

PHIL 1000: Introduction to Philosophy (call # 46-860)

Instructor: James Grindeland, Ph.D. candidate

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Office Hours: T/R 12:45-1:45pm, Peabody 120

Course Blog: <http://phil1000.blogspot.com/>

Classes: T/R 2-3:15pm, Room: Student Learning Center 268

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

Course Description, exactly as stated in the UGA philosophy coursebook: *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.*

Course Objectives: Students will be expected to (a) understand certain philosophical questions, certain possible answers to them, and certain arguments that have been given in support of each possible answer; (b) think for themselves, by evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of these arguments and coming up with creative arguments of their own; and (c) clearly articulate these things.

Tasks & Grades: *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: http://www.uga.edu/honesty/ahpd/culture_honesty.htm. Put away all electronic devices during the exams: no cell phones, mp3 players, etc.*

The exams are liable to be essay, short answer, multiple choice, or any combination of these. For each exam, I'll give you some idea of what to expect a week in advance; and when you come to the exam, bring a Blue Book or Green Book -- believe it or not, ***you are free to write up to 20 words of your choice on the first page!*** The final exam is optional. If you don't take it, your course grade will be the average of your grades on the first three exams; if you take it, your course grade will be the average of your grades on all four exams. If your average grade for the course is half-way between two possible grades, I'll round up; e.g., if your grades are [A-, A-, A, A], your course grade will be: A.

Plan your travels outside of exam times; it's an unexcused absence to simply go on vacation! If you have an unexcused absence on a required exam, ***you get an F on that exam!***

You can ***EARN*** an ***attendance/participation OPPORTUNITY***. I will assign three projects throughout the semester. Each is optional, and will be graded *Satisfactory* or *Unsatisfactory*. If (and only if) you get at least two *Satisfactory* grades, you earn the following opportunity: You will get an attendance/participation letter grade for the course that ***can't hurt you but can help you!*** If (but only if) this grade is higher than your lowest exam grade, your lowest exam grade will get boosted to the average of the two. How the attendance/participation grade is calculated: besides the optional final, we meet 30 times. Of these, your attendance/participation grade will be

- A if you miss 6 or less;
- A- if you miss 7;
- B+ if you miss 8;
- B if you miss 9;
- F otherwise.

Required Readings/Multimedia:

James and Stuart Rachels, *Problems from Philosophy, 2nd Edition*

Torin Alter and Robert Howell, *A Dialogue on Consciousness*

Everything else under "**MATERIAL (required to read, watch, etc., before class)**" on the next page.

TOPIC	MATERIAL (required to read, watch, etc., before class)
1.8.09 Intro to Course	Syllabus: downloadable from UGA philosophy website, under "Courses"
1.13.09 How We Treat Animals	<i>Earthlings</i> (watch in class) Peter Singer, "All Animals Are Equal": http://www.animal-rights-library.com/texts-m/singer02.htm
1.15.09 How <i>Should</i> We Treat Animals?	mp3 of interview with Singer: http://www.open2.net/ethicsbites/human-use-animals.html
1.20.09 Mind, Physicalism, & World	Excerpt from Colin McGinn, "Singer: <i>Eating Animals is Wrong</i> " (handout) Torin Alter and Robert Howell's <i>ADOC</i> Mon, Tues, Wed Nights Rachels & Rachels, <i>PPF</i> ch6 Terry Bisson, "They're Made Out of Meat" (optional): pdf: http://baetzler.de/humor/meat_beings.html video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gaFZTAOb7IE
1.22.09 Mind, Physicalism, & World	Torin Alter and Robert Howell's <i>ADOC</i> Mon, Tues, Wed Nights Excerpt from Frank Jackson, "What Mary Didn't Know" (handout)
1.27.09 Mind, Physicalism, & World	Torin Alter and Robert Howell's <i>ADOC</i> Thurs, Fri, Sat Nights
1.29.09 Mind, Physicalism, & World	Torin Alter and Robert Howell's <i>ADOC</i> Thurs, Fri, Sat Nights Excerpts from Bertrand Russell's "My Present View of the World" (handout)
2.3.09 REVIEW	
2.5.09 EXAM #1	
2.10.09 God: "Teleological" Arguments & Darwinism	Rachels & Rachels, <i>PPF</i> ch2 p10-22
2.12.09 God: "Cosmological" Arguments	Rachels & Rachels, <i>PPF</i> ch2 p22-5 Excerpt from J. P. Moreland, "The Kalam Cosmological Argument" (handout)
2.17.09 God: Anselm's "Ontological" Argument	Anselm's <i>Proslogion</i> ch2-4: http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/basis/anselm-proslogium.html
2.19.09 Descartes's Rationalism & Dualism	Rachels & Rachels, <i>PPF</i> ch2 p26-8 Descartes's <i>Meditations</i> (J. Bennett version) Books 1,2,6: http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/de.html
2.24.09 Berkeley's Empiricism & Idealism	Berkeley's <i>Three Dialogues</i> (J. Bennett version) p1-29: http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/bd.html
2.26.09 God: Problem of Evil	Rachels & Rachels, <i>PPF</i> ch10 Rachels & Rachels, <i>PPF</i> ch3 Hume's <i>Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion</i> (J. Bennett version) p37-43: http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/hd.html
3.3.09 REVIEW	
3.5.09 EXAM #2	
3.17.09 Objective ethics? Even if so, why be moral?	Rachels & Rachels, <i>PPF</i> ch11, ch12 Excerpt from Ayer's <i>Language, Truth, and Logic</i> p?-? (handout)
3.19.09 Socrates's "Suicide" & Contract Ethics	Rachels & Rachels, <i>PPF</i> ch1, ch12 p170-3 Plato, <i>Apology</i> : http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/apology.html
3.24.09 Kant's Ethics	Kant's <i>Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals</i> (J. Bennett version) http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/kgw.html
3.26.09 Kant's Ethics	Kant's <i>Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals</i> (J. Bennett version)
3.31.09 Free Will in spite of Physical Law?	Rachels & Rachels, <i>PPF</i> ch9 Dominic Shillingford's YouTube video, "God's Flaw: Determinism": http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bReaLx7XvWM
4.2.09 Hume/Kant on Causation	Hume's <i>Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding</i> (J. Bennett version) p10-25 Kant's <i>Prolegomena to any Future Metaphysic</i> (J. Bennett version) p?-?
4.7.09 Personal Persistence in spite of Change?	Rachels & Rachels, <i>PPF</i> ch5
4.9.09 Is Time Fake?	John McTaggart, "The Unreality of Time": http://www.ditext.com/mctaggart/time.html
4.14.09 Mill's Ethics	Mill's <i>Utilitarianism</i> (J. Bennett version) ch2, 4 http://www.earlymoderntexts.com/millu.html The Hedonistic Calculus: http://philosophy.lander.edu/ethics/calculus.html
4.16.09 Mill's Ethics & Thought Experiments	<i>Trolleys, Transplants, Impartial Societies, Experience Machines</i> (handout)
4.21.09 REVIEW	
4.23.09 EXAM #3	
4.28.09 REVIEW	
5.4.09 FINAL EXAM	

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