Introduction to Philosophy, Honors: Spring 2019
PHIL121: 3 credit hours

Professor: Shanti Chu

Office Hours: M: 11-11:30am, 5-7pm
T: 2-2:30pm, 5-7pm
W: 11-11:30am, 5-7pm
TH: 2-2:30pm

Email: SChu@clcillinois.edu
Phone: 847-543-2960

Communication:
The fastest way to communicate with me is via email at schu@clcillinois.edu. I typically respond within 24 hours. In the email please state which course you are in since I have many students in different courses. If I do not respond to an email immediately, please do not fret since I receive many emails throughout the day.

- You can address me as Professor Chu or Shanti. Thank you!

Required Texts:
2) Siddhartha / The Dhammapada (New Directions Books), 0811218503
3) Sartre Existentialism is a Humanism: Yale University Press 0300115466
4) West, Race Matters: Random House 978-0-679749-86-8

For the texts that are provided as PDFs you are required to print them out and bring them to class. Part of being prepared for class means that you need to bring the reading to class. If you don’t have the reading with you your participation grade will be negatively affected.

Course Description:
This course discusses the ideas of major philosophers concerning questions of human knowledge, logic, moral values, political and social philosophy, and existentialism. Attempts are made to get students to contemplate their own answers to these questions.

Course Outcomes: In this course, we will explore philosophical issues focused on human identity, human nature, and the human condition at the intersections of contemporary social justice. We will explore these issues through utilizing a wide variety of texts ranging from more traditional philosophical texts such as Plato’s Phaedo and Descartes Meditations which focus on what is reality and truth to more contemporary texts that directly challenge these traditional texts such as Serrano’s “Transwoman Manifesto” and West’s Race Matters, which analyze gender, sex, and race and its impacts upon people from multiple backgrounds and embodiments. We are also exploring Eastern Philosophy and its intersections with Western Philosophy by exploring and reading Buddhism’s foundational text, The Dhammapada. By connecting your own lived
experience with the texts we read, the concepts we discuss and the questions we explore will prove to be very insightful for you and all of your peers.

Philosophy is a discipline that is explicitly connected to your own lived experience rather than being separated from it. Philosophy can also illustrate our limitations such as our limited perspectives, which can be painful, but ultimately challenge us to become more critical and open-minded thinkers. **If you feel challenged, frustrated, etc. you are on the right track to becoming a more critical thinker. Philosophical readings are meant to be read multiple times in order to be truly understood.**

Questions that this course will help you delve into are: What does it mean to know? What is Enlightenment? Is there a human nature or are we mainly socialized to exist in a certain fashion? What is the difference between the mind and the soul and can they work together to help us know and feel? What does it mean to have an identity or a sense of self? What is equality? What is gender and how does it impact everyone? What is race and how does it impact everyone? How can we create a more just society? How does our embodiment impact our lives?

**As honors students you are expected to take more of an active, engaged role with your learning.** This course will require consistent, active engagement from you so it can be more discussion oriented. If you are struggling with a concept, it is your responsibility to come to my office hours and discuss it with me in order to be a truly active participant in the classroom.

While these works are challenging, they are accessible for individuals who have not had much experience with reading philosophical works, which is why this will be a challenging, but interesting and relevant course. **It is important to remember that reading philosophy and writing philosophy papers are challenging and that they can be done effectively only if you are committed to the reading and genuinely interested in the work/questions that the readings are approaching.** I am definitely here as a resource so please ask me questions and send me emails, etc. because I am here to help you.

**Honors Program:**
Welcome to the Honors Section of Introduction to Philosophy. You are each eligible to receive a scholarship of $50 a credit hour - which will be awarded 6-7 weeks into the semester. If you withdraw from the class, or receive a grade lower of "B," then you will lose the scholarship. In order to remain in the program, you need to maintain an overall 3.0 GPA and receive no less than a "B" in each of your honors sections. Please contact Nick Schevera at 847-543-2959 or email com409@clcillinois.edu if you have any questions about this process.

