

# John Dewey



**PHIL 4900 001/PHIL 5900 001, Fall 2012**

**Dr. David Hildebrand, UCD**

**TR 02:00PM - 03:15PM, PL 108**

**Description:** John Dewey (1859-1952) was one of the most important of the American philosophers of the twentieth century. A leading American Pragmatist (the first genuinely American school of philosophical thought), Dewey extended the application of his form of pragmatism (instrumentalism) beyond the boundaries of academic philosophy—into public affairs, politics, art, religion, and of course, education. Dewey’s influence included and transcended academia. As historian Henry Steele Commager wrote of Dewey, “It is scarcely an exaggeration to say that for a generation [of Americans] no major issue was clarified until Dewey had spoken.”

While Dewey published more than forty books and hundreds of articles over his long career, this course look closely at his masterwork, *Experience and Nature* (1927). This is arguably Dewey’s most comprehensive and difficult work as it attempts to lay out a comprehensive account of human experience with metaphysical detail. Along the way, we will find Dewey helping to explain such fundamental aspects as the nature of existence, consciousness, communication, moral value, knowledge, and aesthetic experience. Our goal is to see what is unique and coherent in Dewey’s philosophical vision by grasping a reasonably detailed outline of this historically significant masterpiece.

## Course Objectives:

- **Familiarization.** Gain a good sense of what is at stake in issues of course.
- **Comprehension.** Be able to comprehend the arguments offered by various philosophers.
- **Critical analysis.** Be able to criticize those arguments by pointing out where they lack evidence, make an unreasonable leap, hold a false assumption, etc.
- **Demonstration** of (1) - (3) through writing.
- **Verbalization.** Be able to summarize a philosophical position, without notes, using your own words. Be able to criticize a position this way.
- **Conversation and Debate.** Be able to discuss issues in a focused and informed way with others in the class. This will involve listening closely to their points, then responding in a way that moves the discussion ahead.

**Texts:** Available at Auraria. Also, if you desire, online (see, for example, <http://used.addall.com>). If you buy your book online, make sure (1) that it is the correct edition, and (2) that you have it in time for class. See also <http://www.bigdogtextbooks.com> here in Denver.

**Required:**

- John Dewey, *Experience and Nature*, Dover Publications; Enlarged, Revised edition (January 1, 2000), ISBN-10: 0486204715; ISBN-13: 978-0486204710
- David Hildebrand, *Dewey: A Beginner's Guide* (Oneworld, 2008)

**Recommended:**

- David Hildebrand, *Beyond Realism and Antirealism: John Dewey and the Neopragmatists* by (Vanderbilt U. Press, 2003), ISBN: 0826514278

**BLACKBOARD/WEBSITE:** There are two online sites related to this course. Familiarize yourself with them right away. Both will offer you access to information about the course such as study questions, announcements, grades, extra credit assignments.

1. The first and most important one is our course Blackboard site: <https://blackboard.cuonline.edu>. On this page are INSTRUCTIONS TO ENROLL. Please make sure you enroll right at the beginning of the class.
2. The second site is my home page at <http://www.davidhildebrand.org>. Here there are a variety of general study tips and resources in philosophy.

**YOU MUST PRINT OUT ANY REQUIRED ONLINE READING AND BRING IT TO CLASS.**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS/EVALUATION:**

**Maximum points possible: 1000 points**

(1) Participation	150 points or 15%
(2) Short Writings (10 total; <b>half done by Oct. 11</b> )	200 points or 20%
(3) Take home exam #1 max: (1000-1500 words)	300 points or 30% ( <b>due Oct. 16 in class</b> )
(4) Take home exam #2:	
GRADUATE students: 2500-3250 words	350 points or 35% ( <b>due Dec. 13, by noon</b> )
UNDERGRADUATE students: 1500-2000	

**Graduate students: besides the different length exams for exam #2, expectations will be set at a higher level than undergraduates. If you have questions about this, please let me know.**

**Grades:** There are 1000 possible points for this class. I use the plus/minus system. An "A" will be a body of work achieving at or above 930 points; an "A-" will be 900-929 points; a "B+" is 870-899 points, etc. Values for those letters, as well as the policies regarding other grades such as Incomplete, are available in the CU Academic Policies and Regulations section of the handbook. I have set out my standards of what a grade means on my FAQ section of my website.

**Attendance:** Attendance is required. Two *unexcused* absences over the course of the semester are permitted without penalty. Each additional absence will lower your final course grade, approximately 30 points per absence. (E.g., having a total three unexcused absences would lower a cumulative 900 point course average by 30 points to 870—effectively a reduction from an A- to a B+—and so forth. An *excusable* absence is a medical illness or emergency that is completely unavoidable. It is the student's responsibility to talk to me about excusable absences ASAP after the absence.

