



COURSE INFORMATION

1. CONTACT INFORMATION

You can best reach the instructor (Peter B. M. Vranas) by email (vranas@wisc.edu). If you send an email by 2pm, you can expect a reply the same day. If you send an email after 2pm, you can expect a reply at the latest next morning by 6am.

2. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

	Grade component	Due	Graded	Weight
1	13 quizzes: Each quiz has a time limit of 15 min and consists of 8 true-false questions on all readings and videos assigned to the day on which the quiz is due. The worst 3 of the 13 quiz grades will be discarded.	11pm (available from 6am)	Upon submission (online)	50%
2	Term paper: Four double-spaced pages maximum, including notes and references. See handouts on the term paper.	11pm 6/15	11pm 6/22	50%
				100%

This is a 3-credit course. It carries the expectation that students will work on course learning activities on average for about 9 hours each day over the 15 days of the first 4-week summer session, for a total of 135 hours (45 hours per credit).

3. COURSE OBJECTIVES

The main course objectives are to help you develop:

- the ability to think critically about arguments;
- the ability to interpret complex texts accurately and analyze them logically;
- the ability to communicate precisely and concisely in both writing and speech;
- the ability to exchange reasons about controversial matters respectfully and with the aim of uncovering the truth;
- interpretative charity and intellectual honesty, which includes appropriate attribution to others of their ideas, and recognition and frankness about the limitations of one's own ideas.

In addition, the course tries to:

- help you become more open-minded by helping you realize that about every attempt to justify your positions is subject to powerful objections;
- help you realize that some positions are better justified than others, that one can give reasons for and against positions, that philosophy is not merely a matter of opinion;
- help you develop valuable skills by emphasizing original thinking, clarity, and precision.

4. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS

If you need special arrangements because (1) you have a disability or (2) you are observing some religious holidays or (3) you have work responsibilities, please let the instructor know. Students with disabilities may wish to contact the McBurney Disability Resource Center (<http://www.mcburney.wisc.edu>).