

Oklahoma State University

Spring Semester 2015
January 12 – May 1, 2015

COURSE:	PHIL 1213—702	Philosophies of Life
TIME/LOC:	TR	9:00 — 10:15 a.m. LSE 215
INSTRUCTOR:	Dr. Marty H. Heitz (o) 744-9235 Murray Hall 265	Email: marty.heitz@okstate.edu Office Hours: MW, 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. & by appt.
TA:	Brian Curtis (o) 744-0439 Murray Hall 270	Email: brian.curtis@okstate.edu Office Hours: TR, 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. & by appt.
TEXTBOOKS:	<i>Freedom from the Known</i> , by Jiddu Krishnamurti. FFK <i>Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance</i> , by Robert M. Pirsig. ZAMM <i>The Book: On the Taboo Against Knowing Who You Are</i> , by Alan Watts. TB	
ATTACHMENT:	http://academicaffairs.okstate.edu/faculty-a-staff	

Description

“Introductory ethics and social philosophy. Moral decision-making, the good life, social values, freedom and responsibility.” This course will focus on the process of philosophic inquiry in connection with what it means to live a life that is free, vitally present, peaceful and loving.

Class Format

This class will be conducted utilizing a blend of lecture and class discussion. For at least the first several weeks we will meet as a full class, following this syllabus, but we may re-evaluate the style of the class we may wish to change the format to include group discussions or other group work in addition to lecture and discussion.

Course Requirements

- Regular attendance, as well as coming to class on time and staying the full period, is expected in order to complete the course.
- All reading assignments and written work are to be done before class meetings—late papers will not be accepted.
- All cellular phones, pagers, beepers and other such electronic equipment are to be turned **off** during class periods (with the exception of the direct permission of the instructor).

Grading

• Quizzes (7 @ 30 pts each, <i>lowest dropped</i>)	180 points
• Reflective Inquiry Journals (4 submissions @ 40 pts each)	160 points
• Individual Meeting / Dialogue (1 st required, 2 nd for extra credit)	20 points
• Movie Essay (<i>Harold & Maude</i>)	<u>40 points</u>
	TOTAL = 400 points

Grade Distribution

A=360—400, B=320—359, C=280—319, D=240—279, F=239 and below

On Grading

The above distribution reflects a grade distribution worth 10% of the overall available points. While that distribution will **not** be less than 10% (or, 40 point spread per letter grade), it may be greater. That is, there may be a curve depending on the performance of the students. There are no preset limits to the numbers of A's or B's, etc., but the lower point limits of the grades may drop, depending on the *final* and overall point totals. All quizzes, journals and the movie essay will be graded according to the above 10% distribution, and the instructor cannot know, until **all** the materials have been graded, whether there will be a curve, and how large any such curve may be. Any student whose overall point total puts him or her on a line between grades will be evaluated according to the following criteria: (1) whether the student showed signs of improvement during the course; (2) whether the student made efforts to improve his/her grades; and (3) whether the student actively participated in group discussions and constructively added to those discussions. (A good attendance record may also be considered.)

Class Attendance and Participation

An attendance sheet will be passed around at the beginning of each class meeting, though attendance is not graded. While attendance is not required, students are expected to participate. Participation means, firstly, being prepared for class discussion and practicing *active listening*. Any student who fails to participate with *at least* his or her quiet attention, will receive a warning the first time—any repeated lapse may result in a **20-point** penalty. Such failure to participate includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the following: writing or reading material not related to class; disrupting the class unduly by talking, whispering, or exchanging jokes and or notes; indulging in any behavior deemed rude or offensive by the instructor or sleeping.

Individual Meeting / Dialogue

All students must meet individually with the instructor *once* during the first half of the semester, no later than *Friday, March 6th*. This is not an evaluation interview, but rather an opportunity for the instructor to become more acquainted with the student and speak to him or her about the journals or quizzes, as well as to help the student prepare for upcoming assignments and discuss reading and/or lecture material. It is the responsibility of the student to make the appointment. *After March 6th* students may, for 20 points extra credit, come and see either the instructor or the teaching assistant for a second interview, *at least 2 weeks after* the initial interview and no later than *Friday, May 1*. Students **cannot** make up a missed first interview after March 6th and **cannot** do an interview for extra credit if s/he did not complete the first, required interview.

Quizzes

Approximately every other week, during the last 15 minutes of class, students will take a quiz covering the previous two weeks' material *primarily*, though questions pertaining to previous material will at times appear (particularly when we are continuing with a particular author or text). Study guides will be distributed to students (as well as uploaded onto D2L) that will offer helpful definitions or explanations to the reading, offer questions for students to reflect on (and possibly utilize in the reflective inquiry journals; see below), as well as present more substantial questions that students are expected to be able to respond to by the time of the next quiz (these questions will be marked as "Study Questions"). The format may vary, but each quiz *will contain* short essay-type questions drawn from the study questions on the study guide/s. Each quiz will be worth 30 points and the lowest quiz score will be *dropped* (missed quizzes can count as such). Students may *only* make up missed quizzes with the instructor's permission, and if a student cannot take a quiz s/he is advised to contact the instructor ASAP.