**(1) Participation:** Course participation grades are not automatic. They are based on oral contributions to the collective learning experience of the class as a whole in terms of asking pertinent questions, answering questions correctly or, at least, provocatively, making insightful observations, and offering other meaningful expressions of interest in the material that help encourage learning. Shyness is not an excuse—oral participation is part of your evaluation. There will be ample opportunity for active and well prepared participation, which I value. I will measure your participation by a variety of components: informed dialogue, presentation of your short papers in class, participation in any group work, etc. Feel free to check with me at any point to see how well you're participating. **Important:** part of this grade will be determined by your presentation of your **short writings (see below):** when called upon in class, you must demonstrate that you know what you wrote and why you wrote it; in other words, show clarity of thought, effective communication, and ability to field questions on your paper will all contribute to the participation portion of your grade. (I suggest looking over your short papers briefly before class to prepare.)

**(2) SHORT WRITINGS (10 total)** The purpose of these assignments is to help you clarify your understanding of the readings and to help you think critically about the issues. **Follow these instructions carefully, please.**

#### What to write on short/critical reaction papers:

- Short papers should be: 250-350 word, typewritten reactions or questions about some specific issue which you find compelling in the readings. Your paper must not simply sum up the reading or repeat points made there. (I.e., **no book reports**, please.) Rather, you must try to raise a question or discuss some original insight. You may use these papers to demonstrate your application of a concept/idea in the readings to an experience you have making or experiencing art, but the connection to the reading must be significant (and not a mere "jumping off" point. **See the website link "Writing short, critical papers" for further hints** about how to write a good paper.
  - The first paragraph should state in 1-2 sentences a summary of what the paper is about.
  - Only papers written on a reading or topic that will be discussed in the class immediately coming up are acceptable.

#### When to write short papers:

- You must do 10 critical papers total and you may not hand in more than one paper on the same date. **FIVE papers must be done by the course midpoint, October 11. Students who have not done 5 papers by this point will only be permitted to do 5 more papers.**
- You must come to class for a paper to be accepted.

#### Grading on short papers

- Grade: This will be a "graded" assignment only in a loose sense; in other words it will be either S-satisfactory (full credit or 20 points) or U-unsatisfactory (half credit or 10 points). A zero (0) will be awarded if nothing (or next to nothing) is turned in.
- **TWO MAKE-UPS:** If you get a Unsatisfactory on up to two papers, you may revise and resubmit them. The old grade will be dropped in favor of the revised paper's grade.

**(3) Longer Exams:** There will be two longer exams required for this class. They will likely be take home, but may contain an in class portion. They will likely contain a mixture of shorter and longer parts, as well as objective and essay formats. **NO late exams without prior and absolutely justified permission.** You may email me at any time to discuss your progress on ALL papers/assignments or we can discuss them in office hours. **Only hard/paper copies will be accepted. I will not print out papers for you nor accept electronic copies as a way of meeting the deadline.**

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is a form of stealing. It occurs when an author uses the words or ideas of others as if they were the author's own original thought. (It may include word-for-word copying, interspersing one's own words with another's, paraphrasing, inventing or counterfeiting sources, submitting another's work as one's own, neglecting quotation marks on material that is otherwise acknowledged.) Plagiarism is often unintentional. It can be avoided by always acknowledging one's debt to others by citing the exact source of a quotation or paraphrase.

Since plagiarism is such a serious violation of academic honesty, the PENALTY for it may be an AUTOMATIC “F” FOR THIS COURSE. The CU handbook has a more complete description of plagiarism and academic dishonesty.

**Grades:** I use the plus/minus system. Values for those letters, as well as the policies regarding other grades such as Incomplete, are available in the CU Academic Policies and Regulations section of the handbook.

## Contact Information

**Phone :** 303-556-8558

**E-mail:** david.hildebrand@ucdenver.edu **Website:** <http://davidhildebrand.org>

**Office and Hours:** Plaza M108 **Hours** TTh 10-11 a.m. and by appointment.

**Purpose:** I *strongly* encourage you to participate by dropping by during office hours. We can talk about the class readings and lectures, exams and papers, your progress, or just philosophy in general. Note: If you are a student with a disability, I will make myself available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations. Before accommodations will be made, you may be required to provide documentation. **Students with disabilities** will be accommodated. Students with disabilities are required to register disabilities with the UCD Disability Services Office, and are responsible for requesting reasonable accommodations at the beginning of the term.

**Fall 2012 CLAS Academic Policies**

The following policies pertain to all degree students in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS).

