

PHIL 1000: Introduction to Philosophy
Spring, 2008

Lecturer: Raymond Woller

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Office

127 Peabody

Hours:

Monday & Wednesday: 10:00 to 11:30 and 3:30 to 5:30

Tuesday & Thursday: 10:30 - 12:00

And by appointment

Teaching Assistant: TBA

Office

TBA

Hours

TBA

You are responsible for knowing everything contained in this course description.

Text: All required readings for the course are on the Course Website (WebCT) under the Readings icon on the Course Content page.

Goals of the Course: To have you acquire, through reading, lecture, and discussion, an understanding of some of the views and arguments of some of the most important figures of western philosophy, from its beginnings in the 6th Century B.C.E. to the 20th Century C.E.

Method:

- There are two lectures a week in Peabody 115.
- And there is one discussion or breakout session. You are assigned to one such session on either Thursday or Friday. Consult your schedule for the time and place of your discussion section. Discussion sections are small classes designed to facilitate discussion of the material presented in lecture. Suggested discussion topics for both Thursday and Friday discussion sections are posted on the Syllabus/Calendar on Thursday of each week

Grades:

- Your course grade will be calculated from four elements that are listed below with their weight towards the course grade:
 - Quizzes (about 10) on the assigned readings. (20%)
 - A missed quiz receives the grade of 0%.
 - A failing grade on a quiz is 50%.
 - The 3 lowest quiz grade will be dropped.
 - There are no makeups for quizzes.
 - Three in class hour exams. (Each worth 20%)
 - The first will be graded before the deadline to withdraw with a W.
 - Anyone withdrawing before the deadline will receive a grade of W.
 - If you miss an exam, a written excuse must be provided within one week of the missed exam or the excuse must make clear for the delay in turning in the excuse.
 - You must take all three exams to receive a passing grade in the course.
 - Your discussion-section grade. (20%)
 - Your TA will explain how this grade will be determined.
 - Your cumulative discussion grade will be posted on the website about every 4 weeks.
 - If your grades are not what you expected, be sure to make an appointment with your TA to find in what ways you are not performing up to our expectations.
- Your grades are available on the course website under the My Grades icon on the homepage. Only you can see your grades.
- The university now uses a plus-minus system for recording grades. You should check the following website for answers to some frequently asked questions about this system:
<http://www.bulletin.uga.edu/PlusMinusGradingFAQ.html#Q9>.
 - I use numbers from 0 to 100 in grading quizzes and exams. To see how they relate to plus and minus letter grades, click on the +/- Grades icon on the Course Website Homepage. In calculating grades, I do not round up or down: for example, a 79.9 is a C+
- There will be no extra-credit options.
- Keep all graded material returned to you in case there is a factual error in recording your grade.

- **If there is an error in any grade that we post on the website, you must document the error by showing us the graded quiz or exam within one week of date that the graded material was made available in your discussion section.**
 - **You must have the graded paper to have an error corrected.**

Reading Assignments:

- You should expect to spend at least two (2) hours working through the reading assignment for each class.
- Readings are to be read carefully **before** the class in which they will be considered. Quizzes will be on the readings assigned for the day the quiz is given.
- Although most of the readings are not long, they are not easy. You should expect to have to read the material very slowly.
- Reading assignments are listed under the Syllabus/Calendar icon on the Homepage of the Course Website. Clicking on the icon sends you to a calendar. To see the actual assignment, you have to click on the date-number.
- The Syllabus/Calendar is subject to change. When there is a change that you have not seen, a calendar icon appears on the WebCT welcome page and the Syllabus/Calendar icon will have green lines radiating from it. **You are responsible for knowing what changes have been made to the calendar.**
 - By clicking on Compile Entries, you can generate a printable version of the Syllabus/Calendar.

Course Web Site: All material relevant for the course is to be found on or through the Course Website.

- The **Syllabus/Description** is this document.
- The **Syllabus/Calendar** contains the class topics for each day, the reading assignments for each day, and exam dates.
 - You can make private entries in this calendar if you wish.
- **Course Content:**
 - *Readings:* All the assigned readings are available under this icon.
 - *Logic Material:* Under this icon are notes and exercise material for when we take up arguments.
 - *Notes:* I post the lecture slides after each lecture.
 - *Misc Material:* Extra material of interest will be posted under this icon. Some may be assigned for discussion in discussion sections.
 - *Reference Material:* Links to a dictionary of philosophy and an excellent encyclopedia of philosophy, and some material about what philosophy and majoring in philosophy.
 - *Links:* Under this icon are some links to philosophy web sites. If you discover some interesting links to philosophy sites, let me know and I will add them under this icon.
- **Discussion** is a bulletin board feature.
 - This is the place to post questions and comments about the material encountered in the readings and in lecture.
 - I look at this quite regularly and respond to postings.
 - I will delete any posting that are not relevant to the course.
 - If there are posting you have not read, you receive a Discussions icon on the course welcome page, and the Intra-class Mail icon appears with green radiating lines.
- **Intra-class Mail** is an e-mail function limited to members of the class and the instructor.
 - Use this or my regular e-mail address (see the box above) to contact me about personal matters relating to the course.
 - I use this feature if I need to contact you about something which pertains to you.
 - **You are responsible for knowing the contents of any e-mail I send you in this fashion.**
 - Forward your Intra-class mail to a e-mail box that you frequent very often. You can do this by clicking on Message Settings on the same line as the Compose message box.
 - If you have unread mail, a mail-icon appears on the WebCt welcome page where this course is listed and the Intra-class Mail icon on the home page also appears with radiating green lines.
 - If you use this feature to pose general questions or comments about the course material, I will move the questions and comments to the bulletin board.
- **Academic Honesty:** All academic work must meet the standards contained in “A Culture of Honesty.” Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. The link to “A Culture of Honesty” is <http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/honesty/acadhon.html>; you can also access this document from the Course Homepage. It is important that you be familiar with this document, since ignorance of what it contains is no excuse when it comes to violations of academic honesty.
- **My Grades** is where you can see your grade. (Only you can see your grades.)
- **+/- Grading** explains how I convert percentage grades to plus/minus letter grades.
- **Chat** provides chat rooms for you to carry on discussion with fellow class-members. I do not monitor this feature.

