

## **PHIL 1000-01: INTRODUCTORY PHILOSOPHY: MAJOR TEXTS**

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Office Hours: Wed. 4-5 or by appointment

Winter Term 2014  
M/W/ 2:30-3:20 PM  
+ Tutorial

### **Course Description:**

This course is an introduction to philosophy through readings from the classical and contemporary periods. Its aim is to give students a sense that the major issues and questions within philosophy, although initially raised by thinkers of the past, are in fact perennial and therefore still relevant to us today. We will accordingly examine a range of traditional topics, from a variety of historical periods, associated with such branches of philosophy as metaphysics, epistemology, ethics and the philosophy of religion. Thinkers studied will include Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas and Descartes. Questions to be addressed will include: Am I free to choose between right and wrong, or are all of my actions determined by antecedent causes? Does God exist and, if so, can his existence be rationally demonstrated? And can I be certain of anything?

### **Required Text:**

L. Pojman and J. Feiser. Eds. *Introduction to Philosophy: Classical and Contemporary Readings*, 4th edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.

### **Course Requirements:**

- Seminar Papers (10 x 2%) 20%
- Mid-Term Exam 35%
- Final Exam 45%

### **E-mail Communication**

As per University regulations, all students are required to check their **uoguelph.ca** e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the university and its students.

### **When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement**

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, ID#, and e-mail contact. See the

Undergraduate Calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

### **Drop Date**

The last date to drop one-semester Winter 2013 courses, without academic penalty, is Friday, March 7, 2014. For regulations and procedures on dropping courses, see the Undergraduate Calendar:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

### **Copies of out-of-class assignments**

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

### **Student Rights and Responsibilities**

Each student at the University of Guelph has rights which carry commensurate responsibilities which, broadly, being a civil and respectful member of the University community. The Rights and Responsibilities are detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c14/c14-strightsrespon.shtml>

### **Proviso on Academic Misconduct:**

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and enjoins all members of the University community – faculty, staff and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. The University of Guelph takes a very serious view of academic misconduct, and it is your responsibility as a student to be aware of and to abide by the University's policy. Included in the definition of academic misconduct are such activities as cheating on examinations, plagiarism, misrepresentation, and submitting the same material in two different courses without written permission from the relevant instructors.

Note that instructors have the right to use software to aid in the detection of plagiarism or copying and to examine students orally on submitted work. For students found guilty of academic misconduct, serious penalties, up to and including suspension or expulsion can be imposed. Hurried or careless submission of work does not exonerate students of responsibility for ensuring the academic integrity of their work. The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml>

## **Recording of Materials**

Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded in any electronic media without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer.

## **Resources**

The Undergraduate Calendar is the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate programs. It can be found at:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/>

If you find yourself in difficulty, contact the undergraduate advisor in your program, or the BA Counseling Office:

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/baco/contact.shtml>

## **Policy on the Use of Electronic Devices**

Please note that the use of Laptop computers and other electronic devices is NOT permitted during the lectures.

## **Tentative Lecture Schedule**

**Note:** All readings are taken from Pojman and Fieser, unless otherwise indicated.

### **January**

- 06. Introduction to Course
- 08. The Discipline of Philosophy: Bertrand Russell, "The Value of Philosophy," 26-29.
- 13. The Problem of Free Will: Baron d'Holbach, "A Defense of Determinism," 396-401.
- 15. Moral Responsibility: Aristotle, "Voluntary Action and Responsibility," 436-440.
- 20. Punishment: Kant, "The Right to Punish: Retributivism," 475-478.
- 22. Philosophy of Religion: Aquinas, "The Five Ways," 183-185.
- 27. Philosophy of Religion: Aquinas cont.
- 29. Philosophy of Religion: Anselm, "The Ontological Argument," 205-209.

## **February**

- 03. Faith and Reason: Clifford, "The Ethics of Belief," 259-263.
- 05. Faith and Reason: James, "The Will to Believe," 254-269.
- 10. Knowledge: Plato, "The Theory of Forms" 36-41 and Sextus Empiricus, "Skepticism and Tranquility," 42-49.
- 12. Mid-Term Exam
- 17. Reading Week -- No Class/No Tutorials
- 19. Reading Week -- No Class/No Tutorials
- 24. Knowledge: Descartes, "Meditations on First Philosophy," 49-68.
- 26. Knowledge: Descartes, "Meditations" cont. 68-79.

## **March**

- 03. Knowledge: Locke, "Knowledge Through Experience," 80-88.
- 05. Knowledge: Rorty, "Dismantling Truth: Solidarity vs. Objectivity," 154-160 and Dennett, "Postmodernism and Truth," 161-166.
- 10. Knowledge: Code, "A Feminist Epistemology?" 167-173.
- 12. Ethics: Aristotle (Courselink Reading)
- 17. Ethics: Aristotle (Courselink Reading)
- 19. Ethics: Aristotle (Courselink Reading)
- 24. Ethics: Hobbes, "The Social Contract," 602-610.
- 26. Ethics: Mill, "Utilitarianism and Pleasure," 612-616.
- 31. M/B Problem: Shaffer, "Consciousness and the Mind-Body Problem," 294-314.

## **April**

- 02. Course Wrap-Up

### **Tutorial Reading Schedule**

Course Graduate Teaching Assistants:

- 1. Shannon Buckley <sbuckley@uoguelph.ca>
- 2. Brian Richard <bricha09@uoguelph.ca>
- 3. Curtis Robinson <crobin08@uoguelph.ca>

Schedule:

- Week 1: Plato, "Socratic Wisdom," 11-19.
- Week 2: Stace, "Compatibilism: Free Will is Consistent with Determinism," 408-413
- Week 3: Lewis, "Against the Humanitarian Theory of Rehabilitation," 489-493.
- Week 4: Paley, "The Watch," 196-198 and Hume, "A Critique," 199-205.
- Week 5: Swinburne, "A Theistic Response to the Problem of Evil," 236-247.
- Week 6: Hume, "Experience and the Limits of Human Reason," 112-126.

Week 7: Reading Week -- No Tutorials

Week 8: Plato, "Arguments for the Immortality of the Soul," 373-376.

Week 9: Russell, "The Illusion of Immortality," 377-379.

Week 10: Nietzsche, "Beyond Good and Evil," 641-648.

Week 11: Kant, "Duty and the Categorical Imperative," 617-628.

Week 12: Mackie, "The Law of the Jungle," 559-565.

Week: 13: Searle, "Minds, Brains, and Computers," 349-355

### **Information on Tutorials**

The 'tutorial' refers to your weekly meetings with the Teaching Assistants for the course. At these meetings, you will hand in your 10 x 250 word papers for the week, and you will be expected to contribute to class discussion on the topic.<sup>1</sup> *You must not only attend the tutorial meeting, but you must also stay for the duration of the seminar in order to receive credit for your paper.* Your papers will each be graded out of two points. Papers that are not submitted will obviously receive a zero out of two; papers that are handed in, but have problems with grammar, expression or comprehension, will receive one point out of two; and papers that show a firm grasp of the reading and that are well written, will receive a full two points. Your TA will discuss how to go about writing these papers at their first meeting with you. Accordingly, although you will be expected to come to the first meeting having done the reading for the day, you will not have to submit a paper.

**Note:** The material from the tutorials is relevant only to the seminars, i.e., you will not be examined on it.

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<sup>1</sup> Please note: you will not be required to hand in papers in Week 1, at your first meeting, nor obviously in Week 7, during Reading Week. This still leaves 11 tutorial meetings, of which you will hand in 10 papers. Which tutorial you choose not to submit a paper/attend without being penalized will be up to you.