

# INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 1000 – Fall 2009

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Beth Preston  
PHONE: 706-542-2819  
E-MAIL: epreston@uga.edu  
OFFICE: 101B Peabody Hall  
OFFICE HOURS: Monday & Wednesday 11:00 am – 12:00 noon

TEACHING ASSISTANT: Mr. Robert Scott  
E-MAIL: rhscott@uga.edu  
OFFICE:  
OFFICE HOURS:

## TEXTS:

Plato	<i>Republic</i>
Friedrich Nietzsche	<i>Beyond Good And Evil</i>
Jean-Jacques Rousseau	<i>On the Social Contract</i>
Immanuel Kant	“An Answer to the Question: What Is Enlightenment?”
John Stuart Mill	<i>On Liberty</i>
Jean-Paul Sartre	“Existentialism is a Humanism”

The books for this course are available at the UGA Bookstore. You may also be able to find them at the off campus bookstores on Baxter Street. The essays by Kant and Sartre will be available on the course WebCT site.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** In this course you will be introduced to Western philosophy by reading important works of philosophy from the history of this tradition and by thinking critically about the ideas they contain. We will study issues from all the major areas of philosophy, including metaphysics (the nature of reality), epistemology (the nature of knowledge), ethics and political philosophy.

**WRITTEN REQUIREMENTS:** There will be three required in-class exams and an optional final exam. Each in-class exam will count for one third of your course grade. If you take the final your lowest grade will be dropped and your course grade will be calculated on the basis of your three highest grades. *Please note: you **must** take all three of the in-class exams in order to exercise the option to take the final. If you fail to take any of the three in-class exams you will be administratively withdrawn from the course. (see below under Failure to Complete Required Work).*

**LECTURE AND DISCUSSION:** There are two 50 minute lectures by the Instructor each week. There is also a 50 minute discussion section each week, led by the Teaching Assistant. Please note that you are registered for a specific discussion section. This is the only section you are to attend, unless you have obtained prior permission from the Teaching Assistant to switch. Permission to switch may not be possible in all cases, since there are space limitations in some classrooms.

**ATTENDANCE:** Attendance in lecture and in discussion section is required as a matter of University policy. Attendance will be taken in lecture by means of a seating chart, and in discussion section by a suitable method determined by the Teaching Assistant. You are expected to arrive on time for class, and leave only when the whole class is dismissed. If you fail to do so, the Teaching Assistant may mark you absent, at his discretion. We will start taking attendance on Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup>.

*Administrative drops:* The Instructor reserves the right, at her discretion, to withdraw administratively and without notice any student who accumulates six or more unexcused absences at any point during the semester. However, if you *decide* to withdraw from the course you should *not* count on this policy to withdraw you automatically—you should initiate the withdrawal yourself. If you withdraw or are withdrawn prior to the midpoint withdrawal deadline (Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>) the Instructor may assign you either a WP (Withdrawal Passing) or a WF (Withdrawal Failing), at her discretion. If you withdraw or are withdrawn after the midpoint withdrawal deadline the University automatically assigns a WF.

Please note that the University has a new policy limiting the number of WP's you may receive in your time at UGA to four. This withdrawal policy and other information about withdrawals is explained at <http://www.franklin.uga.edu/students/withdraw.htm>

**CLASS PARTICIPATION:** Participation in the discussion sections is highly encouraged. Questions are also welcome during the lecture period. The Instructor and the Teaching Assistant may call upon individual students to answer questions or give their opinion. But voluntary participation is very much preferred. With regard to participation in discussion, quality counts as much as quantity. You should come to class and to discussion sections with the reading for that day done, and be prepared to answer questions about the reading assignments straightforwardly and sensibly. You should also be prepared on occasion to ask questions yourself, or offer relevant comments about the reading or the issues with which it deals.

**EXAM FORMAT:** Each exam will consist of one question to be answered by a long essay. A week before each exam a list of study questions will be distributed. You must prepare essay answers to all of the questions. One of the study questions will be the exam question. This same format will also be used for the final. The three in-class exams will not be cumulative. The final will be cumulative.