**Course Objectives:**
- Students will develop critical thinking skills
- Students will be able to logically support a position
- Students will apply philosophical concepts to social justice issues and their own lived experience
- Students will understand the practical importance of philosophy and use it to understand themselves, their communities, and their world
- Students will become aware of their own perspective and biases when interpreting knowledge and experience
Teaching Methodology: This course will be a mixture of interactive lecture and discussion involving small group work and larger group work. Reading assignments and writing assignments will be completed outside of the classroom.

Attendance Policy:
- You are allowed three absences throughout the semester without it affecting your grade. I do not need to know the reason for your absence and all will be weighed equally. (A total of five absences will result in a 0% for your attendance/participation grade.) If you have more than eight absences, your overall final grade will be progressively lowered by ten percentage points and will automatically have a 0 for your participation grade.
- If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to get the notes/information that you missed from another student. You may also come to office hours to discuss the material.

Attendance does not only mean being physically present, but also mentally present, no cell phones, laptops, i-objects, etc. please come prepared with the text, no sleeping. If you are using your cell phone, laptop, sleeping, etc. (unless otherwise instructed) you will be asked to leave and will have a zero for participation that week. You are also expected to be on-time for class and to stay for the whole class. Failure to do so will result in being marked absent for the day. It is extremely disrespectful and rude to do any of the above activities and shows a lack of effort and participation on your behalf. You need to schedule appointments around your classes. Participation includes engagement in class discussions and coming prepared to answer questions during lecture. The nature of this class is discussion, which is why participation is very important.
- It is the policy of our classroom to turn off all electronic forms of communication and entertainment, e.g., cell phones and notebook computers, unless specifically directed otherwise. If you cannot abide by that then you will be asked to leave as it is disrespectful, disruptive and rude.

Method of Evaluation: Grades are calculated out of the total number of points in this course: 310 points total

Participation: Out of 70 points (average of your weekly participation points), attendance (not only being physically present, but also mentally present, no cell phones, laptops, please come prepared, no sleeping). If you are using your cell phone, laptop, sleeping, etc. you will be asked to leave and will have a zero for participation that week. It is extremely disrespectful and rude to do any of the above activities and shows a lack of effort and participation on your behalf. If you are late or are not present for the whole class (for example: leave class early, come to class late), your participation grade will fall as you will be marked absent. It is your responsibility to schedule things around your classes instead of during your classes. Participation includes engagement in class discussions and coming prepared to answer questions during lecture. This also includes BRINGING THE READING TO CLASS EVERYDAY. It is your responsibility to be prepared for the discussions so you can participate sufficiently. Failure to participate will lead to a zero in participation for the week.
- Your participation grade is a composite of the following criteria combined with attendance. An A is basically consistent participation in all 3 of these categories:
  - Active participation in interactive lecture: Response to questions asked by instructor, actively ask questions as well/relate them to your own lives.
Active participation in small group discussions: Dialogue/discussion with group participants, actively look for central quotes in the text to answer discussion questions.

Active participation in large group discussions/debates: Dialogue/discussion with peers, response to follow-up questions asked, reference to specific quotes in the text.

Guided Reading Questions: There will be 8 guided reading question due on the assigned reading material. You will choose one of the guided reading questions provided and submit a 1-paragraph response to it (typed) and submit it for the next class. Hard copies need to be submitted. If there is an issue with the printer, please email it to me before class to ensure that late points will not be taken off. These will be 5 points each, 40 points total.

Papers: You will have 2 required unit papers (at least 2 pages typed, 12 point font, times new roman, double spaced, 1 inch margins maximum) worth 25 points each, 50 points total - These will respond to a question that I post on Blackboard (“assignments”) and must include textual references/citations (specific quotes from the text with page numbers that you explain) in order to get any type of credit. The due dates for these papers are listed in the schedule.

Gender and Sexuality Fair Project: 30 points - The week of April 15th will be the Gender and Sexuality Fair - you will be asked to complete a project connecting our existentialist unit on Gender/Sexuality to the Gender/Sexuality Fair.

