

PHIL 101.07: INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

Fall 2017

Section 101.07

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

1:00 – 1:50

Maybank Hall 206

Instructor

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Glebe 16, Room 300

Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 10:00-11:00 or by appointment

Description

This is a general introduction to philosophy, designed to acquaint students with certain significant problems as they are considered by major philosophical figures. These are not esoteric questions but instead ones central to ordinary human experience. Students will be encouraged to formulate and defend their own answers to these questions, using the concepts and methods of inquiry introduced in the course. This process will help improve students' abilities to think more critically and to communicate with greater clarity and precision.

Texts

Perry, Bratman, and Fischer (eds.), *Introduction to Philosophy: Classical and Contemporary Readings*, Seventh Edition (2015: Oxford: ISBN: 9780190200237)

Additional readings will be made available via OAKS. These are indicated under the course schedule below as “[OAKS]”.

Required Work

Your final grade will depend on the percentage you earn of the total points possible in the class:

A+: 97-100; A: 94-96; A-: 90-93; B+: 87-89; B: 84-86; B-: 80-83; C+: 77-79; C: 74-76; C-: 70-73; D+: 67-69;

D: 64-66; D-: 60-63.

Papers

There are two papers assigned during the course of this term. The first paper will be worth 20% of your final grade and will be returned to you with comments. The second paper will be worth 25% of your grade, but will not be returned to you unless specifically requested by you.

- First paper assigned Friday, September 22, and due Friday, October 6.
- Second paper assigned Friday, November 10, and due Wednesday, November 29.

Assignments submitted late without explicit extensions or authorized excuses will receive a penalty of one letter grade (10%) per day since the due date. Final papers will not be accepted after Friday, December 8 for any reason.

Exams

There will be two exams for this class, with the midterm held on Wednesday, October 4, and the final held Saturday, December 9, 12:00-3:00 pm. The midterm exam is worth 20% of your final grade, and the final exam is worth 25%.

Quizzes

There will be eight short pop quizzes held throughout the term, some during lecture and others during discussion sections. The six quizzes with the *highest* scores will make up 10% of your grade; the two

quizzes with the *lowest* scores will be dropped. Quizzes will last approximately five minutes, and will focus on the readings assigned for the day the quiz is held, or readings from that week.

Learning Outcomes

This course counts toward the General Education Humanities requirement. All humanities course must address the following (general) learning outcomes:

- (1) Students analyze how ideas are represented, interpreted or valued in various expressions of human culture; and
- (2) Students examine relevant primary source materials as understood by the discipline and interpret the material in writing assignments.

These outcomes are assessed as a part of the second paper for the course.

Accommodations

The College will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students should apply for services at the Center for Disability Services/SNAP located on the first floor of the Lightsey Center, Suite 104. Students approved for accommodations are responsible for notifying the instructor as soon as possible and for contacting the instructor one week before accommodation is needed.

You will not be penalized for any absences due to religious observances. However, it is your responsibility to inform me in advance of any intended absences for religious observance *as soon as possible* so that we can make other arrangements. As well, it remains your responsibility to have read the material assigned for that day and to obtain any notes from one of your classmates for classes missed.

Classroom Courtesy

Please be courteous to your fellow students and avoid unnecessary disruptions. Arrive on time, leave on time, and *turn off your cell phone during class*. Note that if your cell phone rings during class, *I will answer it*. Laptops are permitted in class, but please do not abuse this privilege. Text-messaging is *not* permitted during my class. If you are seen text-messaging during class-time, your grade will be deducted 1 percent. This is your only warning. (If you believe that need to use your cell phone or other electronic device during class, please meet with me to discuss this *before* class.)

Attendance

You are permitted three absences from class. After that, for every class you miss without authorized excuse, your final grade will be deducted 1 percent.

