**Course Syllabus**

1. Course Code: TU 113 Course Title: Fundamentals of Philosophy and Religions
2. Semester/Academic Year: 2/2018

Date and Time: Tuesday 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Classroom: SA 207

1. Instructor:
	1. Dr. Girard Brenneman
	2. Office: TBA
	3. Office Hours: By appointment
	4. Contact Information: spdtu113@gmail.com
2. Course Description: This course focuses on some of the central problems of philosophy. Questions we will consider include: What is good reasoning? What is the difference between philosophy and religion? Does God exist? What is the relation between religion and morality? What is the best way to live? What is the relation between morality and self-interest? Do factors that are independent of anyone’s say-so, beliefs, or attitudes make actions morally right? What is the best form of government? What is justice? Under what conditions is the basic structure of society just? What is fair equality of opportunity? Do talented, hard-working people deserve the high pay their talents and hard work command in the marketplace? What is knowledge? Does all of our knowledge come from the senses?
3. Course Objectives:
* To engage in philosophical inquiry on a broad range of topics such as morality, religion, knowledge, and the nature of the good life and the just society.
* To enable students to distinguish good reasoning from bad reasoning.
* To improve students’ critical thinking, reading and writing skills through the use of essay exams and primary sources in the literature.
1. Teaching Materials and Resources:
	1. Required textbooks and readings (available as photocopies):

Critias of Athens, *Sisyphus*

Fragments from the Greek Sophists

Mill, *Utilitarianism*

Plato, *Euthyphro*, *Apology*, and *Republic*

Rachels, “Does Morality Depend on Religion?”

Rahut, “Philosophical Tools”

Rawls *A Theory of Justice*

1. Teaching Plans (subject to change at my discretion):

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Week/Session | Date | Topics | Instructor |
| 1 | 15 January | Introduction | Girard Brenneman |
| 2 | 22 January | Logic |  |
| 3 | 29 January | Presocratics |  |
| 4 | 5 February | *Euthyphro* |  |
| 5 | 12 February | *Euthyphro* |  |
| 6 | 19 February | Sophists | Public Holiday |
| 7 | 26 February | *Apology* |  |

The midterm exam is scheduled for Tuesday 5 March from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

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| 9 | 12 March | *Republic* |  |
| 10 | 19 March | *Republic* |  |
| 11 | 26 March | *Republic* |  |
| 12 | 2 April | *Utilitarianism* |  |
| 13 | 9 April | *Utilitarianism* |  |
| 14 | 23 April | *A Theory of Justice* |  |
| 15  | 30 April | *A Theory of Justice* |  |
| 16 | 7 May | TBA |  |

The final exam is scheduled for Tuesday 14 May from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

1. Evaluation Methods:

Midterm exam 45%

Final exam 55%

*The following will be* **a tentative guideline** *for the grade distribution in the class: 80-100, A; 75-79, B+; 70-74, B; 65-69, C+; 60-64, C; 55-59, D+;50-54, D; below 50, F.*

Here is the grading rubric:

A = excellent. No mistakes, well-written, and distinctive in some way or other.

B = good. No mistakes, well-written, but not distinctive in any way.

C = OK. Some errors, but a basic grasp of the material.

D = poor. Several errors. A tenuous grasp of the material.

F = failing. Problematic on all fronts including no real grasp of the material or a complete lack of effort.

1. Class policies:

I expect you to arrive on time, and to remain for the duration of the entire class (that means you must return and remain after the break). If in the end you are on the border between two course grades, perfect attendance and a consistent record of thoughtful in-class comments, engaged listening and proper preparation will bump you to the higher grade.

Please do not use electronic devices during class, unless you are taking notes.

I reserve the right to reseat any students who disrupt the class, and to take other disciplinary measures as warranted, including temporarily confiscating mobile phones.