

Philosophy 1000: Introduction to Philosophy

Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30-10:45, rm. 115; 11-12:15, rm. 105

Instructor: Matt Schneider

Office Hours: Wednesday 10-12 and by appointment

Office: Peabody 126

Email: SCHNEIML@uga.edu

Text: Bowie, Michaels and Solomon. *Twenty Questions*. Belmont: Wadsworth: 2007. Available at various campus and off campus bookstores.

Goals for this Course:

This course is designed for the student with little or no formal training in philosophy, and covers a broad range of topics including Epistemology, Metaphysics, Ethics and Political Philosophy. Students should gain a mastery of historical and contemporary philosophical issues and the debates therein. Critical reading, discussion and writing skills will be emphasized as part of this course.

What I expect from you:

You will most likely find this course challenging. **The readings** are not written for the purpose of easy digestibility for new students, but are written by professional philosophers, who either are now or have been actively engaged in their field. As a result, you will have to commit a good deal of time to each of the readings. I strongly recommend reading all of them at least twice. Do not let the relatively short length of the reading assignments fool you. This is difficult material. I encourage you to **take notes**, mark up your book, and refer to secondary resources when applicable (i.e. dictionaries, online reference pages, etc). You may use these notes to aid you on in-class quizzes. I may assign additional reading assignments from online journals or in the form of photocopied handouts as I see fit.

Attendance:

This is NOT a correspondence course. We cannot have a class without students, so attendance is mandatory. You will be allowed three (3) absences over the course of the semester. No questions asked. These absences are allotted to deal with unavoidable situations which may inevitably come up, so don't use them to just 'take an off-day.' Absences beyond four will undoubtedly affect your course grade.

Assignments and Grading:

Expect regular **quizzes** at the beginning of the class period over the assigned reading material and class lectures and discussions. Your quiz

grade will count for **25%** of your final grade. ***You may utilize your reading and class notes in answering the quiz questions.*** In addition to reading quizzes, you will have a midterm exam and a final exam. The midterm exam will count for **35%** of your final grade. Your final exam will count for **40%** of your final grade. Both exams will be a combination of short answer and essay questions. I have very high grading standards for exams.

Final Grades for the course will be assigned using the new +/- grading system approved by the Regents.

Academic Honesty – I expect all students to abide by the University guidelines for academic honesty. More information is available online at: http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/honesty/culture_honesty.htm Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action.

Disclaimer: The instructor reserves the right to change any and all information contained in this syllabus at his discretion: I will notify students of any changes to the syllabus, and the changes will be documented on the WebCT page for this course *or* via in-class updates.

Readings and Course Calendar:

Thursday, August 16, 2007

Introduction to course. Read the Introduction to your text.

Epistemology and Mind: How do we Know *anything*?

Tuesday, Aug. 21, 2007 - Last day of Drop/Add

Plato and Descartes – pp 202-209

Thursday, Aug. 23

Carroll, Russell, Locke – pp 211-216

Tuesday, Aug. 28

Berkeley – 217-221

Thursday, Aug. 30

Descartes and Ryle – 163-173

Tuesday, Sept. 4

Lycan and Searle – 174-184

Metaphysics I: God, Creation, Existence

Thursday, Sept 6

'Scholastic' arguments for God's existence: Augustine, Anselm and Aquinas – 39-46

Tuesday, Sept. 11

Paley – 47-49

Thursday, Sept. 13

Kant and Hume – 50-55

Tuesday, Sept. 18
Kierkegaard and James – 58-64

Thursday, Sept. 20
Nietzsche – 21-23 and Angier – 55-56

Tuesday, Sept. 25
Creation and Evolution – pp 114-133

Thursday, Sept. 27
Kitcher – 134-143

Tuesday, Sept. 29
Ruse – 144-152 and Dennett – 154-158

Tuesday, Oct. 2
In-class review for midterm exam

Thursday, Oct. 4
Midterm Exam
Ethics and Justice – What ought I to do?

Tuesday, Oct. 9
Religious Ethics – 515-523

Thursday, Oct 11
Aristotle – 524-531

Friday, October 12: **Midpoint withdrawal deadline**

Tuesday, Oct. 16
Kant – 532-534

Thursday, Oct. 18
Mill – 536-538

Tuesday, Oct. 23
Nietzsche and Ayer – 539-544

Thursday, Oct. 25
Plato and Hobbes – 619-627

Tuesday, Oct. 30
Rawls – 632-636

Thursday, Nov. 1
Nozick – 637-641

Tuesday, Nov. 6
Singer – 644-645 and Sen – 649-654

Applied Ethics – Philosophy's Legwork

Thursday, Nov. 8
Abortion for and against – 347-361

Tuesday, Nov. 13
Callahan and Davis – 364-370

Thursday, Nov 15
Rachels and Steinbock – 389-397

Tuesday, Nov. 20
Smith, Marx and Engels, Friedman – 664-673

Thursday, Nov. 22
No class: Thanksgiving Break

Metaphysics II: Personal Identity

Tuesday, Nov. 27
Perry – 265-282

Thursday, Nov. 29
Locke – 283-287, Michaels and Leiber – 291-299

Tuesday, Dec. 4
No Class: Friday Schedule

Thursday, Dec.. 6 – last day of class
Review for Final Exam

Tuesday, Dec. 11
Final exam for 11:00 class. 12-3 pm

Thursday, Dec. 13
Final exam for 9:30 class. 8-11 am