

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)
- no AI use like ChatGPT, Gemini, etc. (without permission)

• **1,000-Word Report: 60%** This is Waseda's requirement! The use of AI or translation software for *part* or *all* of the report = report = zero + the student fails. Just do YOUR BEST and write the report in YOUR ENGLISH. **Microsoft Word's grammar and spelling check = OK!**

The report is due in print version + by email by the **start** of class on the last class day of the semester. A late report = zero + the student fails.

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	Course/instructor introduction; syllabus explanation	8	Lecture on philosophy 7
2	Philosopher selection; lecture on philosophy 1	9	In-class discussion (review, report draft check); lecture on philosophy 8
3	Background: academic English writing; lecture on philosophy 2	10	Lecture on philosophy 9
4	Background: references, citations, plagiarism; lecture on philosophy 3	11	Lecture on philosophy 10
5	Lecture on philosophy 4	12	Lecture on philosophy 11
6	Lecture on philosophy 5	13	In-class discussion (review, report draft check); lecture on philosophy 12
7	Lecture on philosophy 6	14	Final reports due; report sharing; class review; wrap-up

Additional Information:

- ✓ Talk to me if you need help (email is OK).
- ✓ Absent students are *still responsible for understanding class information and for doing any assigned tasks*. 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, cheating, or improper use of AI = **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! ☺