- **Schedule verification:** It is each student's responsibility to verify online that his/her official registration is correct: verify before classes begin and prior to the drop/add deadline. Failure to verify schedule accuracy is not sufficient reason to justify a late add or drop.
- **E-mail:** Students must activate and regularly check their official student e-mail account for CU Denver business: <http://www.ucdenver.edu/student-services/Pages/WebMail.aspx>. Those who forward email must check CU Denver e-mail regularly for messages not automatically forwarded.
- **Waitlists:**
  - Students are not automatically notified if they are added to a class from a waitlist.
  - Students are not automatically dropped from a class if they never attended, stopped attending, or do not make tuition payments.
  - Waitlists are purged after the 1st week of classes, after which a paper Schedule Adjustment Form (SAF or drop/add form) is required. It is the student's responsibility to get the form (online or at the Advising Office, NC 4002), have it signed, deliver it to the Registrar (Annex 100) or the Student Services Center (NC 1003), and verify her/his schedule online.
- **Late adds** (after 5 September) will be approved only when circumstances surrounding the late add are beyond the student's control. This will require a written petition and verifiable documentation. Petition forms are available in NC 4002. The signature of a faculty member on a SAF does not guarantee that a late add petition will be approved.
- **Late drops** (after 5 September) will be approved only when circumstances surrounding the late drop have arisen after the published drop deadline and are beyond the student's control. This will require a written petition and verifiable documentation. The signature of a faculty member does not guarantee that a late drop petition will be approved.
- **Tuition:** Students are responsible for completing arrangements with financial aid, family, scholarships, etc. to pay their tuition prior to Census Date (5 September). Students who drop after that date are (1) financially responsible for tuition and fees, (2) academically responsible and will receive a "W" grade, and (3) are ineligible for a refund of COF hours or tuition.
- **Graduation:**
  - Undergraduate students wishing to graduate in fall 2012 must complete the online Intent to Graduate Form and meet with their academic advisor to obtain a graduation application. This application must be submitted by Census Date (5 September). You can obtain an application only after meeting with your advisor. There are no exceptions to this policy.
  - Graduate students wishing to graduate in fall semester 2012 must complete the online Intent to Graduate form and have a Request for Admissions to Candidacy on file with the CU Denver Graduate School (LSC 1251) no later than 5 PM, September 5, 2012.

### Important Dates and Deadlines

- **August 19, 2012:** Last day to withdraw from all classes via UCDAccess and receive a refund of the \$200 advance payment and all tuition.
- **August 20, 2012:** First day of classes.
- **August 26, 2012:** Last day to add or waitlist classes using UCDAccess. After this date, a Schedule Adjustment Form (SAF) is required to change, add, or drop.
- **August 27, 2012:** Last day to drop without a \$100 drop charge. No adds permitted on this day.
- **August 28 - September 5, 2012:**
  - UCDAccess registration is closed; registration now requires a SAF with faculty signature.
  - Verify your registration via UCDAccess. You are not registered for a course unless your name appears on the official roster; conversely, your name may have been added automatically from the waitlist without notification, which means that you will be held responsible.
- **September 3, 2012:** Labor Day (no classes).
- **September 5, 2012: Census date.**
  - **9/5/12, 5 PM:** Last day to add structured courses without a written petition for a late add. This is an absolute deadline and is treated as such. This does not apply to independent studies, internships, project hours, thesis hours, dissertation hours, and modular courses.
  - **9/5/12, 5 PM:** Last day to drop a course or completely withdraw from fall 2012 using a SAF and still receive a tuition refund, minus the drop fee. After this date, tuition is forfeited and a "W" will appear on the transcript. This includes section changes. This is an absolute deadline.
  - **9/5/12, 5 PM:** Last day to request pass/fail or no-credit option for a course.
  - **9/5/12, 5 PM:** Last day for a graduate student to register for a Candidate for Degree.
  - **9/5/12, 5 PM:** Last day for a Ph.D. student to petition for a reduction in hours.
  - **9/5/12, 5 PM:** Last day to apply for fall 2012 graduation. If an undergraduate, you must make an appointment and see your academic advisor to apply. If a graduate student, you must complete the Intent to Graduate and Candidate for Degree forms.
- **September 17-26 (tentative), 2012:** Faculty can use the Early Alert system.
- **October 29, 2012, 5 PM:** Last day for non-CLAS students to drop or withdraw without a petition and special approval from the academic dean. After this date, a dean's signature is required.
- **November 12, 2012, 5 PM:** Last day for CLAS students to drop or withdraw with signatures from the faculty and dean but without a full petition. After this date, all schedule changes require a full petition. Petitions are available in NC 4002 for undergraduates and in the CU Denver Graduate School offices for graduate students.
- **November 19-25, 2012:** Fall break (no classes; campus closed). Be thankful.
- **December 10-15, 2012:** Finals Week. No schedule changes will be granted once finals week has started--there are no exceptions to this policy. Commencement is December 15.
- **December 20, 2012:** Due date for faculty submission of grades.
- **December 24, 2012:** Fall final grades available on UCD Access (tentative).