Presentation and Paper: (50 points) You will be responsible for presenting on a reading of your choice (from the syllabus) to the rest of the class and writing a paper on that topic. The presentation needs to include a visual (Powerpoint, Prezi, handout, video, blog, etc.). You will also be responsible for leading the discussion. You will receive more specific instructions for this.

Final Blog Post Paper and Presentation: Out of 70 points (40 points for the blog post and 30 for the presentation). Instructions/directions will be given during the appropriate time. You will have the opportunity to write a blog post relating to our units on identity (class, gender, sexuality, race). You will need to be concise, yet creative in your application of course material to contemporary issues in a way that can be understood by a wide audience. Guidelines will be provided for this assignment.

Criteria and Process for Determining Final Grades:
I calculate your final grades based off of the number of points you earned and divide that by 310 points. Here are the minimum points needed for each grade: Out of 310 points
A (90-100%): 280
B (80-89%): 250
C (70-79%): 219
D (60-69%): 186
F (Below 60%): Anything below 186 points

Late Work: Each assignment must be turned in on the day that the paper is due. I will not accept late papers unless there are special circumstances that need to be discussed with me before the assignment is due.

Academic Integrity: Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Whenever you quote or paraphrase from a book, the internet, a lecture, or other source, you must
cite that source and use quotes if appropriate. Please review the College’s Academic Honesty Policy.

Note on Plagiarism: I am very strict about plagiarism and will not accept it. I use SafeAssign for every assignment submitted so you need to be aware of your responsibilities regarding appropriately citing sources you are using. Even if you are using a website to help you understand the material and you end up using an idea from the website without citing it, you are plagiarizing. If you are having trouble understanding the material, reread the material, come to my office hours, and engage with the text more rather than looking at a misinformed website online and copying from it without citing it. If you plagiarize, you will receive a zero on the assignment, which can lead to failing the class depending on the severity of plagiarism and the assignment.

Plagiarism and Academic Integrity: Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this class.
Plagiarism includes:
1. Downloading papers from the web.
2. Copying parts of web pages into your paper.
3. Quoting from a book or article without citation.
4. Paraphrasing an author’s work without credit.
5. Taking someone else’s ideas and claiming them as your own.
If you are unclear about how to cite sources see me. Ignorance is not an excuse for plagiarism.
If you are caught plagiarizing, you will fail the paper and the class and the incident will be added to your permanent CLC record.

CLC Policies:

Religious Observance

The College of Lake County accommodates individual students' religious observances in regard to admissions, class attendance, scheduling of examinations, and work. To request accommodation, students who expect to miss classes, examination, or other assignments as a consequence of their religious observance should provide me advance notice of the date or dates they will be absent.

Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy (SRRP)

The Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy (SRRP) and associated procedures describe students’ rights and responsibilities, as well as examples of misconduct inconsistent with the academic environment at CLC. For more information, refer to Student Rights and Responsibilities Procedures (PDF).

Student Records/FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) gives students certain rights with respect to their education records. Please see the CLC catalog for more details.
Disclosure of Classroom Recordings

When appropriate, accommodations may allow for a student to record or capture classroom instruction and discussion. Students who qualify for such accommodations are required to abide by the terms and conditions of the College regarding the appropriate use of such services and/or devices. This means that, pursuant to 720 ILCS 5/14-2(2014), all students are hereby notified that all course content may be recorded without further announcement and without individual consent.

Withdrawing from Class

If you plan to discontinue attending your class anytime during the semester, you are responsible for officially dropping the class online. Grades of W will only be assigned to students who drop themselves. Tuition and fee refunds will be issued to eligible students based upon the effective date of withdrawal, which is recorded in the system at the time the student drops the class.

Instructors are required to report noticeable non-attendance of students. If you discontinue attending class and are dropped by the institution, the following grades will be assigned:

WN – Withdrawal of students who never attended – no impact on GPA

WS – Withdrawal of students who stopped attending – no impact on GPA

FW – Withdrawal of student who stopped attending after the official withdrawal deadline (68%) and instructor deems failing - impact on GPA is equivalent to a grade of F.

