

Philosophy 101: Logic, Reason, and Persuasion

Instructor: Aaron Rabinowitz
Email: aaron.rabinowitz@rutgers.edu

1. Course Location and Meeting Times:

Intro to Philosophy 1:730:101:B6

All lectures and discussion sections will be available online through Canvas.

Scheduled Q&A discussions will take place in the meetings tab on Canvas.

Online Office Hours: and by Appointment

2. Course Description:

In this online course, we will work to develop your capacities to form and convey arguments that are logically sound and effectively persuasive. We will begin with a sections on logic and epistemology, to provide a framework for analyzing and synthesize arguments. We'll then apply those principles to serious debates in ethics and metaphysics as a way to develop these techniques and recognize common themes across a variety of subjects. Finally, you'll produce discussions with your classmates and we'll analyze them through the various methods we've studied. The ultimate goal is to make you a more competent thinker and communicator, no matter the subject.

3. Course Materials and Assignments:

Exploring Philosophy: An Introductory Anthology Steven M. Cahn Oxford University Press 6th edition

All other materials will be made available through the Canvas site.

4. Core Curriculum Information:

This course meets the Aho (Area of Inquiry: Arts and Humanities) requirement.

5. Class Schedule:

Date	Topic	Reading	Homework
5/28	Introduction The Value of Discourse	The Value of Philosophy by Russell pg.13 On Liberty by Mill pg. 525	Topic 1: What is one controversial topic you're interested in exploring through philosophy and why?
5/30	Forming Good Arguments Reading Philosophy	The Elements of Argument by Cahn et al pg.45 Necessary and Sufficient Conditions by Cahn pg.58	Topic 2: Form a basic argument about something you find interesting. What follows from your argument?
6/1	Recognizing Bad Arguments Informal Logical Fallacies	Improving your thinking by Barker pg.53 IEP on Fallacies https://www.iep.utm.edu/fallacy/	Topic 3: Make a "bad" argument using one of the informal logical fallacies from the reading. See if you can guess other people's fallacies.
6/3	Formal Logic Formal Logical Fallacies	Hardegree Chapter 2: Truth Functional Connectives (On Canvas) Formal Fallacies: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Formal_fallacy	Topic 4: Complete problems 1-15 in Exercise set B at the end of the Hardegree chapter.
6/5	Formulating and Testing Hypothesis Writing a Philosophy Paper ONLINE Q&A Session	Scientific Inquiry by Hempel pg. 60 Article on how to write a philosophy paper (Canvas)	Topic 5: Present an empirical hypothesis and explain how you would go about testing it.

Date	Topic	Reading	Homework
6/6	Ethics of Belief	Caring and Epistemic Demands by Zagzebski pg. 69 The Ethics of Belief by Clifford (Canvas)	Topic 6: Give a modern example of a behavior that Clifford would say is ethically comparable to the shipowner's actions.
6/7	Defining 'Knowledge' Gettier Problem	What is Knowledge? pg. 72 by Ayer Is Justified True Belief Knowledge? by Gettier pg. 74 Conditions for Knowledge by Nozick pg. 76 Puzzling out Knowledge by Haack pg. 91	Topic 7: Come up with an example of something that seems like justified true belief but fails to qualify as knowledge for Gettier like reasons.
6/10	Cartesian Skepticism Pyrrhonian Skepticism	Meditations on First Philosophy by Descartes pg. 94 Appearance and Reality by Russell pg. 78 The Five Modes by Sextus Empiricus (SEP)	Topic 8: Take the belief you hold not on the basis of direct experience and apply Sextus's skeptical modes to it.

Date	Topic	Reading	Homework
6/12	Problem of Induction ONLINE Q&A	The Problem of Induction by Russell pg. 87 An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding by David Hume pg. 115 Induction Without a problem pg. 89	Topic 9: Give an example of an important situation where people conflate correlation and causation.
6/13	Synthetic A Priori Knowledge	Critique of Pure Reason by Kant pg. 124	FIRST PAPER DUE
6/14	Utilitarianism Deontology	Assessing Utilitarianism by Pojman pg. 342 Utilitarianism by Mill pg. 383 Kant's Ethics by O'Neill pg. 340 Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals by Kant pg. 378	Topic 10: Choose an applied ethics topic and explain how Utilitarianism and Deontology might disagree on that topic.

Date	Topic	Reading	Homework
6/17	<p>The Trolley Problem</p> <p>Virtue Ethics and Care Ethics</p>	<p>The Trolley Problem by Thomson pg. 629</p> <p>Turning the Trolley by Thomson pg. 630</p> <p>Virtue Ethics by Driver pg. 349</p> <p>Nicomachean Ethics pg. 373</p> <p>The Ethics of Care by Held pg. 352</p>	<p>Topic 11: What do you take away from the attempt at a live action trolley problem?</p>
6/19	Abortion	<p>On the Moral and Legal Status of Abortion by Warren pg. 406</p> <p>Why Abortion is Immoral by Marquis pg. 418</p>	<p>Topic 12: Do you believe abortion should be legal? Restricted? Why or why not.</p>
6/20	<p>Social Contract Doctrine</p> <p>ONLINE Q&A Day</p>	<p>Leviathan by Hobbes pg. 577</p> <p>A Theory of Justice by Rawls pg. 541</p> <p>Distributed Justice by Nozick pg. 545</p> <p>Non-Contractual Society: A Feminist View by Held pg. 550</p>	<p>Topic 13: What principles would you agree to from the original position?</p>