Office Hours: You are encouraged to take advantage of my office hours as well as my TA’s. If the hours are inconvenient for you, we will gladly arrange a mutually convenient time to meet with you. You should be aware that you are **not** bothering us by meeting with us.

January 2008

Date Event

Monday, January 7 Mechanics & Basics

- After class carefully read Syllabus/Description on the Course Website (WebCT) and check the Syllabus/Calendar there as well.

Wednesday, January 9 Plato on Meaning

- Have read Plato's "Euthyphro". Remember that all assigned readings are under the Readings icon on the Course Content page; they are listed in alphabetical order by the authors' last names.

Thursday, January 10 Thurs. & Fri. Discussion Topics

- 1. Consider the following situation: A squirrel hunter hears a squirrel on the opposite side of a tree he is standing in front of. To get a clear shot he begins to move around the tree. But the squirrel hears him and also moves, keeping the tree always between himself and the hunter. Eventually they both end up where they started from, and the hunter never gets a chance to shoot the squirrel. How would you answer this question: Does the hunter go around the squirrel.
2. Is Socrates anti-religious?
3. Define "chair," "terrorism," and "freedom."

Monday, January 14 Fixing Belief & the A Priori

- 1. Have read Peirce's "Fixation of Belief."

Wednesday, January 16 Arguments

- 1. Since evaluating deductive arguments is for many students counter intuitive, it is best to do the following AFTER LECTURE: Work through the material under the Logic Material icon on the Course Content page, except for the last two items: DO NOT DO THE SELF-TEST UNTIL AFTER YOUR DISCUSSION SECTION THIS WEEK. (It's only good one time, since it gives you the correct answer after you respond to a question.) THE DISCUSSION EXERCISES ARE FOR DISCUSSION SECTIONS NEXT WEEK.

Thursday, January 17 Thurs. and Friday Discussion Topics

- 1. Work through some of the Discussion Exercises under the Logic Material icon on the Course Content page.
2. Is faith a form of knowledge? Why or why not?

Monday, January 21 MLK Day

- No Lecture

Wednesday, January 23 Review on Arguments

- Have done the Self-Test under the Logic Material and be ready with questions about what you don't understand.

Thursday, January 24 Thurs. and Friday Discussion Topics

- Clear up any confusions about the logic material and work through some arguments from the Discussion Exercises, the last item under the Logic Material icon on the Course Content page.

Monday, January 28 Arguments about God

- Have read

1, John Hick's "The Problem of Evil."

Wednesday, January 30 Arguments about God

- Have read Paley's "Argument from Design."

Thursday, January 31 Thurs & Friday Discussion Topics

- Discuss the adequacy of Hicks's attempt to defuse the problem of evil.

February 2008

Date Event

Monday, February 4 Arguments about God

- Have read Anselm: "Proslogium Selections."

Wednesday, February 6 Moral Arguments

- Have read Plato's "Crito."

Thursday, February 7 Thurs. and Friday Discussion Topics

- 1. Discuss the following: Since Socrates is not guilty of the crime he was accused of, he did not get a fair trial.

2. Discuss the short selection "Morality and Religion" under the Misc Material icon on the Course Content page.

Monday, February 11 Mill & Ethical Theory

- Have read chapters 1 & 2 of Mill's "Utilitarianism."

Wednesday, February 13 Modern vs Pre-modern World-view

- Have read

1. The "Pre-socratics Selections

2. Chaps 1 to 4 from the Aristotle's "Categories"

3. Barzun's "Background to the Modern Era.

Thursday, February 14 Thurs. & Friday Discussion Topics

- 1. Construct an argument using the principle of utility for the view that Socrates should escape?

2. Using the same principle, construct an argument that Socrates should not escape.

3. It there a problem about being able to construct both such arguments?

Monday, February 18 Exam 1

- The exam will cover all of the material through Mill's utilitarianism

Wednesday, February 20 Descartes

- Have read Descartes' "First Meditation."

