a refund of tuition is made according to the following guideline.

On or before the first day of the enrollment period* 100%

After the first lesson through 10% of the enrollment period 90%

After the first 10% through the first 25% of the enrollment period 50%

After the first 25% of the enrollment period 0%

*Enrollment is measured by the number of assignments to be submitted during a six-month period of time, as determined by the University, during which semester credits

are earned toward graduation. The refund/repayments shall be calculated using the percentages noted above as determined using the number of assignments completed and the number of assignments yet to be submitted.

For example, if a student submitted 2 of 17 assignments, they completed 11.76% of the class assignments. The student would be refunded 50% of the tuition cost.

For students from Wisconsin, Maryland, Georgia, Oregon, or Arizona, state laws apply. For students enrolled through the cpacredits.com program, no refund is allowed after the first two weeks.

Students who withdraw from a course prior to submitting the first assignment, or who are administratively withdrawn for non-submission of assignments, will be charged an administrative fee of \$99.

Course withdrawal may impact financial aid eligibility. A financial aid counselor is available to discuss this decision.

Upper Iowa University is required to use a pro-rata schedule to determine the amount of Title IV aid the student has earned at the time of withdrawal. If financial aid funds have been released to the student because of a credit balance on the student's account at Upper Iowa University, the student may be required to repay some or all of the amount released to the student. This policy is subject to federal regulations. Contact the Financial Aid Office for details.

Withdrawing from a course in progress may result in significant student account charges. Consult with the Business Office before withdrawing. For more information on financial aid implications, go to uiu.edu/financialaid.

Administrative Withdrawal (AW)

A grade of AW (administrative withdrawal) is recorded for any course from which a student is administratively withdrawn. **At least one complete assignment/unit must be received and verified by the instructor within the first 60 days of the enrollment period or the student will be administratively withdrawn from the course.** Students who are administratively withdrawn for non-submission of assignments, will be charged an administrative fee of \$99. Non-Attendance (NA): Never attended grades are not applicable to the Self-Paced Degree Program.

Academic Accommodations

It is the policy of Upper Iowa University to ensure equal access to educational and co-curricular activities to students with disabilities as mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. A student seeking accommodations should contact the Director of Student Accessibility Services as early in the session as possible. In order to receive accommodations, students are required to disclose their disability to the Director by completing an application for services that can be found on the Student Accessibility Webpage. In addition to the application packet, the student is required to submit supporting documentation. Submit these to the Student Accessibility Services Office either in person or by email/Fax. A brief interview, in-person, by phone or virtually, with the Director will confirm or deny the accommodations requested. The Student Accessibility Services Office will email accommodation letters to the appropriate professor, the student, and the student's advisor. Additionally, students should work cooperatively with their instructors throughout the session to make sure that their accommodations are appropriate and effective.

Upper Iowa University (UIU) provides closed captioning/transcriptions in acknowledgment of the Americans Disability Act, Rehabilitation Act, and various state laws. The information displayed is computer generated and not reviewed before being published. UIU makes no representations or warranties and expressly disclaims any responsibility or liability with respect to any errors or omissions in, or the accuracy, reliability, timeliness, or completeness of, any information that appears in a closed caption or transcript.

Contact the Director at (563) 425-5949, accessibility@uiu.edu or stop by the office on the 2nd floor of the Student Center, Office of Student Life, Room 229.

Emergency Directives: (Fire, Natural Disaster, Threat on campus, etc.)

In accordance with Upper Iowa University's emergency management plan, any student that requires assistance in the event of an emergency (Fire, natural disaster, threat on campus) is responsible for notifying their instructor of the need for assistance. (Evacuation, and/or indoor safety protocols) This information will be held confidential and only needed in the unlikely event that there is an emergency.