Last day to Withdraw from class with Refund and No Grade and without the instructor’s permission is (02/12/19).

Last date to Withdraw with Grade is (04/18/19).

In order to withdraw from this class after this date, the student must have a passing grade at the time the student is requesting a withdrawal from the instructor. The instructor will then withdraw the student.
Title IX

The College of Lake County seeks to provide an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. If you have been the victim of sexual harassment/misconduct/assault, we encourage you to report this. If you report this to a faculty member, they must notify our college's Title IX coordinator about the basic facts of the incident. For more information about your options at CLC, refer to Title IX Procedures (PDF). You can also contact Teresa Aguinaldo, Title IX Coordinator at com401@clcillinois.edu or by calling (847) 543-2288.

Non-Discrimination

The College of Lake County is committed to maintaining an environment free from harassment and discrimination for everyone and does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or any other protected status. Further, the College does not discriminate on the basis of sex in any educational, employment, or extracurricular activity. Sexual misconduct, as described in this policy, is a form of sexual harassment, which is a form of discrimination and is prohibited by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. Domestic Violence, dating violence and stalking are also prohibited conduct as defined by the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act, as amended by the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013.

Student Resources: Please remember that CLC has a plethora of resources for you at your disposal!

Tutoring (includes Math and Writing Center)

Currently enrolled CLC students can use the Tutoring Center, with locations at the Grayslake Campus (1st Floor of the Library), the Lakeshore Campus (S209), and the Southlake Campus (V212). This service is provided through the student fee. Tutors in the Writing Center work with students at any stage of the writing process – from generating ideas to polishing a final draft. The Math Center provides tutoring in mathematics, sciences, and math related courses. The secret to success is knowing when to seek help. Going to the Tutoring Center can help with your success at CLC.
### Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

Personal/mental health counseling is available at Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) in A151 at the Grayslake Campus or call (847) 543-2032. Please note: This location will likely change during the Fall semester. Updates will be sent to the campus community as they are available. For a crisis or emergency outside of regular business hours, please call (847) 543-2032 and press #1 for "Crisis" and follow the prompts. When you reach the operator, ask for an after-hours "CYN" crisis worker to be paged.

### Counseling, Advising, and Transfer Center (CATC)

The College of Lake County provides services to assist students in making the transition to college life, get oriented to the college environment, and reach their academic and career goals. Student Development Counselors and Advisors are available via the Counseling, Advising and Transfer Center (CATC) at all three campuses: Grayslake, Room A124, (847) 543-2060; Lakeshore, Room N211, (847)543-2186; and Southlake, room V130, (847)543-6502.

### Career and Job Placement Center (CJPC)

Career and Job Placement Center helps CLC students learn the skills to prepare job search materials (cover letter, resume assistance), find student employment jobs on campus, and job leads, interview successfully, network and find an internship. Career Specialists are available to meet with students individually. Contact 847-543-2059, or stop by the Grayslake Campus, Room A111 to make an appointment to get a jumpstart on your CAREER!

### Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD)

CLC prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in its services, programs, activities, and employment. The Office of Students with Disabilities (OSD) provides academic accommodation, information and support to students with disabilities. Individuals with disabilities may be afforded the following classroom accommodations, including but not limited to extended time for exams, in-class note-takers, interpreters, and readers. OSD is located in Room B171. Additional information may be obtained by calling the OSD office at (847) 543-2055 or email: osd@clcillinois.edu. If you have already contacted the Office for Students with Disabilities and have completed the Instructor Notification Form, please set a time to meet with me to discuss your needs.

### Women’s Center, LGBTQ+ Resource Center, Multicultural Resource Center, and Veterans Affairs

Stop by B113 (The Student Resource Center) Monday-Friday to check out
any of these resources/offices. For more information on general student services, please contact me at schu@clcillinois.edu and I can direct you to the correct individuals.

