

INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 1000 - Fall 2007

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Beth Preston

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OFFICE HOURS: Monday & Wednesday 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

TEACHING ASSISTANT: Mr. Luke Schoenbaum

OFFICE: 126 Peabody Hall

OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday & Friday 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

TEXTS:

Plato	<i>Republic</i>
St. Thomas Aquinas	<i>Treatise on Law</i>
Jean-Jacques Rousseau	<i>On the Social Contract</i>
Friedrich Nietzsche	<i>The Genealogy of Morals</i>

Immanuel Kant	“An Answer to the Question: What Is Enlightenment?” http://philosophy.eserver.org/kant/what-is-enlightenment.txt
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John Stuart Mill	<i>On Liberty</i> (UGA Bookstore)
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Jean-Paul Sartre	“Existentialism is a Humanism” http://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/sartre/works/exist/sartre.htm
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COURSE DESCRIPTION: In this course you will be introduced to Western philosophy by reading important works of philosophy in this tradition and by thinking critically about the ideas they contain. The guiding theme for the semester will be *expertise and society*. We rely on experts in many areas of life—medical experts, engineering experts, scientific experts, educational experts, culinary experts, musical experts and so on. But are there people who are experts with regard to the best way to order and run human societies? And if so, who they are? Politicians, religious leaders, scientists, and nowadays even talk show hosts often claim to have this expertise. But do they really? Isn't it possible that there are no such experts, but that society collectively is in the best position to run its own affairs? If that is true, though, other problems arise. How can society collectively make the relevant decisions? In particular, if people disagree with each other about how their society should best be ordered and run, how are these disagreements to be settled? These are the kinds of issues we will be focusing on this semester.

WRITTEN REQUIREMENTS: There will be three required in-class exams and an optional final exam. Each in-class exam will count for one third of your course grade. If you take the final your lowest grade will be dropped and your course grade will be calculated on the basis of your three highest grades. *Please note: you **must** take all three of the in-class exams in order to exercise the option to take the final. If you fail to take any of the three in-class exams you will be administratively withdrawn from the course (see below under Failure to Complete Required Work).*

LECTURE AND DISCUSSION: There are two 50 minute lectures by the Instructor each week. There is also a 50 minute discussion section each week, led by the Teaching Assistant. Please note that you are registered for a specific discussion section. This is the only section you are to attend, unless you have obtained prior permission from the Teaching Assistant to switch. Permission to switch may not be possible in all cases, since there are space limitations in some classrooms.

ATTENDANCE: Attendance in lecture and in discussion section is required as a matter of University policy: <http://bulletin.uga.edu/bulletin/ind/attendance.html> Attendance will be taken in lecture by means of a seating chart, and in discussion section by a suitable method to be determined by the Teaching Assistant. You are expected to arrive on time for class, and leave only when the whole class is dismissed. If you fail to do so, the Teaching Assistant may mark you absent, at his or her discretion. We will start taking attendance in discussion sections on Thursday, August 23rd, and in lecture on Monday, August 27th.

Administrative drops: The Instructor reserves the right, at her discretion, to withdraw administratively and without notice any student who accumulates eight or more unexcused absences at any point in the semester. However, if you *decide* to withdraw from the course you should *not* count on this policy to withdraw you automatically—you should initiate the withdrawal yourself. If you withdraw or are withdrawn prior to the midpoint withdrawal deadline (Friday, October 12th) the Instructor may assign you either a W or a WF, at her discretion. If you withdraw or are withdrawn after the midpoint withdrawal deadline the University requires that a WF be assigned.

CLASS PARTICIPATION: Participation in the discussion sections is highly encouraged. Questions are also welcome during the lecture period. The Instructor and the Teaching Assistant may call upon individual students to answer questions or give their opinion. But voluntary participation is very much preferred. With regard to participation in discussion, quality counts as much as quantity. You should come to class and to discussion sections with the reading for that day done, and be prepared to answer questions about the reading assignments straightforwardly and sensibly. You should also be prepared on occasion to ask sensible questions yourself, or offer sensible comments about the reading or the issues with which it deals.

