

PHIL 1000. 3 hours. 2 hours lecture and 1 hours lab per week.

Course Title: Introduction to Philosophy

Course Description: 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.

Oasis Title: INTRO TO PHILOSOPHY

**Duplicate Credit: Not open to students with credit in PHIL 1000H
Spring 2009**

Lecturer: Raymond Woller

rwoller@uga.edu

(706) 542-2656

Office

127 Peabody

Hours:

Monday, & Wednesday: 4:30 to 5:30

Friday: 3:30 to 4:30

And by appointment

Teaching Assistant: TBA

Office

TBA

Hours

TBA

You are responsible for knowing everything contained in this course description.

Text: All required readings for the course are on the Course Website (WebCT) under the Readings icon on the Course Content page.

Goals of the Course: To have you acquire, through reading, lecture, and discussion, an understanding of some of the views and arguments of some of the most important figures of western philosophy, from its beginnings in the 6th Century B.C.E. to the 20th Century C.E.

Method:

- There are two lectures a week in Peabody 115.
- There is one discussion or breakout session. You are assigned to one such session on either Thursday or Friday. Consult your schedule for the time and place of your discussion section. Discussion sections are small classes designed to insure that you have master the material presented in lecture. What you should be prepared to do in discussion sections on Thursdays and Fridays is listed on the Syllabus/Calendar on Thursdays. What you should be prepared to do are things that you might be asked on exams.

Grades:

- Your course grade will be calculated from four elements that are listed below with their weight towards the course grade:
 - Frequent quizzes on the assigned readings. (20%)
 - A missed quiz receives the grade of 0%.
 - A failing grade on a quiz is 50%.
 - The 3 lowest quiz grades will be dropped.
 - There are no makeups for quizzes.
 - Note that the quizzes are designed only to determine your presence and that you have done the assigned reading. They should not be taken testing you on the sort of things you should know after lecture and after discussion sections.
 - Three in class hour exams. (Each worth 20%)
 - The first will be graded and returned to you before the deadline to withdraw.
 - N.B., that starting with the Fall 2008 semester you will only be allowed to withdraw passing from 4 courses in your academic career at UGA: If you withdraw from a 5th course, you can only received the grade of WF which counts the same as an F.
 - If you miss an exam, a written excuse documenting serious illness or an equally serious circumstance that caused your missing the exam must be provided within one week of the missed exam in order for you to be allowed to take a make-up. Excuses presented later than one week after the exam must include an explanation of the lateness of the excuse.
 - You must take all three exams to receive a passing grade in the course.
 - Your discussion-section grade. (20%)
 - Your TA will explain how he will grade your performance in discussion section.
 - Your cumulative discussion grade will be posed on the website after 4 weeks and updated about every 4 weeks after that.
 - If your grades are not what you expected, be sure to make an appointment with your TA to find in what ways your are not performing up to our expectations.
 - Note that some exam questions will be based on what you were expected to be prepared to do in discussion.
- Your grades are available on the course website under the My Grades icon on the homepage. Only you can see your grades.

- The university now uses a plus-minus system for recording grades. You should check the following website for answers to some frequently asked questions about this system:
<http://www.bulletin.uga.edu/PlusMinusGradingFAQ.html#Q9>.
 - I use numbers from 0 to 100 in grading quizzes and exams. To see how they relate to plus and minus letter grades, click on the +/- Grades icon on the Course Website Homepage. In calculating grades, I do not round up or down: for example, a 79.9 is a C+
- There will be no extra-credit options.
- Keep all graded material returned to you in case there is a factual error in recording your grade.
- **If there is an error in any grade that we post on the website, you must document the error by showing us the graded quiz or exam within one week of date that the graded material was made available in your discussion section.**
- Always check to make sure that the reported grade on Oasis agrees with what is on the website; errors sometimes occur in reporting grades.

Reading Assignments:

- You should expect to spend at least two (2) hours working through the reading assignment for each class. Although most of the readings are not long, they are not easy. You should expect to have to read the material very slowly and carefully.
- Readings are to be read carefully **before** the class in which they will be considered. Quizzes will be on the readings assigned for the day the quiz is given.
- Reading assignments are listed under the Syllabus/Calendar icon on the Homepage of the Course Website. Clicking on the icon sends you to a calendar. **To see the actual assignment, you have to click on the date-number.**
- The Syllabus/Calendar is subject to change. When there is a change that you have not seen, a calendar icon appears on the WebCT welcome page and the Syllabus/Calendar icon will have green lines radiating from it. **You are responsible for knowing what changes have been made to the calendar.**
 - By clicking on Compile Entries, you can generate a printable version of the Syllabus/Calendar.

