

# Welcome to 6th Grade Philosophy!

6th Grade Philosophy Syllabus  
Mr. Solis  
jonathan.solis@archimedean.org  
2023-2024

## What is Philosophy?

In a science class, you might learn about what the universe is made of. Your science teacher might teach you about the planets, the stars, and the forces of gravity. Or maybe, he or she would teach you about life on earth such as the different plants and animals that inhabit our planet. In a history class, by looking at the past, you might learn about the effects of people, places and their related events. Did you know that the first people to talk about these ideas were considered philosophers?

Thousands of years ago, the early Greek civilizations referred to all academic disciplines—the subjects you study in schools—as philosophy. In ancient times, the first human beings had lots of questions about the world around them and they wanted answers. Some of those answers became the math, science, history, and so on that you have or will be learning about in all your time in school. For example, for the ancient Greeks, physics, which is part of science, was called “the natural philosophy”.

Questions like “Why is the big bang important?” or “Why should the government take care of its people?” are philosophical questions. Discussing these ideas in philosophy can get tricky and what you study in a philosophy class can sometimes be hard to think about.

Philosophy serves as a great unifier of all the things you'll learn in school. The skills used by philosophers' help bring all the ideas from different academic disciplines together. In philosophy, we seek to make sure all other school subjects you study have made the best of their discoveries and that what you learn in school is kept on the right track. Also, Philosophy aims to ask whole new questions! New questions help society grow and prosper and have the potential to provide a path to a better world.

## What will this class cover?

During the majority of the first grading period we will be going over the fundamental tools of a philosopher: reasoning, logic and language. Also, towards the end of the first 9-weeks the class will be having a brief overview of the major branches of philosophy. For the rest of the school year, the course will be segmented by the three branches being Metaphysics, Epistemology and Value Theory (which in itself is Aesthetics, Ethics and the Philosophy of Action).

## What materials will they need?

- Loose-leaf paper.
- One-inch and a half-inch binder or 3-pronged duo-tang folder with pockets.
- Three dividers (to title *Classwork*, *Homework* and *Notes*).
- Mechanical pencil or classic pencil with a sharpener, black or blue ink pen is okay.
- Highlighter for Annotation.
- Access to a computer with Internet connection.

## **Grading Policy**

Miami-Dade County Public Schools Grading Scale:

<b>A:</b>	90-100%
<b>B:</b>	80-89%
<b>C:</b>	70-79%
<b>D:</b>	60-69%
<b>F:</b>	0-59%

### **Each term grade is based on:**

Tests:	40%
Quizzes:	30%
Classwork/ Participation:	20%
Homework:	10%

## **Class Rules and Consequences**

- **Please follow rules per AMC handbook**

## **Class Expectations**

- Be prepared with all necessary materials
- Ask questions when you need clarification or help
- Keep well-organized class notes
- Keep a homework folder with all recent assignments
- Complete homework neatly and show all your work

## **Homework**

Homework is assigned as reinforcement of what we cover in class or as a preview of the next lesson. It will be posted on [sis.archimedean.org](http://sis.archimedean.org) (ARCHIE) and can either be printed and submitted by hand, or submitted virtually via Archie. Late homework (one class late) has a one grade letter lowered penalty. Students who had a special circumstance and were unable to complete the homework will be allowed to turn it in late with no penalty under the condition that parent or student communication within reason be provided. If it is not turned in by the following class, it will not be accepted and will become a ZERO in the gradebook. Continuously missing homework assignments will result in a referral to administration. (AMC policy)

I look forward to an exciting year. Please do not hesitate to contact me throughout the year with questions or concerns!