**CLC Safe Zone:**
As a means of increasing CLC’s commitment to open access and educational opportunity, CLC has actively participated in the national Safe Zone program since the fall semester of 2003. The national program represents an effort to address homophobia, heterosexism, and transphobia in schools and is intended to provide support for LGBTQIA+ students, faculty, and staff. The LGBTQIA+ Resource Center facilitated program tangibly identifies safe allies for LGBTQIA+ people in an effort to increase students’ academic success and retention. I hereby declare myself as such an ally, and this class as a Safe Zone.

It is CLC policy for students to use whatever bathroom they wish to use on campus. This policy is supported by the gender inclusive signs in front of every bathroom. There is also a single unit, gender neutral bathroom stall in the C-wing on the first floor (C160A).

*Please inform me if you have a name you prefer so that I may make changes to my records. Additionally, feel free to share the appropriate pronoun that you would like me to use when referring to you. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.*

If you wish to change your name on Blackboard to your preferred name, please contact the LGBTQ+ Resource Center, B113 D by calling 847-543-2529 or by emailing lgbtqcenter@clcillinois.edu.

**Inclusive Environment and Civility:**
Each student should feel welcome and encouraged to succeed in their academic goals. All students are expected to maintain a positive environment and should demonstrate respect for diversity, gender, sexuality, ability status, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, and culture during their interactions in this class. If you are disrespectful, threaten the professor and/or students, you will be asked to leave.

**Course Schedule:** This is a tentative schedule, there are likely to be some changes since readings may take more or less time than expected. Changes made will be announced in class or online. The text is due by the date it is listed by. It is your responsibility to keep up with the due dates.

**Monday, January 28th:** Introduction to course, What is Philosophy? Life goals?
**Wednesday, January 30th: Ancient Greece:** Plato’s “Allegory of the Cave” (PDF)
**Monday, February 4th:** *Phaedo*
**Wednesday, February 6th: Buddhism: Dhammapada* ch.1-6
**Monday, February 11th:** *Dhammapada* ch.7-13
**Wednesday, February 13th:** *Dhammapada* ch.14-20
**Monday, February 18th:** *Dhammapada Discussion* ch. 21-26
**Wednesday, February 20th: Cartesian Philosophy: Meditations 1-2 *
**Monday, February 25th: Meditations 3-4 *
**Wednesday, February 27th: Meditations 5-6 and Discussion**
Wednesday, March 6th: Continued “Estranged Labor” and “Thesis on Feuerbach” p.98-101
Monday, March 11th: Marx “Communist Manifesto” p.157-176 discussion and Communist Manifestoon
Wednesday, March 13th: Communism Acting Challenge and Discussion
Monday, March 18th: Jean Paul Sartre Existentialism is a Humanism, p.17-39
Wednesday, March 20th: Sartre Existentialism is a Humanism cont., and Existential Dilemma Role Playing Activity, Marxism Paper Due
Monday March 25th-March 28th: No Class, Spring Break
Monday, April 1st: Existentialism is a Humanism p.40-72
Wednesday, April 3rd: Feminist Theory/Queer Theory: Intro to Feminism and Simone de Beauvoir The Second Sex Introduction (PDF)
Monday, April 8th: The Second Sex Cont./ Bring a song to class about gender/sexuality
Wednesday, April 10th: Julia Serrano’s The Whipping Girl: Selected Readings (PDF), Monday April 15th: Sarah Ahmed on Queerness (PDF), Existentialist Gender/Sexuality Project Due this Week
Wednesday, April 17th: Moonlight
Monday, April 22nd: Moonlight and Discussion
Wednesday, April 24th: Critical Race Theory: Cornel West’s Race Matter: Preface, Introduction, and Ch.1
Monday, April 29th: Race Matters ch.5 and 7
Wednesday, May 1st: Speaker
Monday, May 6th: Race Matters ch. 8 and Epilogue
Wednesday, May 8th: Closing Discussion and Catch-up Day
Monday, May 13th: 12pm-1:50pm, Final Presentations - there is no Final Exam.