

Phil 1000: Introduction to Philosophy Fall 2009

Lecture: M W 11:15-12:05 Park Hall 265

(Discussion sections meet separately on Thursdays or Fridays)

Prof. Elizabeth Brient

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Course Description: This course is designed to provide an introduction to philosophical thinking through a careful reading of select philosophical texts. No previous acquaintance with philosophy is presumed. The course will focus on what might be termed "Philosophy of the Person" and its relationship to human freedom. Each of the philosophers we will read, ask the general philosophical questions: What is it to be a human being? What is it to live a human life? And what is it to live a human life well? That is to say: What kind of a living being am I? And how does thinking about what I am inform what I choose to do with my life? What is it to live a free human life? What is the relationship between truth and freedom? We will focus in particular the role of human thought and action in shaping our existence, both individually and as a society.

Required Texts:

Plato, *Trial and Death of Socrates*

Augustine, *On Free Will*

Mill, *On Liberty*

Sartre, *Existentialism as a Humanism***

Henry David Thoreau, *Civil Disobedience***

Mahatma Gandhi, *Selected Political Writings*

Martin Luther King, *Letter from the Birmingham Jail***

Books are available at Off Campus Bookstore/Baxter Street Bookstore (696 Baxter Street/ Athens, GA 30605/ 706-548-9376).

****In Course packet** available at Bel Jean Copy Center (163 E. Broad St.), 706-548-3648.

Course Requirements:

1. Reading of all assigned material, regular attendance in class and participation in discussion sessions is **mandatory** for all students.
 - Students who miss the equivalent of six classes (including discussion section), for whatever reason, will be subject to administrative withdrawal. In such cases withdrawal will be at the discretion of the instructor.
 - Attendance, class participation and improvement will be taken into account to resolve borderline cases regarding the final grade for the course.
2. Two 3-5 page, double spaced, typewritten papers (each worth 20% of grade)
3. Three in class exams (each worth 20% of grade): Students are required to bring two blue books for each exam. The final exam will be the third of the three exams and will take place on the final exam date scheduled for this course.

All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty." All students are responsible to inform themselves about those standards before performing any academic work.

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary. Any changes will be announced in class. All assignments are to be read *prior* to class on the date assigned.

Tentative Syllabus:

Aug.	17	Introduction
	19	Plato, <i>Euthyphro</i> (In Plato, <i>Trial and Death of Socrates</i>)
	24	Plato, <i>Apology</i> (In Plato, <i>Trial and Death of Socrates</i>)
	26	Plato, <i>Apology</i> (In Plato, <i>Trial and Death of Socrates</i>)
	31	Plato, <i>Crito</i> (In Plato, <i>Trial and Death of Socrates</i>)
Sept..	2	Plato, <i>Crito</i> (In Plato, <i>Trial and Death of Socrates</i>)
	7	Labor Day (No Classes)
	9	Augustine, <i>On Free Will</i> , Book I (1-9), pp. 1-16
	11	Friday: First Paper due in Peabody 107 by 3:00 p.m.
	14	Augustine, <i>On Free Will</i> , Book I (10-16), pp. 16-28
	16	Augustine, <i>On Free Will</i> , Book II (1-7), pp. 29-44
	21	Augustine, <i>On Free Will</i> , Book II (8-15), pp. 44-60
	23	Augustine, <i>On Free Will</i> , Book II (16-20), pp. 60-69
	28	Exam I (Bring two blue books to class)
	30	Mill, <i>On Liberty</i> , Chapter 1, pp. 1-14
Oct.	5	Mill, <i>On Liberty</i> , Chapter 2, pp. 15-33
	7	Mill, <i>On Liberty</i> , Chapter 2, pp. 33-52
	12	Mill, <i>On Liberty</i> , Chapter 3, pp. 53-71
	14	Mill, <i>On Liberty</i> , Chapter 4, pp. 73-91 [Midpoint Withdrawal deadline]
	19	Exam II (Bring two blue books to class)
	21	Sartre, "Existentialism as a Humanism," pp. 391-396
	26	Sartre, "Existentialism as a Humanism," pp. 396-404
	28	Sartre, "Existentialism as a Humanism," pp. 404-416
Nov.	2	Sartre, "Existentialism as a Humanism," pp. 404-416
	4	Thoreau, "Civil Disobedience"
	6	Friday: Second Paper due in Peabody 107 by 3:00 p.m.
	9	Gandhi, <i>Selected Political Writings</i> , pp. 29-51
	11	Gandhi, <i>Selected Political Writings</i> , pp. 51-73
	16	Gandhi, <i>Selected Political Writings</i> , pp. 73-91
	18	Gandhi, <i>Selected Political Writings</i> , pp. 97-118
	23	Thanksgiving Break (No Classes)
	25	Thanksgiving Break (No Classes)
	30	Gandhi, <i>Selected Political Writings</i> , pp. 118-133
Dec.	2	Gandhi, <i>Selected Political Writings</i> , pp. 133-151

- 7 Martin Luther King, "Letter from the Birmingham Jail"
- 8 **Tuesday (UGA on Friday class schedule)**