

ENGLISH: THEME – Spring / Fall

Instructor: Dr. Brian G. Rubrecht, Ph.D.

Class Meeting Information: Day: _____ Period: _____ Place: _____

Email: rubrecht@meiji.ac.jp

Webpage: <http://www.isc.meiji.ac.jp/~rubrecht/>

★ This syllabus supplements other university syllabi/information.

Class Outline:

Students will participate individually, in pairs, and in groups to learn about the history of Western philosophy. Theme is a content-based class that aims to have students acquire ability to do the following in English:

- 1. To understand and summarize the written and spoken arguments of others,**
- 2. To formulate well-developed and logical arguments, and convey them in a clear and concise manner to others,**
- 3. To obtain necessary information that will support their argument, and present the argument in a convincing manner, and**
- 4. To write an extended academic essay that has a clear structure and follows the rules of formal writing.**

Additionally, students will learn about the history of Western philosophy!

Class Materials:

- (1) notebook (paper): for taking class notes, memos of vocabulary, etc.
- (2) electronic or paper dictionary
- (3) file or binder for handouts **← VERY IMPORTANT!!!**
- (4) handouts (only one set per student)
- (5) **printed** quizzes (downloadable from the instructor's website)

Grading Explanation:

• Class Contribution 1: Attendance – 10%

Students receive 1 point for every class they attend. Also: *missing more than 3 lessons will result in course failure.*

• Class Contribution 2: Punctuality – 10%

You must come to class ON TIME. Students arriving 5 minutes after class begins will lose points (even 1 second late = late). **An excuse of a late train will not be accepted.** If you have special requirements that keep you from being punctual, you must inform me at the beginning of the semester.

• Class Contribution 3: Participation – 10%

This grade consists of participation and positive class attitude. It is ALSO about how well students work with others and using ENGLISH in class.

• Class Contribution 4: Responsibility – 10%

Students must be responsible (as adults) and participate in every lesson. This means **taking responsibility and being a good student!**

pay attention no sleeping have a good learning attitude
 actively learn bring all class materials
 keep file or binder organized take notes during lectures
 no smartphones, iPads, or laptops in view (without permission)

• **1,000-Word Report: 60%** Students must write a 1,000-word report in English. The use of AI, ChatGPT, or other such software ***is not allowed***. If it is suspected that ***any part*** of a report was written ***not in the student's own words***, then that report will automatically be given a zero and the student will fail. Using grammar and spelling check in Microsoft Word is OK.

The report is due in hardcopy + electronically by the ***start*** of class on the last class day of the semester. Students turning in late reports will receive a ZERO for the course. **繰り返します: late reports will NOT NOT NOT NOT BE ACCEPTED!!!**

• Confirmation Sheet – 5 points keep or lose from final grade

More will be discussed about the report later, but students will choose one philosopher discussed in class this semester. The report has three parts:

discuss their life **(250 words)**; explain that person's philosophy **(500 words)**; explain their impact or influence **(250 words)**

Reports will be written in academic English writing style with **references** and **citations** done in APA style. **Students who plagiarize will fail the course as well as all other courses they are enrolled in this semester.**

NOTE: Changes to assignments, grading, and percentages are possible! This is especially in the case of online classes or students not being responsible. Quizzes could become part of the grade for this class!

General Semester Schedule

(changes to this schedule are possible)

Lesson	Content	Lesson	Content
1	Introductions; Syllabus explanation	8	Philosophy lecture 7
2	Philosopher selection; Philosophy lecture 1; Paraphrasing practice	9	In-class discussion (review, report draft check)
3	Background: academic English writing; Philosophy lecture 2	10	Philosophy lecture 8
4	Background: references, citations, plagiarism; Philosophy lecture 3	11	Philosophy lecture 9
5	Philosophy lecture 4	12	Lecture on philosophy 10
6	Philosophy lecture 5	13	In-class discussion (review, report draft check)
7	Philosophy lecture 6	14	Class review, wrap-up, final reports due

Additional Information:

- ✔ Talk to me if you need help (email is OK).
- ✔ Absent students are ***still responsible for understanding class information and for doing assigned homework***. The “I did not know about it” excuse does not work. Please be an adult. Act responsibly. Ask your classmates or the instructor about missed lessons.
- ✔ Lying or cheating (in any course) = **course failure**.
- ✔ Following instructions in this class is for YOUR benefit. If you follow instructions, then you will be fine, so let’s enjoy our time together! 😊

