

Philosophy 1000 (Introduction to Philosophy)

Fall 2009

MWF 11:15 – 12:05

Peabody, room 105

Instructor: Daniel L. Crescenzo

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Office Hours: 12:20 – 2:20 PM, Monday and Wednesday or by appointment.

Office Location: Peabody, room 120.

Purpose: This course engages students in a critical exploration of such topics as knowledge and belief, God and the problem of evil, freedom and determinism, the right and the good, language and meaning, mind and body, appearance and reality, and man and the world. We will focus more specifically on the following questions: does God exist, what is the problem of evil and can it be solved, what can we know and how do we come to know it, are mind and body fundamentally different kinds of things, what is morally right or wrong and why, what legitimates state authority and what are the limits of this authority, what is personal identity, and do we have free will.

Main Objectives: Students should 1). Develop a basic understanding of the philosophical questions covered in the readings and the arguments given by the authors in their attempts to answer them and 2). Develop the ability to critically assess the arguments given by these authors and to develop arguments of one's own in response to them.

Required Texts:

*Western Philosophy: An Anthology*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Blackwell Publishing, 2008. Edited by John Cottingham.

Grading:

20%: First Paper

20%: Second Paper

20%: Midterm Exam

20%: Final Exam

20%: Quizzes

Grades will be assessed according to the plus/minus grading system (A, A-, B+, B, B-, and so on).

Papers: Papers may be on any author or topic covered in class and are to be turned in as hardcopies in class on the day they are due. They must be typed, 3 – 5 pages double-spaced with 12 point font. In your papers you are expected to demonstrate an understanding the authors'

arguments or the topic you have chosen and to give arguments of your own in response to them. Papers which are up to a day late will be dropped by one letter grade; more than a day late, by 2 letter grades. I will grant extensions only in cases of serious or incapacitating illness or family emergency.

**Exams:** Exams will be given in class. Each exam will consist of several essay questions, of which you must select one and write a full (4 - 5 paragraph) answer. On your exams, as with your papers, you are expected to demonstrate an understanding the authors' arguments you have read and to give arguments of your own in response to them. It is your responsibility to bring bluebooks to class on exam days. The final exam is not cumulative. Makeup exams will only be given in cases of absence due to serious or incapacitating illness or family emergency.

**Quizzes:** Quizzes will be given unannounced throughout the semester. They will number between 5 and 15 total. These quizzes will require 1 to 4 short answers (no longer than a paragraph each, usually shorter) and are intended to test whether you have read the material for the day's class. You will not be expected to give your own arguments on quizzes. I will drop your lowest quiz grade prior to calculating final averages. I will also excuse you from one quiz during the semester missed due to poor health (I will not average it into your grade, either). Makeup quizzes will not be given under any circumstances.

**Readings:** You are expected to complete each of the readings before class. If you do not, you run the risk of failing one or more quizzes. Most assigned readings will come from the Cottingham anthology. Those that are not in that text will be posted on the E-Learning Commons under the heading "Additional Readings" or passed out as handouts in class.

Philosophy texts are not light reading. You must read carefully and think about what the author is saying. Does what the author is saying make sense? Is it plausible? Is it possible? Do the reasons the author gives for his or her conclusion provide enough support for that conclusion? Why or why not? Thinking critically about the arguments in the texts you've read is the first stage in developing your own arguments.

**Attendance Policy:**

There is no attendance policy.

**Academic Honesty:** All 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. For a list/elucidation of these standards, see the following website:

[http://www.uga.edu/honesty/ahpd/culture\\_honesty.htm](http://www.uga.edu/honesty/ahpd/culture_honesty.htm).

Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive an automatic F for the course.

## Course Schedule

Note: The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

- Aug. 17: Course Introduction  
19: Read Logic handout.  
21: Read Fallacy handout.
- 24: Complete Logic Questions and Fallacies Practice handout.  
26: Read Plato's *Euthyphro*, handout.

### Philosophy of Religion

- 28: Read Aquinas' *Summa Theologiae*, 348 – 51.
- 31: Read Paley's *Natural Theology, or Evidences of the Existence and Attributes of the Deity Collected from the Appearances of Nature* (The Watchmaker), handout.
- Sept. 2: Read Anselm's *Proslogion*, 345 – 47.  
4: Read Pascal's *Pensées* (Pascal's Wager), 356 – 59.
- 7: NO CLASS (Labor Day).  
9:  
11: Read Hick, "There is a Reason God Allows Evil," handout.

### Epistemology and Philosophy of Mind

- 14: Read Plato's *Meno*, 3 – 12; *Republic*, 12 – 18.  
16: Read Plato's *Republic* 70 – 75 (Allegory of the Cave).  
18: Plato, continued; Read Descartes' *Meditations on First Philosophy*, 1 – 2, 21 – 25.
- 21: Read Berkeley's *Three Dialogues Between Hylas and Philonous*, handout.  
23: Berkeley, continued. Read Hume's *Enquiry concerning Human Understanding*, 102-07.  
24: Read Hume, 433 – 37.
- 27: NO CLASS  
29: Read Gettier, "Is Justified True Belief Knowledge," handout.
- Oct. 2: Gettier, continued.
- 5: **First Paper Due.** Review for Midterm  
7: **Midterm Exam.**  
9: Read Functionalism handout, 1<sup>st</sup> 14 pages.

- 12: Read the rest of the Functionalism handout.
- 14: Read Searle, "Can Computers Think?," handout.

#### Ethics and Political Philosophy

- 16: Read Benedict, "Morality is Relative," handout.
  
- 19: Read Rachels, "Morality is Not Relative," handout.
- 21: Read Kant's *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, 506 – 12.
- 23: Kant, continued.
  
- 26: Read Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*, 492 – 95.
- 28: Aristotle, continued; Read Bentham's *The Principles of Morals and Legislation*
- 30: NO CLASS (Fall Break)
  
- Nov. 2: Read Mill's *Utilitarianism*, 512 – 17.
- 4: Mill, continued; Read Plato's *Crito*, 623 - 26.
- 6: Read Plato's Ring of Gyges, 487 – 92 (optional); Read Hobbes' *Leviathan*, 631 – 36.
  
- 9: Read Locke's *Second Treatise of Civil Government*, 636 – 41.
- 11: Read Mill's *On Liberty*, 665 – 70.

#### Personal Identity and Free Will

- 13: Read Locke's *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, 275 – 80.
  
- 16: Read Butler's *The Analogy of Religion*, 280 – 84.
- 18: Read Hume's *A Treatise of Human Nature*, 285 – 90.
- 20: Read La Place's *Philosophical Essay on Probability*, 318 – 20.
  
- 23: NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Break)
- 25: NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Break)
- 27: NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Break)
  
- 30: Read Lamont's "Freedom of the Will and Human Responsibility," handout.
- Dec. 2: Read Frankfurt's "Alternate Possibilities and Moral Responsibility," 332 – 39.
- 4: To Be Announced
  
- 7: To Be Announced
- 8: **SECOND PAPER DUE.** Review for Final (Friday schedule).

**FINAL EXAM:** Time and location TBA.

