

Introduction to Philosophy

Phil 101C · Prof. J. Dunn

Spring 2011
M,W,F 1:40 - 2:40
Julian 157
DePauw University

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Description

Does God exist? Do you know that you're not now dreaming? Is it possible to survive death? Is there any good reason to act morally? In this course we will investigate these questions among others. In doing so, you will be introduced to several major themes in philosophy and works by important philosophers. We will be reading works from ancient philosophy through to contemporary philosophy, including philosophers such as Plato, Descartes, Hume, and Bertrand Russell. By the end of the course you should have a better understanding of what philosophy is, and should have cultivated the ability to think and write clearly.

Textbook

► *Introduction to Philosophy: Classical and Contemporary Readings (5th Edition)*, Perry, Bratman, & Fischer, OUP.

Grading

Homework Assignments (3): 25% (8.3% each)

Essay: 15% (first draft must be submitted on-time for full credit)

Exams (3): 45% (15% each)

Participation/Reading Quizzes 15%

Course Requirements

Reading Quizzes and Participation

One of the best ways to learn philosophy is to engage in careful, informed discussion about the material being read. You are expected to contribute to such discussion each day in class. For such discussions to be profitable, however, they must be *informed*. This means that you are also expected to *carefully* do the reading, and come to class with questions and comments. I will assess this aspect of your participation based on your engagement during and outside class, your attendance, and your performance on frequent, unannounced reading quizzes.

If you carefully do the reading before each class, you should do fine on these quizzes. Your lowest two reading quiz scores will be dropped. If you are absent from class, you cannot make up a reading quiz.

Homework Assignments

This course is divided into three units. Each of these units has a homework assignment. These assignments will require you to answer in-depth questions about the readings and the topics we have discussed in class.

HW 1: Due 2/21

HW 2: Due 3/28

HW 3: Due 5/2

Paper Assignment

Everyone needs to write a final paper for this course. Your paper should be 1,000 - 1,500 words. It is due on the last day of the course, 5/11.

To help you write a strong paper, you need to turn in a rough draft before April 20. I will give you comments on your paper and then return it to you for editing.

For more information about the paper, see the link on the course website or click [here](#).

* I strongly recommend that you take advantage of the Writing Center in the Academic Resource Center, located in 115 Asbury. After scheduling an appointment, you will have the chance to meet with a trained tutor who will read your work and offer feedback. This is a great way to improve your writing, however, slots can fill up quickly, so please plan ahead and take advantage of this great resource.

Exams

At the conclusion of each of the three sections, there will be an in-class exam. The exam will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and short essay questions.

Exam 1: 3/4

Exam 2: 4/13

Exam 3: 5/19 (finals week)

Other Requirements

You should take control of your experience in this course: what you get out of the course will largely be a function of what you put in to it. If you are falling behind or are confused about something, please make arrangements to meet with me. I'm on campus every day and very happy to discuss this interesting material with you!

Things You Can Expect From Me

I will give clear and prompt feedback on your work.

I will assist you in choosing a paper topic, and on editing your paper.

I will be available for extra help when needed.

Special Considerations

DePauw University is committed to providing equal access to academic programs and university-administered activities and reasonable modifications/accommodations to students with disabilities in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, as amended in 2008. Any student needing special accommodations due to a disability should contact the Coordinator of Student Disability Services, Pam Roberts, 302 Harrison Hall or call (765) 658-6267. It is the responsibility of each student to discuss implementation of approved modifications/accommodations with each faculty member and/or staff member within one week of the date of receiving a modification/accommodation approval memo or within the first two weeks of the academic semester.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is very important, and violations are serious offenses, which I take it very seriously. There is a clear Academic Integrity Policy that can be found here:

<http://www.depauw.edu/univ/handbooks/dpuhandbooks.asp?ID=101parentid=100>

It is your responsibility to read the university policy. If you are unclear about what constitutes a violation of academic integrity, it is your responsibility to contact me with any questions so that you are clear about it. Ignorance is not an excuse. The *minimum* penalty for violations of Academic Integrity is a 0 on the relevant assignment and a further reduction in your overall grade.

Introduction to Philosophy Schedule

Date	Reading	Topic	Notes
31-Jan	-	Introduction	
2-Feb	Nagel, "Death"		
4-Feb	"Logical Toolkit"	Logic & Argument	
Philosophy of Religion			
7-Feb		Cosmological Argument	
9-Feb	Aquinas, "The Existence of God"		
11-Feb	Anselm, "The Ontological Argument" Rowe, "The Ontological Argument"*	Ontological Argument	
14-Feb			
16-Feb	Hume, "Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion" (part II, part V)	Design Argument	HW1 Assigned
18-Feb	Paley, "Natural Theology"		
21-Feb	Perry, "Dialogue on Good, Evil, and the Existence of God" (part 1)	Problem of Evil	HW1 Due
23-Feb	Perry, "Dialogue on Good, Evil, and the Existence of God" (part 2-3)		
25-Feb	Perry, "Dialogue on Good, Evil, and the Existence of God" (part 4)		
28-Feb	Pascal, "The Wager"	Pascal's Wager	
2-Mar			
4-Mar	EXAM 1		
Epistemology			
7-Mar	Plato, "Theaetetus"*	Analyzing Knowledge	
9-Mar	Gettier, "Is Justified True Belief Knowledge"		
11-Mar			
14-Mar	Hume, "Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding" (IV)	Problem of Induction	
16-Mar	Salmon, "The Problem of Induction" (II.1)		
18-Mar	Salmon, "The Problem of Induction" (II.5)		HW2 Assigned
28-Mar	Russell, "Appearance and Reality"*	Skepticism	HW2 Due
30-Mar	Descartes, "Meditations" (I, II)		
1-Apr	No Class Meeting		
4-Apr	Grau, "Bad Dreams, Evil Demons..."	Personal Identity	
6-Apr	Perry, "Dialogue on Personal Identity" (The First Night)		
8-Apr	Perry, "Dialogue on Personal Identity" (The Second Night)		
11-Apr	Perry, "Dialogue on Personal Identity" (The Third Night)		
13-Apr	EXAM 2		

Date	Reading	Topic	Notes
Ethics			
15-Apr	Introduction to Ethics (pp. 449-456)	Intro to Ethics	
18-Apr	Singer, "Famine, Affluence and Morality"	How Moral Must We Be?	
20-Apr			Rough Draft Due
22-Apr	O'Neill, "Kantian Approaches..."		
25-Apr			
27-Apr	Wolf, "Moral Saints"		HW3 Assigned
29-Apr			
2-May	Plato, "The Republic"	Why Be Moral?	HW3 Due
4-May			
6-May	Hume, "Enquiry...Principles of Morals" (Section IX, Part II) Gauthier, "Morality and Advantage"		
9-May			
11-May	Mackie, "Law of the Jungle"		Final Paper Due
19-May	EXAM 3		