INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY
SPRING 2016– RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
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Goals:

Core Curriculum Learning Goal: This course meets goal ‘o’: ‘Examine critically philosophical and other theoretical issues concerning the nature of reality, human experience, knowledge, value, and/or cultural production.’ Assessment will be by an SAS generic rubric embedded in the evaluation criteria laid out in this syllabus.

This class will introduce students to the methods and issues of philosophy focusing on basic questions of the possibility of truth and value, ethics, the existence of God, metaphysics, epistemology, and theory of mind.

Office Hours:
After each class – location to be determined (most likely in the classroom). Students should also feel free to contact me by phone at any point with any questions or concerns.

Text:
Introduction to Philosophy – Classical and Contemporary Readings – 6th or 7th ed.
John Perry, Michael Bratman and John Martin Fischer

Requirements:

--Three Tests (20 points each)

   If either or both of the first two tests are missed, the material from that test will be on the final test, and the final test will be worth 20 additional points for each of the tests missed.

--Two Papers

   --2-3 page paper due in class March 11 (15 points)
   Grade will be lowered by one letter for each week late (not counting spring break)

   --3-5 page paper due in class April 23 (25 points)
   Grade will be lowered by one letter for each week late, and no papers will be accepted after the final.
Grading:

The following guideline will be used to assess papers and exams

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comprehension of philosophical theories and concepts</th>
<th>Exceeds the Standard</th>
<th>Meets the Standard</th>
<th>Does Not Meet the Standard</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Firm grasp of relevant philosophical ideas</td>
<td>Moderate grasp of relevant philosophical ideas</td>
<td>Little or no grasp of relevant philosophical ideas</td>
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| Philosophical thinking and critical analysis | Insightful philosophical analysis and thought demonstrated | Effort made to critically evaluate and engage in philosophical thinking on the relevant topic | Little or no demonstration of philosophical thought or critical analysis |

| Clarity, coherence, and composition | Well-written, coherent and easy to follow | Clear in meaning and coherently organized | Unclear in meaning and difficult to follow |

Final grade will be adjusted for the level and quality of participation in class and on-line discussion at sakai site (class discussion forum).

Attendance:

Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/ to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me.

My policy for missed classes is as follows: grades are lowered one letter for each absence starting with the fourth.

Class Site:

A Sakai site will be set up for class outlines, announcements, discussion, and grades.
SCHEDULE OF CLASSES
This schedule is subject to change – changes will be announced in class.

On the Possibility of Value
Jan 23  Bertrand Russell – The Value of Philosophy
Jan 30  Thomas Nagel – The Absurd
       Albert Camus – The Myth of Sisyphus
Feb 6   J.L. Mackie – The Subjectivity of Values

On the Possibility of God
Feb 13  Saint Anselm - The Ontological Argument
       FIRST TEST
Feb 20  Saint Thomas Aquinas – The Existence of God
       William Paley – Natural Theology
       Gottfried Leibniz – God, Evil, and the Best of All Possible Worlds

On Ethics
Feb 27  Jeremy Bentham – The Principle of Utility
       E.F. Carritt – Criticisms of Utilitarianism
       J.J.C. Smart – Extreme and Restricted Utilitarianism
       Bernard Williams – Utilitarianism and Integrity
Mar 5   Immanuel Kant – Groundwork of the Metaphysic of Morals
       Rosalind Hursthouse – Right Action
       FIRST PAPER DUE MARCH 11

On the Possibility of Knowledge
Mar 26  Rene Descartes – Meditations on First Philosophy
       SECOND TEST
Apr 2   Rene Descartes – Meditations on First Philosophy (continued)
       David Hume – Of Scepticism with Regard to the Senses
Apr 9   David Hume – Of Scepticism with Regard to the Senses (continued)
       William James – Pragmatism: A New Name for Some Old Ways of Thinking

On Mind and Freewill
Apr 16  Bertrand Russell - The Argument from Analogy for Other Minds
       Gilbert Ryle - Descartes' Myth
Apr 23  Paul M. Churchland – Eliminative Materialism
       Kwasi Wiredu – The Akan Conception of Mind
       SECOND PAPER DUE IN CLASS
Apr 30  Peter van Inwagen – The Powers of Rational Beings: Freedom of the Will

May 7  FINAL TEST