Course Web Site: All material relevant for the course is to be found on or through the Course Website.

- The **Syllabus/Description** is this document.
- The **Syllabus/Calendar** contains the class topics for each day, the reading assignments for each day, and exam dates. You have to click on the date number to see the assignment that is due for that day.
 - You can make private entries in this calendar if you wish.
- **Course Content:**
 - *Readings:* All the assigned readings are available under this icon.
 - *Logic Material:* Under this icon are notes and exercise material for when we take up arguments.
 - *Notes:* I post the lecture slides with a few notes after each lecture.
 - *Misc Material:* Extra material of interest will be posted under this icon.
 - *Reference Material:* Links to a dictionary of philosophy and an excellent encyclopedia of philosophy, and some material about what philosophy and majoring in philosophy.
 - *Links:* Under this icon are some links to philosophy web sites. If you discover some interesting links to philosophy sites, let me know and I will add them under this icon.
- **Discussion** is a bulletin board feature.
 - This is the place to post questions and comments about the material encountered in the readings, in discussion sections, and in lectures. If you e-mail questions or comments about the course material, I move it to the bulletin board and answer it there.
 - I look at this quite regularly and respond to postings.
 - I will delete any posting that are not relevant to the course.
 - If there are posting you have not read, you receive a Discussions icon on the course welcome page, and the Intra-class Mail icon appears with green radiating lines.
- **Intra-class Mail** is an e-mail function limited to members of the class and the instructor.
 - Use this or my regular e-mail address (see the box above) to contact me about personal matters relating to the course.
 - I use this feature if I need to contact you about something which pertains to you.
 - **You are responsible for knowing the contents of any e-mail I send you in this fashion.**
 - Forward your Intra-class mail to a e-mail box that you frequent very often. You can do this by clicking on Message Settings on the same line as the Compose message box.
 - If you have unread mail, a mail-icon appears on the WebCt welcome page where this course is listed and the Intra-class Mail icon on the home page also appears with radiating green lines.
- **Academic Honesty:** All academic work must meet the standards contained in "A Culture of Honesty." Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. The link to "A Culture of Honesty" is <http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/honesty/acadhon.html>; you can also access this document from the Course Homepage. It is important that you be familiar with this document, since ignorance of what it contains is no excuse when it comes to violations of academic honesty.
- **My Grades** is where you can see your grade. (Only you can see your grades.)
- **+/- Grading** explains how I convert percentage grades to plus/minus letter grades.
- **Chat** provides chat rooms for you to carry on discussion with fellow class-members. I do not monitor this feature.

Office Hours: You are encouraged to take advantage of my office hours as well as my TA's. If the hours are inconvenient for you, we will gladly arrange a mutually convenient time to meet with you. You should be aware that you are **not** bothering us by meeting with us.

PHIL1000 Syllabus Calendar

January 2009

Thursday, January 8

1. No discussion this week

Monday, January 12

1. Course Mechanics

Wednesday, January 14

1. What is Philosophy

* Have read

1. The Syllabus/Description on the WebCT Homepage.
2. Rorty "On Philosophical Progress." This reading like all other assigned readings are under the Readings icon on the Course Content page listed in alphabetical order by author.
3. Nagel "What is Philosophy" under the Readings icon on the Course Content page.

Thursday, January 15

1. Thurs & Fri Discussion

* 1. Get acquainted with you TA.

2. Be prepared to say what you think philosophy is all about..

Monday, January 19

1. MLK Day

* No class.

Wednesday, January 21

1. Plato on Meaning

* Have read Plato's "Euthyphro."

Thursday, January 22

1. Thurs & Fri Discussion

* 1, Consider the following situation: A squirrel hunter hears a squirrel on the opposite side of a tree he is standing in front of. To get a clear shot he begins to move around the tree. But the squirrel hears him and also moves, keeping the tree always between himself and the hunter. Eventually they both end up where they started from, and the hunter never gets a chance to shoot the squirrel. Be prepared to answer the following question and to defend your answer: Does the hunter go around the squirrel?

Monday, January 26

1. Knowledge & Belief

* Have read 1. Van Inwagen, "Objectivity."

