

PHIL 103: Introduction to Philosophy

Rutgers University, New Brunswick

Online | Winter 2018

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In this four-week winter online course we will survey topics in ethics, the philosophy of mind, metaphysics, and epistemology. Students enrolled in this course must have regular access to their email and to Canvas. Additionally, please note that all in-person meetings will be held over Skype (or FaceTime).

Requirements

Readings & Other Materials There is no textbook for this course. All of the required readings will be posted to Canvas. Additionally, every week I will post short videos in which I work through each of the readings, summarize the arguments they contain, and evaluate them. Students are expected to read all of the materials posted for each week and watch these videos in their entirety.

Discussion Posts Students are required to respond to *two* online discussion prompts every week (10%): The first prompt will be posted on Saturday at 12pm noon, and must be responded to by Tuesday at 12pm noon. The second prompt will be posted on Tuesday at 12pm noon, and must be responded to by Friday at 12pm noon.

Two things are required for full points on a given discussion post: *First*, you must answer the prompt in full (150-250 words), and *second*, you must comment on another student's post (at least 50 words)—these follow-up comments should be respectful and well-considered, and they should contribute additional things to the discussion (i.e., don't just write "I agree with what this person said"). All posts should be thoughtful, well-written, and original (don't plagiarize or merely summarize).

Papers One 3-5 page paper (10%) and one 5-7 page paper (20%). The first paper will be due at the end of the second week of the course; the second paper will be due at the end of the course.

Exams Two exams (30% each), one midterm and one final. The midterm exam will only include material covered in the first two weeks of the course. The final exam will only include material covered in the second two weeks of the course.

Website

Assignments, paper topics, handouts, study guides, and announcements will be posted to the Canvas course website: <https://rutgers.instructure.com/courses/20346>

Office Hours & Instructor Availability

This will be an intense and fast-paced course—we'll be covering a semester's worth of material in just four weeks! As such, this course will not be easy. However, I will be available to meet with students over Skype on **Mondays and Wednesdays from 12pm to 2pm**. Please note that I will not be available to meet with students in-person during this course.

I am also happy to meet with students outside of that timeframe: If you would like to meet with me at a different time, please send me an email *at least 24 hours beforehand*, and we can work out a time to meet.

Additionally, I am available to answer questions over email. Please note however that I will *not* give comments on papers over email—If you would like feedback on a draft of one of your papers, feel free to send it to me, and then we can meet to talk about it over Skype.

Assignment Deadlines

<i>Discussion posts</i>	#1	December 25 th
	#2	December 28 th
	#3	January 1 st
	#4	January 4 th
	#5	January 8 th
	#6	January 11 th
	#7	January 15 th
	#8	January 18 th

<i>Papers</i>	Short paper (3-5 pages): January 4th
	Long paper (5-7 pages): January 18th

<i>Exams</i>	Midterm: January 4 th
	Final: January 18 th

Schedule

<i>Week 1: Metaphysics & Intro to Philosophy</i>	van Inwagen, "Individuals"
	van Inwagen, "Objectivity"
	Appiah, "But Would That Still Be Me?"
<i>Week 2: Epistemology</i>	Zagzebski, "What is Knowledge?"
	Gettier, "Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?"
	Feldman, "Epistemological Puzzles about Disagreement"
	Vavova, "Moral Disagreement and Moral Skepticism"
<i>Week 3: Ethics</i>	Schafer-Landau, "Ethical Subjectivism"
	Singer, "Famine, Affluence, and Morality"
	Thompson, "A Defense of Abortion"
	Marquis, "An Argument that Abortion is Wrong"

Week 4: Mind

Chalmers, "The Puzzle of Conscious Experience"
Churchland, "The Hornswoggle Problem"
Nagel, "What Is It Like To Be A Bat?"
Jackson, "Epiphenomenal Qualia"

Other Policies & Information

Accommodation

Reasonable accommodation for persons with documented disabilities should be established within the first week of class and arranged through the Office of Disability Services:

Phone: (848) 445-6800
Email: dsoffice@echo.rutgers.edu
Web: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

Lateness

No late work will be accepted.

Honesty

Academic dishonesty is a serious infraction and will be dealt with severely. It is the responsibility of students to uphold the standards for academic honesty. More information about this can be found at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>

Grading

92.5-100	A	72.5-77.4	C
90-92.4	A-	70-72.4	C-
87.5-89.9	B+	67.5-69.9	D+
82.5-87.4	B	62.5-67.4	D
80-82.4	B-	60-62.4	D-
77.5-79.9	C+	0-59.9	F