

INTRO TO PHILOSOPHY

Philosophy 103_Spring, 2017
01:730:103:02 (Index:13426)
CAC Scott Hall Room 120
MW 2:50pm – 4:10pm

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Course Descriptions and Goals

This course is an introduction to some of the fundamental and important philosophical topics in metaphysics (theories of reality), epistemology (theories of knowledge), and ethics (theories of value). There are two general goals to achieve in this course, an ability to analyze ideas carefully and an ability to make your own refined arguments. We will read historical and contemporary writings on the topics and analyze, discuss, criticize their arguments. More importantly, we will make and defend our own position on the topics in class discussions and written assignments.

Readings

No textbook is required. Readings are available on [Resources](#) of our [Sakai](#) page. You are responsible for viewing the website on a regular basis.

Course Requirements

1. Attendance and Lateness Policies

Class attendance is crucial. Irregular attendance not only hurts your course work but weakens accumulative class discussions.

- **Attendance** will be taken at the **beginning** of every class.
You will be allowed a maximum of **two** unexcused absences, after which every missed class will result in **three point** deduction from your numerical attendance grade. Excused absences are only for religious holidays, serious health problems, and serious family issues. To receive an excused absence, you need to provide appropriate documentation such as a confirmation letter from a health care provider or from the office of the Dean of the college.
- Excessive lateness will not be tolerated.
It is your responsibility to plan carefully to arrive on time and well prepared.
If your lateness exceeds **twenty minutes** it will count as an absence.
If you are late, it is your responsibility to make sure that you are counted as present.

2. Participation

All students are required to read assigned materials and contribute to class discussions. You may meet the participation requirement in several ways: (i) participating in class discussions, (ii) asking questions in class, (iii) posting your thoughts on the discussion forum of this course's Sakai website, (iv) attending office hours.

3. Exams

There will be two in-class exams to check your comprehension of course content.

- All questions on the exams will be based on the STUDY QUESTIONS which will be posted on our Sakai website after we finish each topic.

- The final exam is cumulative.
- The midterm and final exams are scheduled on **March 8th** (at the regular class meeting time & class room) and **May 10th (12pm – 3pm)** at the regular class room), respectively.
- You are responsible for making sure that final exams do not conflict with your schedule.

4. Papers

There will be two short papers (**1000-1500 words**).

- 1st paper due: Wednesday, March 8th
- 2nd paper due: Monday, May 1st

The main goal of paper assignments is to assess how well you understand the philosophical problems, clarify the problems, and persuasively **develop your own philosophical argument**. Writing topics will be posted on the course website at least two weeks before the due date.

- You are highly recommended (not required) to submit your **rough draft** at least **one week ahead of the due date** and have my comments to revise your paper.
- In case of **late submission**, there will be **one point deduction per each day**. Late assignments will be returned graded **without** any comments.

Grading

Your final grade will be determined by the weighted requirements as follows:

Papers	20% each
Midterm	15%
Attendance	15%
Participation	10%
Final Exam	20%

Each requirement will be graded numerically, ranging 0 to 30. Numerical grades correspond to letter grades as follows:

A : 30-28	
B+: 27-25	B : 24-22
C+: 21-19	C : 18-16
D : 15-13	F: 12-0

Academic Integrity

Rutgers Interim Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as follows:

Plagiarism is the representation of the *words* or *ideas* of another as one's own. To avoid plagiarism, every direct quotation must be identified by quotation marks or by appropriate indentation and must be properly cited in the text or in a footnote. Acknowledgment is required when material from another source stored in print, *electronic* or other *medium* is paraphrased or summarized in whole or in part in one's own words.

Based on this definition, you are required to acknowledge direct quotations and paraphrases of materials found in any medium, including materials on the Internet. You can have more information about plagiarism on the web at

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy>

Plagiarism or cheating on exams will result in automatic failure of the course.

Topics and Readings

Unit 1: The philosophy of Religion

Classical Arguments about God's existence

Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*, I, Q.2

William Paley, *Natural Theology*, Ch. 1 and 2

St. Anselm, *Proslogion*, From Ch. 1 to Ch. 5

The Existence of Evil and Free will

John Mackie, *Evil and Omnipotence*

Unit 2: Our Knowledge of the External World

Rene Descartes, *Meditations I and II*

Unit 3: The Mind-Body Problem

Descartes*, Selection from *Meditations II and VI*, and from *Reply to Objection II*

William G. Lycan, *The Mind-Body Problem*

John R. Searle, *Minds, Brains, and Programs*

Unit 4: Personal Identity

Locke, "Of Identity and Diversity"

Bernard Williams, "Personal Identity and Individuation"

Derek Parfit, "Personal Identity"

David Lewis, "Identity and Survival"

Unit 5: Ethics

Meta-Ethics

Plato, Selections from *Euthyphro*

James Rachels, *Subjectivism in Ethics*

Normative Ethics

Mill, Selection from *Utilitarianism*

Kant, Selection from *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals*, Second Section

Course Schedule

Date	Topics and Readings		Note
Jan 18 st	Course Introduction		
Jan 23 rd	Lecture on what an argument is		
Jan 25 th	Unit 1	Aquinas 1	
Jan 30 th		Aquinas 2	
Feb 1 st		Paley	
Feb 6 th		Anselm 1	
Feb 8 th		Anselm 2	
Feb 13 th		Mackie	
Feb 15 th	Unit 2	Descartes 1	
Feb 20 th		Descartes 2	
Feb 22 nd	Unit 3	Descartes* 1	
Feb 27 th		Descartes* 2	
Mar 1 st		Lycan 1	Rough Draft Due (Optional)
Mar 6 th		Lycan 2	
Mar 8 th	Midterm		1 st Paper Due
Mar 13 th	Spring Recess		
Mar 15 th			
Mar 20 th		Searle 1	
Mar 22 nd		Searle 2	
Mar 27 th	Unit 4	Locke	
Mar 29 th		Williams	
APR 3 rd		Parfit 1	
APR 5 th		Parfit 2	
APR 10 th		Lewis 1	
APR 12 th		Lewis 2	
APR 17 th	Unit 5	Plato	
APR 19 th		Rachels	
APR 24 th		Mill	Rough Draft Due (Optional)
APR 26 th		Kant	
MAY 1 st	Review		2 nd Paper Due
MAY 10 th	Final		