Academic Integrity and Irresponsibility

I take incidents of academic misconduct *very seriously*, and I will report any instances of academic dishonesty to the Office of Student Affairs. These include but are not restricted to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and fabrication. Knowing what constitutes academic misconduct is *your responsibility*. If you have a concern about what constitutes academic dishonesty *prior to turning in an assignment*, please see me, and I will be happy to help you. To learn more, visit: <http://libguides.library.cofc.edu/academicintegrity/>

Course Schedule

Topic	Date	Readings	Assignments
Introduction	(W) Aug 23	<i>No Readings</i>	
Arguments	(F) Aug 25	<i>No Readings</i>	
The Meaning of Life	(M) Aug 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Albert Camus: “The Myth of Sisyphus” • Thomas Nagel: “The Absurd” 	
	(W) Aug 30	• Richard Taylor: “The Meaning of Human Existence”	
	(F) Sep 1	• Raymond Martin: “A Fast Car and a Good Woman” [OAKS]	
	(M) Sep 4	<i>No Readings</i>	
	(W) Sep 6	• Aristotle: “Nicomachean Ethics”	

	(F) Sep 8	• Thomas Nagel: “Aristotle on <i>Eudaimonia</i> ” [OAKS]	
	(M) Sep 11	<i>No Readings</i>	
Ethics	(W) Sep 13	• Jeremy Bentham: “The Principle of Utility” • John Stuart Mill: “Utilitarianism”	
	(F) Sep 15	• Peter Singer: “Famine, Affluence, and Morality”	
	(M) Sep 18	<i>No Readings</i>	
	(W) Sep 20	• Immanuel Kant: “Groundwork of the Metaphysic of Morals”	
	(F) Sep 22	• Onora O’Neill: “Kantian Approaches to Some Famine Problems”	Paper 1 Assigned
	(M) Sep 25	<i>No Readings</i>	
	(W) Sep 27	• John Rawls: “A Theory of Justice”	
	(F) Sep 29	<i>No Readings</i>	
Midterm Review	(M) Oct 2	<i>No Readings</i>	
Midterm Exam	(W) Oct 4	<i>No Readings</i>	
Minds & Consciousness	(F) Oct 6	• René Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> I and II	Paper 1 Due
	(M) Oct 9	• David Armstrong, “The Nature of the Mind”	
	(W) Oct 11	<i>No Readings</i>	
	(F) Oct 13	• A.M. Turing: “Computing Machinery and Intelligence”	

October 16: No Classes

Minds & Consciousness	(W) Oct 18	• John Searle: “Minds, Brains, and Programs”	
	(F) Oct 20	<i>No Readings</i>	
	(M) Oct 23	• Thomas Nagel: “What Is It Like to Be a Bat?” [OAKS]	
	(W) Oct 25	• Frank Jackson, “What Mary Didn’t Know” • David Lewis, “Knowing What It’s Like” [OAKS]	
	(F) Oct 27	<i>No Readings</i>	
Personal Identity	(M) Oct 30	• John Perry: “A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality”	

November 1: No Class

Personal Identity	(F) Nov 3	• Bernard Williams: “The Self and the Future”	
	(M) Nov 6	<i>No Readings</i>	
	(W) Nov 8	• Derek Parfit: “Personal Identity”	
	(F) Nov 10	• Daniel Dennett: “Where Am I?”	Paper 2 Assigned
	(M) Nov 13	<i>No Readings</i>	
Freedom & Determinism	(W) Nov 15	• Roderick M. Chisholm: “Human Freedom and the Self”	
	(F) Nov 17	• Peter Van Inwagen: “The Powers of Rational Beings: Freedom of the Will”	
	(M) Nov 20	<i>No Readings</i>	

Wed Nov 22 – Sun Nov 26: Thanksgiving Break

Freedom & Determinism	(M) Nov 27	• David Hume: “Of Liberty and Necessity”	
	(W) Nov 29	• Richard Taylor: “Freedom and Determinism” [OAKS]	Paper 2 Due
	(F) Dec 1	<i>No Readings</i>	
Final Review	(M) Dec 4	<i>No Readings</i>	

Final Exam is scheduled to take place on Saturday, December 9, 12:00-3:00 pm.