

You can contact me by email andrius-jonas.kulikauskas@vgtu.lt or after class.

My goals for our class are that:

- 1) **You learn to ask and investigate your own questions and support others, likewise.**
- 2) You gain skill at participating in creative learning with others, especially meaningful discussion.
- 3) You know yourself, your values, and know other people, as well.
- 4) You find a philosopher whose ideas can help you think about your question.
- 5) You gain a basic knowledge of the history of Western philosophy.
- 6) You improve your English and communication skills, both speaking and listening.

Overall, your grade will depend on the sophistication of your thinking in your investigation of your question. You will pass the class if you **participate** AND conduct a basic investigation by formulating your question (5), collecting relevant real life examples (6) and drawing meaningful conclusions (7). You will get a good grade if you can improve and validate your investigation by pursuing related questions (8), analyzing the strengths and weakness of your methodology (9) and developing a theory which makes sense of your results (10).

Your grade will depend on the following activities:

- 15%) Discussion before midterm. Average of your daily scores.
- 15%) Midterm report. You will write about your question and show how you are conducting a basic investigation by collecting real life examples and organizing them.
- 10%) Midterm exam. You will demonstrate that you wrote your midterm report.
- 15%) Discussion before final. Average of your daily scores.
- 25%) Final report. You will write about your question and your thorough investigation of it.
- 20%) Final exam. You will demonstrate that you wrote your final report.

Each week you will be assigned a reading that you should be ready to discuss.

You are required to come to every class, to participate in discussion and to respect your fellow participants. Our goal is not to debate but to make evident the variety of genuine views and consider how they might all fit together. Your total score for these discussions will be an average of your daily scores. It is important that you attend as many exercises as you can because you will have no option to make them up.

For each exercise you may typically receive the following score for the day:

- * 0 if you do not attend.
- * 5 if you attend but do not say anything meaningful, personal or original.
- * 8 if you speak meaningfully.
- * 10 if you speak meaningfully about the reading.
- * 15 if you speak meaningfully about the question that you are exploring.

You only need to speak once each day.

For extra credit, you will also work together to make a learning game to teach yourselves some basic facts about 10 great philosophers and their importance in the history of Western philosophy. We will dedicate one of our final classes for you to play your game. I will give you all up to 50% bonus to your discussion scores if you can show that you have learned interesting facts about each philosopher, why their ideas are important, and what countries and centuries they lived in.

You may not use your telephone or computer during class. You may not speak outside of the main conversation. This is so that we all respect our discussion. I may deduct points from your day's score if I feel you are disruptive. You are welcome to take notes or doodle.

If you have difficulty speaking or understanding my English or that of any student, please let me know. I am eagerly waiting to hear what you will have to say!