

PHIL 1000-01: INTRODUCTORY PHILOSOPHY: MAJOR TEXTS

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Office Hours: Tues. 4-5 or by appointment

Winter Term 2013
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 8, 2013. 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

- 07. Introduction to Course
- 09. The Discipline of Philosophy: Bertrand Russell, "The Value of Philosophy," 26-29.
- 14. Logic: Pojman, "Excursus: A Little Bit of Logic," (CourseLink Reading).
- 16. The Problem of Free Will: Baron d'Holbach, "A Defense of Determinism," 396-401.
- 21. Moral Responsibility: Aristotle, "Voluntary Action and Responsibility," 436-440.
- 23. Philosophy of Religion: Aquinas, "The Five Ways," 183-185.
- 28. Philosophy of Religion: Aquinas cont.
- 30. Philosophy of Religion: Anselm, "The Ontological Argument," 205-209.

February

- 04. Philosophy of Religion: Broad, "The Argument from Religious Experience," 212-219.
- 06. Faith and Reason: Clifford, "The Ethics of Belief," 259-263.
- 11. Faith and Reason: James, "The Will to Believe," 254-269.
- 13. Mid-Term Exam
- 18. Reading Week -- No Class
- 20. Reading Week -- No Class
- 25. Knowledge: Sextus Empiricus, "Skepticism and Tranquility," 42-49.
- 27. Knowledge: Descartes, "Meditations on First Philosophy," 49-68.

March

- 04. Knowledge: Descartes, "Meditations" cont. 68-79.
- 06. Knowledge: Rorty, "Dismantling Truth: Solidarity vs. Objectivity," 154-160.
- 11. Knowledge: Dennett, "Postmodernism and Truth," 161-166.
- 13. Ethics: Aristotle (Courselink Reading)
- 18. Ethics: Aristotle (Courselink Reading)
- 20. Ethics: Aristotle (Courselink Reading)
- 25. Ethics: Hobbes, "The Social Contract," 602-610.
- 27. Ethics: Mill, "Utilitarianism and Pleasure," 612-616.

April

- 01. Ethics: Pojman, "Ethical Relativism vs. Ethical Objectivism," 519-528.
- 03. Course Wrap-Up

Tutorial Reading Schedule

Course Graduate Teaching Assistants:

- 1. Shannon Buckley <sbuckley@uoguelph.ca>
- 2. Doug Halls <dhalls@uoguelph.ca>
- 3. Daniel McDonald <dmcdon03@uoguelph.ca>
- 4. Brian Rogers <rogersb@uoguelph.ca>

Week 1: Plato, "Socratic Wisdom," 11-19.

Week 2: Stace, "Compatibilism: Free Will is Consistent with Determinism," 408-413.

Week 3: Kant, "The Right to Punish: Retributivism," 475-478.

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: Flew et al. "A Debate on the Rationality of Religious Belief," 251-255.

Week 7: Reading Week -- No Tutorials

Week 8: Searle, "Minds, Brains, and Computers," 349-355.

Week 9: Plato, "The Theory of Forms and the Doctrine of Recollection," 36-41.

Week 10: Locke, "Knowledge Through Experience," 80-88

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

Week 12: Week of Good Friday -- No Tutorials

Week 13: Nietzsche, "Beyond Good and Evil," 641-648.

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 250 word papers for the week, and you will be expected to contribute to class discussion on the topic. You must 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.