## Course Schedule

Where should you look for the readings? (a) “**Online**” which means on Blackboard site; (b) “**Beginner’s Guide**” (Hildebrand) or (c) “**EN**” which means *Experience and Nature*

*Note: This is a rough schedule. Subject to revision. I will let you know in each class what is coming up.*

Month	Date	Readings/Assignments
August	21 TU	No readings
August	23 TR	“The Development of American Pragmatism” <b>ONLINE</b> “From Absolutism to Experimentalism” <b>ONLINE</b> Preface and Introduction Beginner’s Guide
August	28 TU	“The Influence of Darwinism on Philosophy” <b>ONLINE</b>
August	30 TR	“The Reflex Arc Concept in Psychology” <b>ONLINE</b> “The Postulate of Immediate Empiricism” <b>ONLINE</b> Chapter 1 Beginner’s Guide, [focus especially upon pp. 14-23, 35-38] This chapter should be reviewed periodically throughout the course.
Sept.	4 TU	1. Experience and Philosophic Method <i>EN</i> <u>Recommended:</u> Alexander “Dewey’s Denotative Method” ( <i>Journal of Speculative Philosophy</i> , 2004) <b>ONLINE</b>
Sept.	6 TR	1. Experience and Philosophic Method <i>EN</i>
Sept.	11 TU	2. Existence as Precarious and as Stable <i>EN</i> <u>Recommended:</u> Alexander, “The Metaphysical Imagination.” ( <i>Transactions</i> 1992) <b>ONLINE</b>
Sept.	13 TR	2. Existence as Precarious and as Stable <i>EN</i>
Sept.	18 TU	NO CLASS
Sept.	20 TR	NO CLASS
Sept.	25 TU	3. Nature, Ends and Histories <i>EN</i>
Sept.	27 TR	3. Nature, Ends and Histories <i>EN</i>
October	2 TU	“Three independent factors in morals” <b>ONLINE</b> <u>Recommended:</u> Beginner’s Guide chapter 3, Morality <b>Guest lecturer, Dr. Roberto Frega</b> , Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales - Paris
October	4 TR	“Democracy: the Task before Us” <b>ONLINE</b> Chapter 1, <i>The Public and its Problems</i> <b>ONLINE</b> <u>Recommended:</u> Beginner’s Guide chapter 4, Politics Secondary readings: Frega, “What Pragmatism Means by Public Reason” <b>ONLINE</b> Honneth, <i>Democracy as Reflexive Cooperation</i> <b>ONLINE</b> <b>Guest lecturer, Dr. Roberto Frega</b>
October	9 TU	Continuation of previous Frega sessions’ material <b>Guest lecturer, Dr. Roberto Frega</b>
October	11 TR	4. Nature, Means and Knowledge <i>EN</i> Beginner’s Guide chapter 4, Inquiry <b>5/10 short papers due: COURSE MIDPOINT</b>

<b>October</b>	16 TU	4. Nature, Means and Knowledge <i>EN</i>	<b>Exam 1 DUE</b>
<b>October</b>	18 TR	5. Nature, Communication and Meaning <i>EN</i>	
<b>October</b>	25 TU	5. Nature, Communication and Meaning <i>EN</i>	
<b>November</b>	1 TR	6. Nature, Mind and the Subject <i>EN</i>	
<b>November</b>	6 TU	6. Nature, Mind and the Subject <i>EN</i>	
<b>November</b>	8 TR	7. Nature, Life and Body-Mind <i>EN</i>	
<b>November</b>	13 TU	8. Existence, Ideas and Consciousness <i>EN</i> “Qualitative Thought” ONLINE	
<b>November</b>	15 TR	8. Existence, Ideas and Consciousness <i>EN</i>	
<b>November</b>	20/22	Thanksgiving	
<b>November</b>	27 TU	9. Experience, Nature and Art <i>EN</i> Beginner’s Guide chapter 6, Aesthetics	
<b>November</b>	29 TR	9. Experience, Nature and Art <i>EN</i>	
<b>December</b>	4 TU	10. Existence, Value and Criticism <i>EN</i> “Philosophy and Civilization” ONLINE	
<b>December</b>	6 TR	10. Existence, Value and Criticism <i>EN</i>	