

Syllabus
Philosophy 1000
Introduction to Philosophy
Fall 2007
MWF, 10:10-11:00
Room: Peabody 115

Instructor:

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Purpose:

The goal of this course is to introduce you to both the history of philosophy and to its central topics. To be faithful to its history, we shall be reading original works, starting with Plato, circa 400 B.C.E., and continuing on to the twentieth century, with Bertrand Russell and Saul Kripke. In the first third of the class, we shall consider Plato's problem of the good life, which ultimately evolved into the broader philosophical category of ethics. In the second two thirds of the class, we shall turn to the classic problem of the limits of knowledge, as posed by Descartes, as well as issues of causation and the mind-body problem. We shall see how these issues are explored by his contemporaries, Berkeley, Hume and Locke, in the seventeenth and eighteenth century. Finally, we shall turn to twentieth century treatments of the issue.

Reading Assignments:

The schedule of reading assignments and exams is given below. A reading should always be completed prior to the class meeting for which it is assigned. Participation is expected, so come to class prepared to ask questions and discuss the material.

Grading:

I grade according to the standard interpretation of the grading scale: excellent work will merit an A; good work will earn a B; average work will receive a C; below average work will earn a D; and unacceptable work will merit an F.

Quizzes:

Quizzes on the reading will be given throughout the semester. The quizzes will be worth 10% of the final grade.

Exams:

There will be three exams which will each count for 30% of your final grade. The exams will be essay style, so please come to class on exam days with an unused blue-book. The final exam will not be cumulative. It will cover the final third of the course.

Makeup exams are given only under the most pressing reasons such as serious illness. You must notify the instructor of your intended absence on an exam day no later than the day of the exam. Failure to do so will result in a zero for the missed exam. Furthermore, you will be expected to present notification from the Office of Student Affairs validating your excuse. You will be required to take the exam at the first possible time following the missed exam. An unexcused absence on an exam day will result in a zero on the missed exam. There will be no exceptions to this policy.

Attendance:

Attendance is required. Failure to attend class will negatively effect your grade. A missed quiz counts as a zero, rather than as a 50% score for an F. Quizzes will not be made up. Five absences preclude a student from receiving an A. Ten absences constitute failure of the course.

Required Readings:**Schedule of Readings and Assignments:**

Five Dialogues by Plato
Republic by Plato
Leviathan by Thomas Hobbes
The Second Treatise of Government by John Locke
Utilitarianism by John Stuart Mill
Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals by Immanuel Kant
Meditations on First Philosophy by René Descartes
Three Dialogues between Hylas and Philonous by George Berkeley
An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding by David Hume
An Essay concerning Human Understanding by John Locke
The Problems of Philosophy by Bertrand Russell
Logical Positivism by Bertrand Russell
Identity and Necessity by Saul Kripke
Mind by John Searle
The Foundation of Knowledge by Moritz Schlick
The Elimination of Metaphysics Through Logical Analysis of Language by Rudolf Carnap
Language, Truth and Logic by A. J. Ayer

The texts may be acquired by any means. However, hard copy must be brought to class, and books are strongly encouraged.

- 8/17 Introduction to the Course. Aristotle, "Metaphysics," Book gamma.
- 8/20 Plato, "Apology," pp. 23-44. "Crito," pp. 45-58.
- 8/22 Plato, "Republic," Book 2, 357a-369a, Books 9-10, 580a-621d.
- 8/24 Hobbes, "Leviathan," chapters 11, 13, pp. 65-71, 82-86.
- 8/27 Hobbes, "Leviathan," chapters 14 and 15, pp. 86-106
- 8/29 Hobbes, "Leviathan," chapters 29 and 30, pp. 212-235.
- 8/31 Locke, "The Second Treatise of Government," chapters 1-7, pp. 1-43.
- 9/5 Locke, "The Second Treatise of Government," chapters 8-13, pp. 44-73.
- 9/7 Locke, "The Second Treatise of Government," chapters 9-13, pp. 73-112.
- 9/10 Mill, "Utilitarianism", chapters 1 and 2, pp. 1-25.
- 9/12 Mill, "Utilitarianism", chapters 3 and 4, pp. 26-40.
- 9/14 Mill, "Utilitarianism", chapter 5, pp. 41-63.
- 9/17 Hume, "A Treatise of Human Nature," book 2, part 3, Sections 2-4.
Kant, "Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals," sec. 1, pp. 7-17.
- 9/19 Kant, "Grounding for the Metaphysics of Morals," sec. 2, pp. 19-38.
Kant, "On a Supposed Right to Lie because of Philanthropic Concerns," pp. 63-7.
- 9/21 Review

9/24 **First Exam**

- 9/26 Descartes, "Meditations on First Philosophy", meditations 1-3, pp. 13-40.
9/28 Descartes, "Meditations on First Philosophy", meditations 3, pp. 40-52.
- 10/1 Descartes, "Meditations on First Philosophy", meditations 4, pp. 53-62.
10/3 Descartes, "Meditations on First Philosophy", meditations 5, pp. 63-71.
10/5 Descartes, "Meditations on First Philosophy", meditations 6, pp. 71-90.
- 10/8 Locke, "An Essay concerning Human Understanding," book 2, chapters 2, 3 and 8, pp. 118 - 122, 132-143.
10/10 Berkeley, "Three Dialogues between Hylas and Philonous", dialog 1, pp. 3-42.
10/12 Berkeley, "Three Dialogues between Hylas and Philonous", dialog 2, pp. 43-60.
- 10/15 Berkeley, "Three Dialogues between Hylas and Philonous", dialog 3, pp. 61-94.
10/17 Hume, "An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding", sections 2-4, pp. 9-25.
10/19 Hume, "An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding", section 4, pp. 25-53.

10/22 Review

10/24 **Second Exam**

- 10/29 Locke, "An Essay concerning Human Understanding," book 2, ch. 1, pp 104-118.
10/31 Locke, "An Essay concerning Human Understanding," book 2, ch. 27, pp. 328-348.
11/2 Russell, "The Problems of Philosophy", chapters 1-5, pp. 7-59.
- 11/5 Russell, "The Problems of Philosophy", chapters 6-8, 14 pp. 60-90, 141-152.
11/7 Kripke, "Identity and Necessity," excerpt to be handed out.
11/9 Searle, "Mind," introduction and chapter 1, pp. 1-40.
- 11/12 Searle, "Mind," chapter 2, pp. 41-81.
11/14 Searle, "Mind," chapter 3, pp. 83-106
11/16 Schlick, "The Foundation of Knowledge."
- 11/19 Carnap, "The Elimination of Metaphysics Through Logical Analysis of Language," pp. 154-171.
- 11/26 Ayer, "Language, Truth and Logic," preface to 1st ed., chapter, pp. 31-45.
Russell, "Logical Positivism."
11/28 Ayer, "Language, Truth and Logic," Introduction, chapters 2-3, pp. 5-26, 46-71.
11/30 Ayer, "Language, Truth and Logic," chapters 4-5, pp. 71-102.
- 12/3 Ayer, "Language, Truth and Logic," chapters 7-8. pp. 133-153.
12/5 Review.
- 12/? **Final Exam: Non-cumulative. Please consult Oasis for scheduled exam time.**