2. Peirce, "Fixation of Belief."

Wednesday, January 28

1. Deductive Arguments

* Do the following AFTER LECTURE: Work through the material under the Logic Material icon on the Course Content page, except for the last two items: DO NOT DO THE SELF-TEST UNTIL AFTER YOUR DISCUSSION SECTION THIS WEEK. (It's only good one time, since it gives you the correct answer after you respond to a question.) THE DISCUSSION EXERCISES ARE FOR DISCUSSION SECTION.

Thursday, January 29

1. Thurs & Fri Discussion

- * Be prepared to work through some of the Discussion Exercises under the Logic Material icon on the Course Content page, the last item under the Logic Material icon on the Course Content page.

February 2009

Monday, February 2

1. Inductive Arguments & Review

- * 1. Review the material under the Logic Material icon on the Course Content page.

Wednesday, February 4

1. Arguments about God

- * Have read
 - 1. John Hick's "The Problem of Evil."

Thursday, February 5

1. Thurs & Fri Discussion

- * Be prepared to
 - 1. State the problem of evil
 - 2. Defend or criticize Hicks's attempt to defuse the problem of evil.

Monday, February 9

1. Arguments about God

- * Have read Paley's "Argument from Design."

Wednesday, February 11

1. Moral Arguments

- * Have read Plato's "Crito."

Thursday, February 12

1. Thurs & Fri Discussion

- * Be prepared to
 - 1. Discuss Noewll-Smith's views on morality and religion in the short reading on under the Readings icon on the Course Content page.
 - 2. Discuss whether or not the truth of evolution destroys the kind of argument that Paley gives.

Monday, February 16

1. Singer on Giving

- * Have read Singer's "Famine, Affluence, and Morality."

Wednesday, February 18

1. Mill & Ethical Theory

- * Have read chapters 1 & 2 of Mill's "Utilitarianism."

Thursday, February 19

1. Thurs & Fri Discussion

- * Be prepared to
 - 1. State Singer's argument in your own terms.
 - 2. State Mill's principle of utility.
 - 3. Use the principle of utility to defend both of the following claims - Socrates ought have escaped, and It would have been wrong for Socrates to escape.

Monday, February 23

1. Exam 1

Wednesday, February 25

1. Modern vs Pre-modern World-view

* Have read

1. The "Pre-socratics Selections."
2. The first 2 pages of Aristotle's "Categories."
3. Barzun's "Background to the Modern Era."

Thursday, February 26

1. Thurs & Fri Discussion

- * Be prepared to
1. State Mill's principle of utility and then use it in an argument to justify that Socrates should not escape.
 2. Use the same principle in an argument to justify that Socrates should escape.
 3. Discuss whether being able to do (1) and (2) is a problem for utilitarianism.

March 2009

Monday, March 2

1. Exam 1

* Exam 1 will cover everything through utilitarianism, but not the material from last

Wednesday, March 4

1. Descartes

* Have read Descartes' "First Meditation."

Thursday, March 5

1. Thurs & Fri Discussion

- * Be prepared to
1. Discuss the short reading by G.E. Moore on Descartes and Dreaming which can be found under the Readings icon.
 2. Explain how you know that you are not dreaming while you are in class.

Monday, March 9

1. Spring Break

* No class.

Wednesday, March 11

1. Spring Break

* No class.

Thursday, March 12

1. Spring Break

* No discussion sections..

Monday, March 16

1. Descartes

* Have read Descartes' "Second Meditation." Note that by "formal reality" Descartes just means the actual existence of something, and by "objective reality" he means representational reality. So the thought of the Mona Lisa and the thought of the Eiffel tower differ in objective reality because one is about or represents the Mona Lisa and the other the Eiffel tower.

Wednesday, March 18

1. Descartes

* Have read Descartes' "Third Meditation."

Thursday, March 19

1. Thurs & Fri Discussion

- * Be prepared to 1. Explain in your own words by Descartes argument for God's existence in the third Meditation is circular.
- 2. List problems that a dualist might have if he or she maintain that it is the mind or soul that goes to heaven after death and not the body?

Monday, March 23

1. Berkeley

- * Have read Berkeley's "The First Dialogue" from his "Three Dialogues between Hylas and Philonous, in Opposition to Sceptics and Atheists," reading carefully through the arguments about heat. Then skim to where the primary qualities are considered and read carefully to the end of the dialogue.