EXAM FORMAT: Each exam will consist of one question to be answered by a long essay. A week before each exam a list of three study questions will be distributed. You must prepare essay answers to all of the questions. One of the study questions will be the exam question. This same format will also be used for the final. The in-class exams will not be cumulative; but

the final will be.

Blue Books: The exams will be written in blue books. These are blank examination booklets, available from the UGA Bookstore and other bookstores in town. You will be required to provide three blue books before the first exam. These will be collected and redistributed for the three in-class exams. If you take the final, you will be asked to provide a blue book for it at that time.

MAKEUP EXAMS: Exams are to be taken on the date and at the time specified in the Course Outline. If circumstances beyond your control (e.g., illness, family emergency) make this impossible, or if you miss an exam for any other reason, you should request a makeup exam *immediately*, i.e., as soon as you are physically able to do so. If there are circumstances beyond your control which prevent you from doing this right away, you will be asked to document them. If you fail to show up for a make-up exam you have arranged to take, you must contact the Instructor to reschedule as soon as you are physically able to do so, and you will be asked to document that there were circumstances beyond your control which prevented you from taking the make-up exam as scheduled. If you cannot do this, the Instructor reserves the right to refuse to reschedule the make-up exam you are requesting.

FAILURE TO COMPLETE REQUIRED WORK: If you miss an in-class exam and fail to make it up you will be administratively withdrawn from the course. If the administrative withdrawal is done before the midterm withdrawal deadline (Friday, October 12th) the Instructor may assign you either a W or a WF, at her discretion. If it is done after the deadline, the University requires that you be given a WF.

GRADING POLICIES:

Exams: A letter grade will be assigned to each exam essay. Grades followed by - or + may be assigned.

Final Grade: The final grade will be determined by converting the letter grades on your exams to numerical grades in accordance with the conversion chart below; averaging the numerical grades; and then converting the resulting average back into a letter grade in accordance with the conversion chart. If you are on the borderline between one letter grade and another (e.g., if you are in the upper B+ or C+ range) other factors may be taken into account. These factors include, but are not limited to: class participation, attendance, and improvement over the course of the semester. The following letter-number conversions will be used in grading.

Letters to Numbers

A	4.00
A-	3.66
B+	3.33
B	3.00
B-	2.66
C+	2.33
C	2.00

Numbers to Letters

3.75-4.00	A
3.50-3.74	A-
3.25-3.49	B+
2.75-3.24	B
2.50-2.74	B-
2.25-2.49	C+
1.75-2.24	C

C-	1.66	1.50-1.74	C-
D+	1.33		
D	1.00	0.50-1.49	D
D-	0.66		
F	0.00	0.00-0.49	F

The following general criteria will be used in determining the letter grades. Other criteria may also enter in, at the discretion of the Instructor. This is just to give you some idea of the sort of things we will be looking for in your written work.

F = Fail

Written work does not exhibit even a minimal grasp of the main ideas and other material presented in the course, and shows virtually no attempt at organization or analysis.

D = Pass

Work shows minimal grasp of main ideas, with considerable inaccuracy in formulating them, and no grasp of the details involved. Organization of ideas seriously inadequate; failure to grasp important connections between main ideas; and analysis minimal or lacking altogether.

C = Satisfactory

Work shows very basic grasp of main ideas, with some inaccuracy in formulating them, but little, if any, detail. Some grasp of important connections between main ideas, but serious organizational flaws in other respects, e.g., paragraph structure. Analysis attempted, but minimal as to both quantity and quality.

B = Good

Main ideas and connections between them clearly and accurately expressed, but lacking in precise detail. Organization good, including good paragraph structure, and presentation of material in logically connected form. Analysis too brief to provide adequate support for positions taken, or qualitatively flawed in some respect, e.g., the quality of support for positions taken.

