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# Introduction to Philosophy

PHI 101 – Wesleyan College

Syllabus

Summer 2023, May 29 - June 30

## Professor Contact Information

**Professor:** TBA

**Office Hours:** by appointment

**Contact Information:** TBA

**Text/ISBN:**

**Full Class:**

Forrest E. Baird, *From Plato to Derrida Sixth Edition*

Michele Foucault, *The Foucault Reader*

Walter Dignolo and Catherine Walsh, *On Decoloniality*

Supplemental Readings will be provided by the instructor

**Small Group (each group picks one, multiple groups can read each of the selections):**

Stefano Harney and Fred Moten, *The Undercommons*

Sara Ahmed, *Living a Feminist Life*

Judith Butler, *The Force of Non-violence*

Walidah Imarisha, adrienne marie brown, Sheree Renee Thomas, *Octavia's Brood (with option to also read Octavia Butler, Parable of the Sower )*

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## Policies and Procedures

### Course Goals

To introduce students to methodologies for the critical study of philosophy, and to study a variety of approaches to answering metaphysical, existential, and ethical questions pertinent in history and today.

### Credit Hours

3

### Student Learning Outcomes

To Be Expanded on in Collaboration with the Class

1. For students to gain introductory knowledge and be able to identify the key concepts of primary thinkers in philosophy.



2. For students to challenge and develop working definitions of philosophy as well as an appreciation of the cross-cultural dimension of philosophical thinking and the role this thinking plays in self-development.
3. For students to articulate their own philosophical ethos, and to communicate such ethos effectively in written and verbal form.
4. For students to apply philosophical ideas to their everyday lives in order to help make more meaning out of their experiences.
5. For students to apply philosophical ideas to the socio-political world in which they live so as to understand it more deeply and to challenge it more effectively.

### **Participation and Grading**

Your grade in this course will be determined by your performance in the following categories:

<b>Assignments</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Participation	10%
Midterm	20%
Final Exam	30%
Discussion	20%
Assignments	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

### **Grading Scale:**

The grading scale in the class will be as follows:

- A=90-100%
- B=80-89%
- C=70-79%
- D=60-69%
- F=59% And Below

You may track your running point total throughout the term via our course site. Please be aware, however, that the course grade you see in the site will reflect only assignments and activities you have already completed and that your professor has graded.

### **Academic Integrity**

Wesleyan's College expects student to show integrity in all of their work. Cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, inventing or falsifying information, turning in work for more than one class without authorization, or helping someone else are all violations of the Honor Code and are not tolerated. Any of these forms of cheating will not be tolerated and will be grounds for a grade of zero on the exam or assignment and a grade of F for the course, in addition to any penalties imposed by the Provost.



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## Potential Changes to Course Schedule

The following week-to-week schedule is a general plan for the course. Deviations may be necessary and will be announced in advance via announcement and/or e-mail. Students should check their course site announcements and emails at least once every twenty-four hours throughout the term to watch for updates regarding this course.

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## Course Schedule

### Week 1

Introduction to Philosophical Thinking and the Liberation of Philosophy  
The Liberation of Philosophy and Platonic Philosophy  
Philosophy and the Social Order

### Week 2

Philosophy and the Life of Faith  
Cartesian vs. Process and Pantheist Philosophy  
Posthumanist Philosophy

### Week 3

Kant and Hegel  
Marxism  
Continental Philosophy

### Week 4

Critical Race Theory  
Postcolonial and Decolonial Philosophies  
Queer and Gender Philosophies

### Week 5

Critical Race Theory  
Frontiers of Philosophy Conversation

## Civility in the Academic Community

Students, faculty, and staff are expected to treat one another with respect in all interactions both during class meetings and on the Moodle course site. Rude, disruptive and/or disrespectful behaviors as determined by a



faculty member interfere with other students' rights and with the professor's ability to teach. Therefore, any student exhibiting unacceptable behaviors during a class meeting or Moodle collaborative activity will be asked to leave and will be counted absent for that class period or activity. Failure to cooperate with this process will result in disciplinary action that may include withdrawal from the class or dismissal from the College. Violations will be reported to the Provost.

### **Disabilities Statement**

Wesleyan College is committed to equal education, full participation and access to facilities for all students. Any student who requires reasonable academic accommodations, use of auxiliary aids or facility access for a class must first register with Disability Resources by contacting Jill Amos, Director of Disability and Advocacy Services, [jamos@wesleyancollege.edu](mailto:jamos@wesleyancollege.edu) or (478) 757-5219. If reasonable accommodations are established, students should request Accommodation Letters from Disability Resources then schedule an appointment to meet with the professor to determine how the accommodations will be implemented for each class as early in the semester as possible. Accommodations require advance notice to implement and will not be retroactively administered for the semester. Accommodations that decrease the integrity of a course will not be approved.

### **Privacy in Teaching & Learning Spaces**

In order to promote an environment in which ideas may be freely expressed, the interior offices; in-person and virtual classrooms; and Moodle course sites at Wesleyan are private spaces. The unauthorized creation of photographic images, audio recordings, or video recordings of students or faculty in these spaces is considered to be disruptive behavior which may result in a student's removal from class according to the professor's discretion. The distribution of unauthorized images or recordings, or of class meeting recordings shared by a professor for instructional purposes, without the express written permission of the College is strictly prohibited and is subject to disciplinary action by the Provost of the College.