Course Description
This course provides an introduction to philosophical methodology and questions relating to human nature. We will focus on a variety of philosophical questions, including:

- What features are distinctive of human beings?
- What does living a “good” life require?
- What are human rights?
- What are race and gender?

Moreover, this course aims to introduce and improve students’ analytical skills, e.g., critical thinking, reasoning, and evaluating and constructing arguments.

Required Texts
All readings will be posted on Blackboard.

Course Requirements

- Reading Summaries: 30%
- Participation, Film Discussions: 20%
- Mock Trials: 20%
- Tests: 30%

I reserve the right to give pop quizzes and reading comprehension quizzes at any time.

Academic integrity
The Georgetown University Academic Integrity Policy holds students accountable for the integrity of the work they submit. Students should be familiar with the Policy and know that it is their responsibility to learn about instructor and general academic expectations with regard to proper citation of sources in written work. The policy also governs the integrity of work submitted in exams and assignments as well as the veracity of signatures on attendance sheets and other verifications of participation in class activities. Serious sanctions can result from academic dishonesty of any sort. Information concerning academic integrity at GU is available at https://honorcouncil.georgetown.edu/system.

It is the student’s responsibility to know the academic integrity policy. If you are caught plagiarizing, you will fail this course. If you are considering plagiarizing, please come talk to me instead and we will find a better solution.

Students with disabilities/special needs
Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Academic Resource Center assesses accommodations for students with disabilities based on documentation from a medical professional. Review of documentation may take 3-4 weeks; hence, students should submit documents to the Academic Resource Center in a timely manner, preferably
prior to the start of a program or semester. As part of the interactive process, accommodations are
determined on a case-by-case basis following review of the medical documentation and a meeting with
an Academic Resource Center administrator.

It is the responsibility of the student seeking accommodations to meet with the assigned Academic
Resource Center administrator within the first few weeks of the semester. During the meeting with the
administrator, the student will receive accommodation letters for their instructors and directions of how
to discuss the implementation of accommodations with their instructors. Although a student is
approved for accommodations, they are required to meet with their assigned Academic Resource
Center administrator each semester to receive and implement their accommodations. Accommodations
are not retroactive; students must make arrangements to meet with their Academic Resource Center
advisor and professors at the start of each semester to discuss implementation of accommodations.

**Technology Policy**
Cell phone use is not permitted.

**Late Work Policy**
One letter grade per day will be deducted from the final grade of any late work.