

**Freshman Seminar: What Does It All Mean?**  
**FRES 1010**  
**Spring 2005**  
**3rd (10:10A-11:00A)F**  
**219 Peabody Hall**

**Dr. Robert G. Burton**  
**Office: Peabody Hall #107**  
**Telephone: 542-2814**  
[rburton@uga.edu](mailto:rburton@uga.edu)

## **Syllabus**

**Description:** This course is designed to introduce philosophy as a process of systematic reflection on the varieties of experience. Students are challenged to wrestle directly with nine questions introduced by Thomas Nagel in his *What Does It All Mean? A Very Short Introduction to Philosophy*, Oxford, 1987(available from Off Campus Bookstore, 696 Baxter Street, Phone: 548-9376 and Baxter Street Bookstore, Phone: 549- 3081). How do we know anything? Are there other minds? How are the mind and body related? Can a word mean something? Do we have free will? Is anything really right or wrong? What social inequalities are unjust? What is the nature of death? Is there a meaning to life?

<b>Date</b>	<b>Reading Assignment</b>
1/14	Introduction
1/21	Logic
1/28	How do we know anything?
2/4	Are there other minds?
2/11	How are the mind and body related?
2/18	How are the mind and body related? (concluded)
2/25	Can a word mean something?
3/4	Do we have free will?
3/11	Do we have free will? (concluded)
3/14-18	Spring Break
3/25	No class meeting today - Make up supper meeting to be scheduled
4/1	Is anything really right or wrong?
4/8	Is anything really right or wrong? (concluded)
4/15	What social inequalities are unjust?
4/22	What is the nature of death?
4/29	Is there a meaning to life?

**Requirements:** The grading will be Pass/Fail. To earn a Pass you must read the assignments, come to the classes and participate in the discussions, and write a brief paper (about 4 double spaced pages) due no later than our last regular class meeting on 4/29 that answers any one of the nine questions. No more than one unexcused absence will be accepted. Dr. Burton's office hours are by appointment in Peabody 107. You are also welcome to drop by his office for brief matters at any time.