Reflective Inquiry Journals

Every four weeks of the semester (see schedule for due dates) students must compose a reflective inquiry journal worth 40 points, for a total of four in all. These journals are designed to be a forum in which students may explore and personally reflect on various practices and ideas as presented in the course. Students are free to choose topics, but all topics chosen should relate directly to themes or concerns covered in our class discussions and/or readings. The criteria used in journal evaluation will be the following four (though *please see note below*): **F**orm, meaning fulfillment of formal requirements (see below), 10 points; **R**elevance, which includes depth of relationship to class lecture/discussion or relevant philosophy, 15 points; and **D**epth, which means the depth of reflection shown, or how well the student inquires into the topic using the tools and themes explored and developed in class, 15 points. Formal requirements include all of the following: (1) page length (2-3 pages, or **2 full** pages, *minimum*), with pages stapled together and **NO** paper clips, dog-eared pages, report covers or binders; (2) papers must be typed and double-spaced with appropriate font and margins (e.g., 12 point Times New Roman with 1 inch margins, or, approximately 350-375 words per page); (3) journals must have a title page designating the journal number, the student's name and the date; (4) all text references and quotations must be appropriately cited—for our class books, the abbreviation and page number will suffice; (5) all quotations must be **accurately quoted**, and any changes or deletions must follow standard form; (6) all text titles and foreign words or phrases must be *italicized*; (7) quotations of 4 or more lines must be indented and single-spaced; and (8) proof-reading is expected (hand-written corrections, within reason, are acceptable).

NOTE! For reasons which are directly relevant to the themes of this course and which will be discussed in class, **students will not receive a grade on journals 1 & 2 until after the submission of journal 3, but prior to the submission due date for journal 4.** The instructor will keep a record of journal grades following the above four criteria for journals 1 & 2 and **two different** criteria will be used in the evaluation of journals 3 & 4, such criteria to be announced and discussed in class. This is understandably both unorthodox and challenging, but the primary intent is to stimulate *original, reflective inquiry* (first and foremost, perhaps, inquiry on the purpose and meaning of grades!).

Movie Essay

All students must write a **3** page (minimum) reflective essay on the movie *Harold and Maude*, to be shown in class on Tuesday, March 10th (please come 5 minutes early and expect to stay 10 minutes late). Students will briefly re-present a specific theme or topic from the movie and then personally reflect on that theme. Students are **NOT** to write a synopsis of the film nor speak to more than **2 related** ideas or themes. Movie essays are due **March 26**, and must follow the general format of the journals (typed, double-spaced, etc.). The movie will be available in my office in Murray Hall for viewing if any student cannot attend class on March 10th. (A computer lab for viewing is available to students.)

Reading Schedule, 1213-702: Spring 2015

<u>Week</u>		<u>Date</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Assignments</u>
1	January	13 15	Introduction ZAMM, Chapters 1 & 2	
2		20 22	ZAMM, Chapters 3 - 5 ZAMM, Chapters 6 & 7	
3		27 29	FFK, Chapter 1 (read it twice!!) FFK, Chapter 2	Quiz #1
4	February	3 5	FFK, Chapters 3 - 5 FFK, Chapters 6 - 9	Journal One Due
5		10 12	ZAMM, Chapters 8 - 10 ZAMM, Chapter 11	Quiz #2
6		17 19	ZAMM, Chapters 12 & 13 ZAMM, Chapters 14 & 15	
7		24 26	TB, Chapter 1 TB, Chapter 2	Quiz #3
8	March	3 5	TB, Chapter 3 TB, Chapter 4	Journal Two Due
9		10 12	Movie: <i>Harold and Maude</i> Discussion, <i>Harold and Maude</i>	Quiz #4
10		17 19	SPRING BREAK, NO CLASS!! SPRING BREAK, NO CLASS!!	
11		24 26	ZAMM, Chapters 16 - 17 ZAMM, Chapter 18	Movie Essay Due
12	April	31 2	ZAMM, Chapters 19 - 20 ZAMM, Chapters 21 - 23	Quiz #5
13		7 9	ZAMM, Chapters 24 - 25 ZAMM, Chapter 26	
14		14 16	FFK, Chapters 10 - 12 FFK, Chapters 13 - 16	Quiz #6 & Journal Three
15		21 23	ZAMM, Chapters 27 - 29 ZAMM, Chapters 30 - 32	
16		28 30	TB, Chapter 5 TB, Chapter 6	Quiz #7

****Journal Four due Wednesday, May 6th by 4:00 pm****
Journals are to be dropped in the instructor's mailbox in Murray 246

Oklahoma State University is committed to the maintenance of the highest standards of integrity and ethical conduct of its members. This level of ethical behavior and integrity will be maintained in this course. Participating in a behavior that violates academic integrity (e.g., unauthorized collaboration, plagiarism, multiple submissions, cheating on examinations, fabricating information, helping another person cheat, unauthorized advance access to examinations, altering or destroying the work of others, and fraudulently altering academic records) will result in your being sanctioned. Violations may subject you to disciplinary action including the following: receiving a failing grade on an assignment, examination or course, receiving a notation of a violation of academic integrity on your transcript (F!), and being suspended from the University. You have the right to appeal the charge. Contact the Office of Academic Affairs, 101 Whitehurst, 405-744-5627, academicintegrity.okstate.edu.