# PHIL C119: Self, Identity, and Authenticity Syllabus (DRAFT)  
**Summer 2020**

Instructor: Jaewon Choe  
Office Hours: TBA  
E-Mail: jaewonchoe.0@gmail.com

## Course Description

In this course, we will critically examine a range of historical accounts on self and identity. We'll draw mainly from the Western philosophical canon though some material from Eastern traditions and contemporary social philosophy will be incorporated into the discussion. Readings will include Plato, Hume, Nietzsche, and Hannah Arendt, as well as works by Charles Taylor, Maria Lugones, and V.F. Cordoba. We will also look at Hindu and Buddhist texts. In canvassing this array of accounts, we'll address the following questions: How might the self be a historically situated notion? In the various views, what is the role of the “other” in determining one's sense of self? What is the relation between self-knowledge, other-knowledge, and living authentically (i.e. “being myself”)? How might the presence of self be a hindrance to self-development? Finally, implications for contemporary identity politics will be addressed if time permits.

## Learning Outcomes

- To develop sustained analytical responses to the central themes of the course.
- To engage in critical discussion and dialogue with peers on the views covered.
- To synthesize ideas from different readings in order to grasp broader philosophical concepts.
- To write essays that demonstrate working knowledge of the course material and to analyze that material in a clear, systematic, original, and well-developed manner.

## Assignments & Grading

Your final grade will be determined by one short writing assignment, two papers, and a participation grade. The grading breakdown is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Grade Portion</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Question/Response 1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Before July 2 Lecture</td>
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<tr>
<td>Question-Response 2</td>
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<td>Before July 9 Lecture</td>
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<tr>
<td>Question-Response 3</td>
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<td>Before July 23 Lecture</td>
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<td>Q-R Total</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper 1</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>Sunday of Week 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper 2</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Section/Course Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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**Question/Response:** A short writing that is to be no more than 1 page in length (200-250 words). The focus of this assignment will have more to do with form than content. You will be asked to pose a question or answer to one you’ve developed. In doing so, you may be asked to include, for example, a proper aim statement, proper citation or footnote, or one example explanation. More details TBA.

**Paper 1:** Paper 1 will be 4.5-5 pages in length (~1100-1250 words). Paper 1 topics will be based on readings and lectures up to the end of week 3. More info TBA.

**Paper 2:** Paper 2 will be 5.5-6.5 pages in length (~1400-1650 words). Paper 2 topics will be based on readings and lectures up to the end of week 6. More info TBA.

**Section/Course Participation:** Open discussion will be an important tool for learning in this course. As such, your final grade will include a course participation/contribution portion. Receiving the full score can happen in multiple ways; it does not require getting things right all of the time or speaking for its own sake. Rather, excellent contribution may be the result of attending contributing meaningful questions or thoughts to lecture/sections/office hours discussions, and/or demonstrating improvement in the quality of assignment.
submissions over the length of the term. With that said, a practical requirement for receiving a full contribution score is consistent attendance.

Reading Schedule

Week 1: Course Introduction, The Ancient Soul.
- (Optional) Selections from The Bhagavad Gita.
- Plato: Phaedrus 245c-250c, Republic Book IV, 441c-444e. Phaedo 70a-84b.

Week 2: Buddhism and Hume. Self, no-self, and “true self”.
- Buddhist Text. “Sabbasava Sutta. Pgs. 2-12.”
- Translation of Acvaghosha’s The Awakening of Faith. “Soul as Birth and Death”. Pgs. 60-80.
- (Optional) Julie Ching. “Paradigms of the Self in Buddhism and Christianity”. Pgs. 36-43.

Week 3: The Conscious Self, Recognition, Self-Development.
- The Analects of Confucius. Selected sayings, Bk. ii, iv.
- Hegel. “Lordship and Bondage”.

Week 4: The Emergent Self, Self-Disclosure.
- (Optional) Nietzsche. Ecce Homo 71-77.
- (Optional) Kenneth Gergen Selections from The Saturated Self: (Pgs. 4-7, 20-41, 89-102, 119-126).

Week 5: The Perceived Self and Empirical(-ish) Theories.
- Turner and Oakes, Social Identity Theory.

Week 6: Multiple “I’s” and Authentic Selves.
V.F. Cordoba. Selections from *How It Is*. Pgs. 47-68.

**Course Policies**

**Respectful Language**
Please be mindful of how we communicate with each other. Any language that is harmful or abusive will not be tolerated. At all times, I ask that we approach sensitive topics with sensitivity and communicate in ways that show respect for divergent views.

**Learning Language**
I believe that learning happens best when simple language is used. Whenever possible, I will do my best to explain things in the simplest terms. If I stray from this and you're lost, ask for clarification. After all, the ultimate goal is for you to understand the material and to articulate your views with clarity and precision.

**Learning Accommodations**
Your success in this course is my primary goal. Should you need accommodations, please let me know early on, either in person or through email. I will provide any accommodations you require, as directed by you and in conjunction with the Center for Accessible Education (CAE - previously known as the Office for Students with Disabilities). For more information, visit [http://www.cae.ucla.edu/](http://www.cae.ucla.edu/).

**Electronic Devices**
Please silence all electronic devices. The use of laptop-style devices for taking notes is welcomed. Cell phone use is not allowed during class under any circumstances. You are not allowed to record audio/video or take pictures during instruction time without my consent. If given consent, be advised that you are then agreeing to share whatever media you capture during sections upon my request. For any prolonged distraction that occurs because of *any* electronic device (e.g. computers, phones, recording devices, etc.), you may be asked to leave the classroom.

**Email**
Use “PHIL (class #)” in the subject line. Please reserve substantive questions about papers, the course material, or life in general, for office hours or after lecture. I typically respond to emails within 24 hours. Help me stick to this 24-hour rule by placing multiple questions into a single email.

**Attendance**
Course attendance is expected. If you are late or absent for a class, first seek out your classmates to fill you in. Otherwise, come to office hours, though attending to students with current questions or concerns will be my priority.

**PTE**
This will be handled on a case by case basis. See me ASAP if this applies to you.

**Paper Extensions**
Typical extension requests are required 1 week in advance. No-penalty extensions will only be granted in rare and documentable cases. If you believe you will require an extension, see me ASAP.

**Late Assignment Submission**: A paper is late when it is submitted to turnitin past the deadline. Any late paper will be deducted 1/3rd of a letter grade for each 24-hour segment it is late (e.g. A becomes an A-, B+ becomes a B, for each 24 hour-period past the deadline). You will be excused from this penalty only if I have explicitly notified you in writing (e.g. email) that you are exempt.

**Plagiarism**
The unacknowledged use of others’ words or ideas constitutes plagiarism, and this violates the University’s code of academic conduct, whether intentional or not. Any instance of plagiarism will be immediately reported.
to the university administration, and you will be subject to whatever consequences they determine. For more info: [http://guides.library.ucla.edu/citing/plagiarism/avoid](http://guides.library.ucla.edu/citing/plagiarism/avoid).