

INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

PHILOSOPHY 101

Hunter College

Lecturer: Fernando Zapata

Course description and objectives

This course is intended as a general introduction to philosophy. Philosophy, as a discipline, can be defined by the fundamental problems that it addresses, which relate to various concerns in human life. Philosophy, construed in this manner, is the discipline that considers and proposes how human beings ought to live, reflects on how knowledge of oneself and the world is possible, and investigates the nature of reality. The first objective of this course is to familiarize students with several prominent figures in Western philosophy, their ideas and works, and the main distinctions between the fields of ethics, epistemology, and metaphysics within this tradition. The second objective of this course is to enable students to discern the philosophical relevance of certain contemporary issues, and to make reasoned arguments in regard to them.

Course requirements

Grades for this course are determined by a) attendance and participation in class (10%), b) one (three-page) paper (20%), c) a midterm examination (35%) and d) a final examination (35%).