A = Excellent

Ideas and connections between ideas expressed clearly, accurately and in detail. Overall organization excellent, including paragraph structure. Analysis extensive, detailed and qualitatively excellent, e.g., positions taken are argued for rather than simply shored up with a few unconnected reasons.

TEACHING ASSISTANT: The Teaching Assistant will be meeting the discussion sections. She or he will also be doing the bulk of the grading and record keeping for the course. She or he will hold office hours, which will be posted and announced. If you have questions about your attendance record, the reading assignments or your grade, you should first speak to the Teaching Assistant. If she or he cannot answer your questions, or if the answers do not satisfy you for any reason, you should then speak to the Instructor. If you just want to talk about the reading or the

course in general, you may go to either the Teaching Assistant or the Instructor, or both.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: You are expected to abide by the standards for academic honesty established by the University of Georgia. If you have not already done so, you should familiarize yourself with these standards by reading *A Culture of Honesty*, a manual on the University academic honesty policy. You can find this online, along with a number of other useful documents pertaining to academic honesty at the University of Georgia, at <http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/honesty/acadhon.htm>

You are encouraged to work together by discussing the reading material and the study questions with other people, and in particular with other students in the course. This constitutes an acceptable and commendable level of cooperation for this course. Here are some examples of activities which are *not* acceptable, and which will be regarded as violating the academic honesty standards:

- Copying from another student's exam;
- Allowing another student to copy from your exam;
- Copying from or consulting textbooks, class notes, other class materials or online materials during a closed-book exam;
- Writing an essay for another student to use, or allowing another student to write one for you;
- Collaborating with other students in the writing of an essay for all the collaborators to use.

Please note this last example carefully. It prohibits teamwork in the *writing* of an essay when you are preparing for an exam. In other words, you may discuss the study questions and possible answers to them verbally with other people, but you must formulate and write out the answers on your own.

If you have any questions about what activities constitute violations of the standards for academic honesty, either in general or with regard to this course in particular, please ask the Instructor or the Teaching Assistant.

COURSE OUTLINE:

Aug 20	Introduction to the course
Aug 22	Plato, Book II
Aug 27	Plato, Book III
Aug 29	Plato, Book IV
Sept 3	LABOR DAY (no class)
Sept 5	Plato, Book V
Sept 10	Plato (continued)
Sept 12	Aquinas, 1-17
Sept 17	Aquinas, 22-27, 33-43 Study questions for Exam #1

Sept 19	Aquinas, 44-48, 52-69
Sept 24	Exam #1
Sept 26	Rousseau, 17-29 (Book I)
Oct 1	Rousseau, 29-41 (Book II)
Oct 3	Rousseau, 41-48 (Book II, continued)
Oct 8	Rousseau, 49-62 (Book III)
Oct 10	Nietzsche, 9-24 (Essay I, §1-§11)
Oct 12	MIDPOINT WITHDRAWAL DEADLINE
Oct 15	Nietzsche, 24-33 (Essay I, §12-§17)
Oct 17	Nietzsche, (Essay I, continued)
	Study questions for Exam #2
Oct 22	Nietzsche, 83-105 (Essay III, §11-§21)
Oct 24	Exam #2
Oct 25-26	FALL BREAK (no class)
Oct 29	Kant
Oct 31	Kant (continued)
Nov 5	Mill, 1-14 (Chapter I)
Nov 7	Mill, 15-22, 33-52 (Chapter II)
Nov 12	Mill, 53-64 (Chapter III)
Nov 14	Mill, 73-82 (Chapter IV)
Nov 19	Sartre, 1-7
Nov 21-23	THANKSGIVING BREAK
Nov 26	Sartre, 7-15
	Study questions for Exam #3
Nov 28	Sartre (continued)
Dec 3	Exam #3
	Study questions for Final Exam.
Dec 5	Review for final exam.
Dec 7	Reading Day
Dec 10	Final Exam (3:30 pm-6:30 pm)

Please note: This syllabus is intended for guidance only, and is subject to change. Changes will be announced in class.