Tuesday, March 24

1. Withdrawal Deadline

- * Today is the last day to withdraw from the course with a WP; after today only a WF can be given. Remember, however, that you are only allowed 4 withdrawal in your college career; after 4 a withdrawal is always a WF no matter when the withdrawal is initiated. A WF functions in your GPA as an F.

Wednesday, March 25

1. Berkeley

- * Have read the Berkeley's, "Dialogue 2," skimming over the discussion of the brain and concentrating on the part concerning the proof of God's existence and what role that God plays for Berkeley.

Thursday, March 26

1. Thurs & Fri Discussion

- * 1. Be able to explain why the elimination of what philosophers call matter leads to making things like tables and chairs dependent on the mind.
- 2. Be able to present some relativity and assimilation arguments of your own; not one's that Berkeley uses.
- 3. Be able to state Berkeley's argument for God's existence and to explain why it is circular.

Monday, March 30

1. Hume

- * Have read sections 1 through 5 of Hume's "An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding."

April 2009

Wednesday, April 1

1. Logical Positivism

- * Have read the "Preface to First Edition" and "Chapter 1" of Ayer's "Language, Truth and Logic."

Thursday, April 2

1. Thurs & Fri Discussion

- * 1. Be able to explain why Hume is skeptical about a priori knowledge.
- 2. Be able to explain why Hume is skeptical about knowledge gained by inductive reasoning about experiences.
- 3. Be able to explain why logical positivists are not skeptics.

4. Be able to state the fleshed out version of the verification criterion of meaning and explain how each extension makes the criterion compatible with science.

Monday, April 6

1. Exam 2

- * Covering everything since Exam 1.

Wednesday, April 8

1. Metaphysics

- * Have read:

1. Plato's "Meno" carefully up to the proof of the Pythagorean Theorem, skim that, and then carefully again for the explanation of what learning the proof is supposed to show; and then stop. Reading to the end is not part of the assignment.
2. The short selection from Plato's "Republic."

Thursday, April 9

1. Thurs & Fri Discussion

- * 1. Be prepared to explain why reincarnation is important to Socrates and how he uses it to explain that teaching is.
- 2. Be prepared to explain what the Forms are in Plato and what role they play for him.

Monday, April 13

1. Metaphysics

- * Have read Price's "Universals vs Resemblance."

Wednesday, April 15

1. Metaphysics

- * Have read Russell's "On Universals."

Thursday, April 16

1. Thurs & Fri Discussion

- * 1. Be prepared to explain the difference between extreme realists, moderate realists, resemblance nominalists, and trop nominalists.
- 2. Be prepared to state Russell argument against nominalists in your own terms; explain why it doesn't exactly get Russell and how Price would respond

Monday, April 20

1. Metaphysics & Language

- * Have read Wittgenstein On Games.

Wednesday, April 22

1. Personal Identity

* Have read Locke on Personal Identity.

Thursday, April 23

1. Thurs & Fri Discussion

* 1. Be prepared to make a list of 12 things that people can do with language.

2.. Be prepared to explain the role that family resemblance plays for Wittgenstein's view of language.

3. J. L. Mackie poses the following example as a criticism of Locke's view that memory is what unifies a person: Chris was disgraced as a cadet; later in life Chris performs heroically on the battlefield, though Chris remembers being disgraced as a cadet; and still later in life Chris remembers his heroics, but not his disgrace. Be prepared to explain why this shows that there is something wrong with Locke's account of personal identity.

Monday, April 27

1. Free Will

* Have read Locke on Power.

Wednesday, April 29

1. Bad Free Will - Sartre

* Have read Sartre's "Existentialism and Humanism."

Thursday, April 30

1. Existentialism-Nietzsche

* Have read Nietzsche's "Twilight of the Idols." Monday schedule is in effect today, the last day of classes: There will be no discussion sections this week.

May 2009

Friday, May 1

1. Optional Discussion Sections

* There will be one session meeting in 115 Peabody to review material that might be on the exam

1. Be prepared to explain what the locked room demonstrates about Locke's view of freedom.

2. Be prepared to explain what Sartre means when he says that existence precedes essence and why this leads to anguish, forlornness, and despair.

3. Be prepared to explain what Nietzsche has against metaphysicians, people of virtue, etc.

Monday, May 4

1. Exam 3 3:30

* Exam 3 will cover all the material since Exam 2. It will be a 1 hour exam.