*Blue or Green Books:* The exams will be written in blue or green books. These are blank examination booklets, available from the UGA Bookstore and the other bookstores in town. The covers are blue or green—the ones with the green covers use recycled paper. You will be required to provide three of these blank booklets before the first exam. They will be collected

and redistributed for the three in-class exams. If you take the final, you must provide an additional blank booklet at that time.

**MAKEUP EXAMS:** Exams are to be taken on the date and at the time specified in the Course Outline. If circumstances beyond your control (e.g., illness, family emergency) make this impossible, or if you miss an exam for any other reason, you should request a makeup exam *immediately*, i.e., as soon as you are physically able to do so. If there are circumstances beyond your control which prevent you from doing this right away, you will be asked to document them. If you miss a make-up exam you have arranged to take, you must contact the Instructor to reschedule it as soon as you are physically able to do so. You will be asked to document that there were circumstances beyond your control which prevented you from taking the make-up exam as scheduled. If you cannot do this, the Instructor reserves the right to refuse to reschedule the make-up exam you are requesting and to withdraw you from the course.

**FAILURE TO COMPLETE REQUIRED WORK:** If you miss an in-class exam and fail to make it up you will be administratively withdrawn from the course. If the administrative withdrawal is done before the midterm withdrawal deadline (Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>) the Instructor may assign you either a WP or a WF, at her discretion. If it is done after the deadline the University automatically assigns a WF.

**GRADING POLICIES:**

*Exams:* A letter grade will be assigned to each essay exam. Grades followed by - or + may be assigned.

*Final Grade:* The final grade will be determined by converting the letter grades on your exams to numerical grades in accordance with the conversion chart below; averaging the numerical grades; and then converting the resulting average back into a letter grade in accordance with the conversion chart. The following letter-number conversions will be used in grading.

<b>Letters to Numbers</b>		<b>Numbers to Letters</b>	
A	4.0	3.8-4.00	A
A-	3.7	3.5-3.79	A-
B+	3.3	3.2-3.49	B+
B	3.0	2.8-3.19	B
B-	2.7	2.5-2.79	B-
C+	2.3	2.2-2.49	C+
C	2.0	1.8-2.19	C
C-	1.7	1.5-1.79	C-
D+	1.3		
D	1.0	0.5-1.49	D
D-	0.7		
F	0	0-0.49	F
WF	0		

The following general criteria will be used in determining the letter grades. Other criteria may also enter in, at the discretion of the Instructor. This is just to give you some idea of the sort of things we will be looking for in your written work.

**F = Fail**

Written work does not exhibit even a minimal grasp of the main ideas and other material presented in the course, and shows virtually no attempt at organization or analysis.

**D = Pass**

Work shows minimal grasp of main ideas, with considerable inaccuracy in formulating them, and no grasp of the details involved. Organization of ideas seriously inadequate; failure to grasp important connections between main ideas; and analysis minimal or lacking altogether.

**C = Satisfactory**

Work shows very basic grasp of main ideas, with some inaccuracy in formulating them, but little, if any, detail. Some grasp of important connections between main ideas, but serious organizational flaws in other respects, e.g., paragraph structure. Analysis attempted, but minimal as to both quantity and quality.

**B = Good**

Main ideas and connections between them clearly and accurately expressed, but lacking in precise detail. Organization good, including good paragraph structure, and presentation of material in logically connected form. Analysis too brief to provide adequate support for positions taken, or qualitatively flawed in some respect, e.g., the quality of support for positions taken.

**A = Excellent**

Ideas and connections between ideas expressed clearly, accurately and in detail. Overall organization excellent, including paragraph structure. Analysis extensive, detailed and qualitatively excellent, e.g., positions taken are argued for rather than simply shored up with a few unconnected reasons.

