INTRO TO PHILOSOPHY
Philosophy 103, Spring Term, 2010
01:730:103:01
Frelinghuysen B3
TF 11:30 am – 12:50 pm

Lee-Sun Choi
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Office Location: B003, 1 Seminary Place
Office Hour: F 1:00pm-2:30pm & by Appt at
the Student Activities Center lounge

Course Descriptions and Goals
This course is an introduction to some of the fundamental and important philosophical
topics. There are two general goals to achieve in this course, an ability to analyze
beliefs/thoughts carefully and an ability to make refined arguments. We will read historical
and contemporary writings on the philosophical topics, and discuss important debates
about them. Analyzing and criticizing these writings and debates will help you refine and
develop your philosophical ideas.

Textbook and Readings
James Rachels and Stuart Rachels, Problems from Philosophy, Second Edition (McGraw-Hill,
ISBN: 9780073386607)
– A printed copy of this textbook can be purchased at (i) Rutgers University Book Store, Ferren Mall, 1
Penn Plaza, New Brunswick, (ii) NJ Books, 108 Somerset St., New Brunswick, (iii) Barns and Noble, 57
Lipman Dr., Douglass Campus. An e-textbook version can be purchased online at: www.coursesmart.com
Other readings are available on this course’s Sakai website.

Course Requirements and Grading
1. Attendance and Participation: Attendance is required in this course. In addition,
every student is not allowed to be late. You should sign the attendance roll each class. The
roll will be taken at the beginning of the class. Every student is allowed a maximum of 4
unexcused absences. A student who has more than 4 unexcused absences will be penalized
with one point deduction for each absence from the final (numerical) grade. Excused
absences are only for religious holidays, serious health problems, and serious family
problems. To receive an excused absence, students need to provide an appropriate
document such as a confirmation letter from a health care provider or from the office of the
Dean of the college.

Five percent of your final grade will be for 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, (2) asking questions in
class, (iii) posting your thoughts on the discussion forum of this course’s Sakai website, (iv)
attending office hours.

2. Exams: There will be two exams. A midterm exam is scheduled on Friday, March 12
during the regular class period, and a final exam is on Thursday, May 6, from 12:00pm to
2pm. The final is not cumulative. These exams will consist of three or four essay questions.
There is no make-up exam in this course unless you have one of the three absence excuses
in above.

3. Papers: You are required to write two short papers, each about 1000-1500 words in
length. The first paper is due on Friday, March 5, and the second is on Tuesday, April 27.
Topics will be posted on the course’s Sakai website. A student who is late in submitting a
paper will be penalized with one point deduction for each day after the due date from her
paper grade. It is highly recommended to show me your rough draft to have my comments
by one week before the due date.
Your final grade will be determined by the weighted requirements as follows:

- Papers 20% each
- Midterm 15%
- Attendance 15%
- Participation 5%
- Final Exam 25%

Topics and Readings

1. **The Philosophy of Religion I: Classical Arguments about God’s existence**
   - R & R ch. 2
   - Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*, I, Q.2
   - William Paley, *Natural Theology*, Ch. 1 and 2
   - St. Anselm, *Proslogion*, From Ch. 1 to Ch. 5
   - Gaunilo, *In Behalf of the Fool*

2. **The Philosophy of Religion II: the Existence of Evil and Free will**
   - R & R ch. 3
   - John Mackie, *Evil and Omnipotence*

3. **Our Knowledge of the External World**
   - Rene Descartes, *Meditations I and II*
   - R & R ch. 10
   - John Locke, *Essay on Human Understanding*, Book I, ch i; Book II, ch. i, ch. ii, ch. iii; Book IV, ch. xi

4. **The Problem of Induction**

5. **The Mind-body Problem**
   - R & R, ch. 6 and ch. 7
   - 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*

6. **Free Will and Determinism**
   - R & R ch. 8 and ch. 9
   - Peter Van Inwagen, *How to Think about the Problem of Free Will*

7. **Ethics I: Meta-Ethics**
   - R & R, ch. 11
   - Plato, Selections from *Euthyphro*
   - James Rachels, *Subjectivism in Ethics*
   - James Rachels, *The Challenge of Cultural Relativism*

8. **Ethics II: Normative Ethics**
   - R & R, ch. 12
   - Mill, *Utilitarianism*
   - Kant, *Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals*, Second Section
### Course Schedule (Not Final Version)

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic &amp; Readings</th>
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<td>Jan. 21</td>
<td>Topic 1: R&amp;R ch. 2; Aquinas</td>
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<td>Jan. 26</td>
<td>Topic 1: Paley</td>
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<td>Jan. 29</td>
<td>Topic 1: Anselm; Gaunilo</td>
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<td>Feb. 16</td>
<td>Topic 3: Locke</td>
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<td>Feb. 19</td>
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<td>Topic 5: R&amp;R, ch. 6</td>
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<td>Topic 5: Lycan</td>
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<td>Mar. 19</td>
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### 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://teachx.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html](http://teachx.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html)

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