Date	Topic	Reading	Homework
6/21	Free Will Moral Luck	Free Will by Nagel pg. 181 Free Will and Determinism by Stace pg. 186 Moral Luck (PDF on Canvas)	MIDTERM DUE
6/24	Buddhism Confucianism Taoism	The Buddha's Message by Gowans pg. 697 The Confucian Way pg. 704 The Tao by Billington pg. 710	Activity: Engage in five minutes of seated meditation as discussed at the end of lecture Topic 14: What do you notice about your experience while meditating?
6/26	AI Personhood	Computing Machinery and Intelligence by Turing pg. 161 Do Computers Think? by Searle pg. 165	
6/27	Theism The Problem of Evil ONLINE Q&A Day	Does God Exist? by Nagel pg. 253 Why God Allows Evil by Swinburne pg. 260 The Problem of Hell by Adams pg. 275	Discussion Projects Due
6/28	Discussion Projects		Topic 15: Discussion responses

Date	Topic	Reading	Homework
7/1	Discussion Projects		Topic 16: Discussion responses
7/3	Discussion Projects		Topic 17: Discussion responses
	Final Review Day		
7/5	Final Exam due by 11:55pm		

6. Grading and Assignments:

A. Quizzes (10%)

There will be one short quiz for each day of assigned reading posted on Canvas. These are due by 11:55pm within 48 hours of the day the reading is assigned. The quizzes are meant to be completed alongside the reading and lectures to make sure you are getting through the material.

B. Forum Responses (10%)

There will be a forum prompt for each day of reading. You may either post a response to the question or a response engaging with someone else's answer to the question. These are due by 11:55pm within 48 hours of the day the reading is assigned and should be approximately 100-200 words in length. The goal is to make sure you are absorbing and processing the arguments, and to foster discussion within the class about the material.

C. First Paper (20%)

You will write a 1,000-1300 word argumentative paper on one of the topic prompts provided. If you want to write on a separate subject, please check with me to make sure it's an appropriate topic. I'll explain the desired structure for the paper, and I'll provide a sample essay. Papers will be submitted online through Canvas in a format that can be checked by turnitin. Late papers will receive 2 points off (out of 40) for every day that they are late.

D. Second Paper (20%)

You will write a 1,300-1,600 word argumentative paper on one of the topic prompts provided. If you want to write on a separate subject, please check with me to make sure it's an appropriate topic. Papers will be submitted online through Canvas in a format that can

be checked by turnitin. **It is expected that the quality of your writing will improve based on feedback from the first paper.** Papers will be submitted online through Canvas. Late papers will receive 2 points off (out of 40) for every day that they are late.

E. Exam One (15%)

Exam one will be an open notes exam posted on Canvas covering topics from the first half of the class. It will contain 15 multiple choice questions. **This exam must be taken through the ProctorTractor program. Please make sure you are set up to access this program.**

F. Exam Two (15%)

Exam two will be an open notes exam posted on Canvas covering primarily topics from the second half of the course, though you will be expected to retain key ideas from the first half. It will contain 15 multiple choice questions. **This exam must be taken through the ProctorTractor program. Please make sure you are set up to access this program.**

G. Discussion Projects (15%)

For further practice in using the techniques we learn in the class, I will assign you partners and you will collaborate to record a discussion on a topic, where you take conflicting positions and argue over how to resolve the issue and what should follow from your discussion. I'll provide you information for how to record these discussions. The discussions will be approximately 15 minutes in length and will make up the content for our last week of class, where we will all watch and respond to the various discussion videos.

Late Work Policy: Late assignments will receive a 2 point deduction per day late.

Your letter grade will be determined by the following grading scale:

A	B+	B	C+	C	D	F
100%-90%	89%-87%	86%-80%	79%-77%	76%-70%	69%-60%	59%-0%

7. Canvas Site:

Some reading materials and important information, including your grades, will be available on the site. You can check Canvas for this information, and an email will be sent to you when any information is added to the site. Emails sent through Canvas will be sent to your Rutgers email address. So, if you do not check the Canvas site regularly and primarily use another email aside from your Rutgers one, you should set up the email that you

primarily use so that messages sent from Canvas to your Rutgers email account can be forwarded to your primary email address.

8. Online Interaction: My goal as an online educator is to be available as much as possible to help you in your studies. On top of the recorded lectures I will provide, I will also make myself available roughly once a week, on the days marked ONLINE Q&A, for group discussions on any topics or questions you may have. There is a poll up on Canvas for what times of day are preferable for holding these sessions. My aim is to change up the days and times so that everyone in the course can attend at least one of these sessions. I will also do my best to monitor the chat on Canvas and to respond to emails within 24 hours. If you ever feel like you need more one on one discussion to understand the material, I will make myself available each week for private office hours, so please contact me to schedule a meeting.

9. Policy on Cheating:

Anyone caught cheating in any way, or aiding anyone else in cheating, will receive an automatic F for the course and be referred to the appropriate authorities for further measures to be taken. These further measures may include suspension or expulsion.

Rutgers Academic Integrity Information: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>

Tutorial about plagiarism: <http://library.camden.rutgers.edu/EducationalModules/Plagiarism/>

10. Student-Wellness Services:

Just In Case Web App

<http://codu.co/cee05e>

Access helpful mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis on your smartphone or tablet and easily contact CAPS or RUPD.

Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)

(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901/

www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)

(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / www.vpva.rutgers.edu/

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.

Disability Services

(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.

Scarlet Listeners

(732) 247-5555 / <http://www.scarletlisteners.com/>

Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space.