**TEACHING ASSISTANT:** The Teaching Assistant will be meeting the discussion sections. He will be doing most of the grading and record keeping for the course. In particular, he will be taking attendance in both discussion sections and lecture, so if you have an excuse for an absence you should give it to him. He will also hold office hours, which will be posted and announced. If you have questions about your attendance record, the reading assignments or your grade, you should first speak to the Teaching Assistant. If he cannot answer your questions, or if the answers do not satisfy you for any reason, you should then speak to the Instructor. If you just want to talk about the reading or the course in general, you are welcome to drop in during the office hours of either the Teaching Assistant or the Instructor, or both.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: You are expected to abide by the standards for academic honesty established by the University of Georgia. If you have not already done so, you should familiarize yourself with these standards by reading *A Culture of Honesty*, a manual on the University academic honesty policy. You can find this online, along with a number of other useful documents pertaining to academic honesty at the University of Georgia, at [http://www.uga.edu/honesty/ahpd/culture\\_honesty.htm](http://www.uga.edu/honesty/ahpd/culture_honesty.htm)

You are encouraged to work together by discussing the reading material and the study questions with other people, and in particular with other students in the course. This constitutes an acceptable and commendable level of cooperation for this course. Here are some examples of activities which are *not* acceptable, and which will be regarded as violating the academic honesty standards:

- Copying from another student's exam;
- Allowing another student to copy from your exam;
- Copying from or consulting textbooks, class notes, other class materials or online materials during an exam;
- Writing an essay for another student to use, or allowing another student to write one for you;
- Collaborating with other students in the writing of an essay for all the collaborators to use.

Please note this last example carefully. It prohibits teamwork in the *writing* of an essay when you are preparing for an exam. In other words, you may discuss the study questions and possible answers to them verbally with other people, but you must formulate and write out the answers on your own.

If you have any questions about what activities constitute violations of the standards for academic honesty, either in general or with regard to this course in particular, please ask the Instructor or the Teaching Assistant.

## COURSE OUTLINE

Aug 17	Introduction to the course
Aug 19	Plato, Book II
Aug 24	Plato, Book II (continued)
Aug 26	Plato, Book III
Aug 31	Plato, Book III (continued)
Sept 2	Plato, Book IV
Sept 7	LABOR DAY
Sept 9	Plato, Book IV (continued)
Sept 14	Plato, Book V, 449a – 471b <b>Study questions for Exam #</b>
Sept 16	Plato, Book V, 471c – 480 and Book VI, 484a – 486e
Sept 21	<b>Exam #1</b>

Sept 23	Nietzsche, Preface; Section One, Aphorisms 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 9, 13, 19, 21, 22 and 23
Sept 28	Nietzsche, Section Two, Aphorisms 26, 30, 34, 36, 41, 42, 43 and 44
Sept 30	Nietzsche, Section Three, Aphorisms 61 and 62; Section Five, Aphorisms 188, 199, 201, 202 and 203
Oct 5	Nietzsche, Section Nine, Aphorisms 257, 258, 259, 260, 262, 265, 268, 272, 274 and 287
Oct 7	Rousseau, 17-25 (Book I, Chapters I-VI))
Oct 12	Rousseau, 25-31 (Book I, Chapters VII-IX and Book II, Chapters I-II) and 73-76 (Book III, Ch. XV)
Oct 14	Rousseau, 31-41 (Book II, Chapters III-VII)
Oct 19	Rousseau, 49-62 (Book III, Chapters I-VI)
	<b>Study questions for Exam #2</b>
Oct 21	Rousseau, Book III (continued)
Oct 22	MIDPOINT WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE
Oct 26	<b>Exam #2</b>
Oct 28	Kant
Oct 30	FALL BREAK
Nov 2	Kant (continued)
Nov 4	Mill, 1-14 (Chapter I) and 78-82 (Chapter IV)
Nov 9	Mill, 15-22, 33-52 (Chapter II)
Nov 11	Mill, 53-64 (Chapter III)
Nov 16	Mill (continued)
Nov 18	Sartre, 1-4
Nov 23-27	THANKSGIVING BREAK
Nov 30	Sartre, 4-9
	<b>Study questions for Exam #3</b>
Dec 2	Sartre, 9-17
Dec 7	<b>Exam #3</b>
	<b>Study questions for Final Exam.</b>
Dec 9	Reading Day
Dec 16	<b>Final Exam, 8:00 am –11:00 am, Peabody 115</b>

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**An electronic copy of this syllabus is available on the Philosophy Department web site (<http://www.phil.uga.edu>) under Courses, and also on the class WebCT site. This syllabus is intended for guidance only, and is subject to change. Changes will be announced in class and a revised version of the syllabus will be posted on WebCT and the Philosophy Department web site.**