Thursday, February 21 Thurs. & Friday Discussion Topics

- 1. Be prepared to discuss the reading Moore on Descartes and Dreaming.
2. How do you know that you are not dreaming when you read this or discuss things in discussion section?

Monday, February 25 Descartes

- Have read Descartes' "Second Meditation.

Wednesday, February 27 Descartes

- Have read Descartes' "Third Meditation." Note that by "formal reality" Descartes just means the actual existence of something, and by "objective reality" he means representational reality. So the thought of the Mona Lisa and the thought of the Eiffel tower different in objective reality because one is about or represents the Mona Lisa and the other the Eiffel tower.

Thursday, February 28 Thurs. & Friday Discussion Topics

- 1. Why is it important for Descartes to provide that God exists?
2. If there is life after death, does it require a body?

March 2008

Date Event

Monday, March 3 Berkeley

- Have read Berkeley's "The First Dialogue" from his "Three Dialogues between Hylas and Philonous, in Opposition to Sceptics and Atheists," reading carefully through the arguments about heat. Then skim to where the primary qualities are considered and read carefully to the end of the dialogue.

Tuesday, March 4 Withdrawal Deadline

- To receive a grade of W, you must complete your withdrawal by 5pm today. After the deadline, only WF's are permitted. I assign W's for a withdrawal before the deadline. Withdrawals are done on line.

Wednesday, March 5 Berkeley

- Have read the Berkeley's, "Dialogue 2," skimming over the discussion of the brain and concentrating on the part concerning the proof of God's existence and what role that God plays for Berkeley.

Thursday, March 6 Thurs. & Friday Discussion Topics

- 1. Give some of your own relativity arguments for qualities of various senses.
2. Explain why the assimilation argument for moderate degrees of heat fails.
3. Review Woller's argument that Berkeley's argument for God's existence is circular.

Monday, March 10 Spring Break

Wednesday, March 12 Spring Break

Thursday, March 13 Spring Break

Monday, March 17 Hume

- Have read sections 1 through 5 and in Hume's "An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding."

Tuesday, March 18 Logical Positivism

- Have read the "Preface to First Edition" and "Chapter 1" of Ayer's "Language, Truth and Logic."

Wednesday, March 19 Thurs. & Friday Discussion Topics

- 1. Do you agree with Hume that skepticism is a solution and not a problem? Defend your answers.

2. Discuss the following: Logical positivism is not a form of skepticism.

Monday, March 24 Exam 2

- You are responsible for the material covered since the previous exam through Ayer and logical positivism

Wednesday, March 26 Personal Identity

- Have read Locke on Personal Identity.

Thursday, March 27 Thurs. & Friday Discussion Topics

- 1. Are fetuses persons in Locke's sense?

2. J. L. Mackie poses the following example as a criticism of Locke's view that memory is what unifies a person: Chris was disgraced as a cadet; later in life Chris performs heroically on the battlefield, though Chris remembers being disgraced as a cadet; and still later in life Chris remembers his heroics, but not his disgrace. What problem does this pose for Locke's view? Is there a way around the problem?

Monday, March 31 Metaphysics

- Have read

1. Plato's "Meno" carefully up to the proof of the Pythagorean Theorem, skim that, and then carefully again for the explanation of what learning the proof is supposed to show; and then stop. Reading to the end is not part of the assignment.

2. The short selection from Plato's "Republic."

April 2008

Date Event

Wednesday, April 2 Metaphysics

- Have read Price's "Universals vs Resemblance." :3/04/2008,

Monday, April 7 Metaphysics

- Have read Ockham on Conceptualism

Wednesday, April 9 Metaphysics

- Have read Russell's "On Universals."

Thursday, April 10 Thurs. & Friday Discussion Topics

- 1. Discuss: Ockham's conceptualism is really no different from extreme nominalism or "namism."
- 2. Does Russell's argument work against Ockham's conceptualism?
- 3. Give some examples of how people talk which suggests a Platonic view of universals.

Monday, April 14 Philosophy of Language

- Have read Wittgenstein On Games.:16/04/2008,TBA,,,

Thursday, April 17 Thurs. & Friday Discussion Topics

- Thurs. & Friday Discussion Topics,,,,,1. Make a list of things that people can do with words.
- 2. From the passage we read, can you tell whether Wittgenstein is a realist or a nominalist? How? or Why not?

Monday, April 21 Free Will

- Have read Locke on Power.

Wednesday, April 23 Bad Free Will - Sartre

- Have read Sartre's "Existentialism and Humanism."

Thursday, April 24 Thurs. & Friday Discussion Topics

- 1. Have read and be prepared to discuss "Clarence Darrow and Loeb" under the Free Will icon on the Misc Materials page.
- 2. Are you a compatibilist or a libertarian? Defend your answer.
- 3. Atheism aside, would it be good if people adopted Sartre's views which lead to anguish and forlornness? Be prepared to give reasons.

Monday, April 28 Existentialism-Nietzsche

- Have read Nietzsche's "Twilight of the Idols" on the reading website.

May 2008

Date Event

Friday, May 2 4:00 pm Exam 3

- Exam 3 will cover only the material since Exam 2 and it will be a one-hour exam. Note the time, which is slightly different from the standard exam start time.

Done