Introduction to Philosophy
Philosophy 110 – CRN 25220 – Sec 019
Fall Term 2009 – Purdue University
Instructor: Daniel Kelly
Teaching Assistants: Mr. Marco A. Altamirano and Mr. Justin S. Litaker

Syllabus

1. Course Description

There are two main goals of this course. The first is to introduce students to the Western philosophical tradition, its major figures and defining themes. Those themes include religion and the existence of God, perception and the nature of knowledge, the nature of the self, the mind-body problem, free will, and morality. The second is to provide students with the tools to think clearly, articulate their own views, and evaluate the arguments of others.

2. Class Meetings

Class lectures meet Tuesday and Thursday from 1:30pm – 2:20pm in Room 172 in the Wetherill Lab of Chemistry. Recitation sections are as follows:

**REC**
- 25202 001 F 8:30a – 9:20a Beering Hall B222 TA: Mr. Justin S. Litaker
- 25203 002 F 9:30a – 10:20a Beering Hall B222 TA: Mr. Justin S. Litaker
- 25204 003 F 10:30a – 11:20p Beering Hall B222 TA: Mr. Marco A. Altamirano
- 25205 004 F 11:30a – 12:20p Beering Hall B222 TA: Mr. Justin S. Litaker
- 25206 005 F 12:30p – 1:20p Beering Hall B222 TA: Mr. Marco A. Altamirano
- 25207 006 F 1:30p – 2:20p Beering Hall B222 TA: Mr. Marco A. Altamirano

3. Office Hours and Contact Information

Professor Kelly:
Office: 7126 Beering Hall
Office Phone: 732-932-9861 ext. 114
Email: drkelly@purdue.edu
Fall Term Office Hours: Wednesday, 1:00 – 4:00 pm and by appointment

Mr. Altamirano:
Office: 7154 Beering Hall
Email: maltamir@purdue.edu
Fall Term Office Hours: Tuesday 2:30 – 4:30 pm and by appointment

Mr. Litaker:
Office: 7141 Beering Hall
Email: jlitaker@purdue.edu
Fall Term Office Hours: Wednesday, 12:00 – 2:00 pm and by appointment
4. Course Requirements and Grading

Grades on papers and exams will be given on the standard 0-100 point grading scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100-93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>92-90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>89-87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>86-83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>82-80</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>79-77</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>76-73</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>72-70</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>69-60</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59-0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Final grades will be determined by 3 papers, a midterm, and a final exam. They will be weighted as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Three Papers</td>
<td>20% each (60% total)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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The date and time for the Final Exam are not scheduled yet.

Exams will be closed book short essay format. A list of potential exam questions will be made available before both the midterm and the final.

Papers will be 3 ½ – 5 pages, and paper topics will be posted roughly 2 weeks before they are due. EMAILED AND ELECTRONICALLY SUBMITTED PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Papers not turned in by the end of class the day they are due are LATE. For each day late, 7 points will be deducted.

5. Course Policies

Class sessions: I will try to begin on time, and will usually go right up until the end of the class session. Please come on time. Do not pack up your materials until class has been dismissed. Talking during lectures will not be tolerated. Repeat offenders will be asked to leave.

Attendance: See Attendance Policy for details.

Emergencies: In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances.

Plagiarism: With the advent of the internet, plagiarism has become an increasingly serious problem at universities around the country, particularly in classes like this one, where papers determine a substantial part of the grade.

In order to avoid plagiarizing from a source, both direct quotations and paraphrases or summaries of material found in traditional print media or on the internet must be
acknowledged. If you have any questions about how this definition will be interpreted, please do not hesitate to discuss the matter with me.

Plagiarism and cheating on exams undermines the integrity of the academic community. When undetected, it gives the perpetrator an unfair advantage over students who are graded on the basis of their own work. In this class we will do our best to detect plagiarism and cheating. Students who are aware of violations by others should bring this to my attention. This is the right thing to do. It is also in your own self-interest.

There will be zero tolerance for plagiarism in this course. Plagiarized papers will receive a 0, the student will automatically fail the course, and their name will be handed given to the university authorities. For more on the Purdue University policy on plagiarism, see the following website:

http://www.purdue.edu/univregs/pages/stu_conduct/stu_regulations.html

With each paper assignment, a handful of students may be selected at random to submit their papers to TurnItIn, an online service that maintains an enormous database of papers that it uses to check for instances of plagiarism.

**External Sources:** Using sources not listed on the syllabus in researching and writing your papers is fine, as long as they are both to the point, and are properly cited. And at all times, when in doubt, *cite your sources!* It is the best way to avoid being accused of plagiarism.

This is probably the best place to make this point, too: Wikipedia can be valuable for getting a very broad grasp of positions and debates, but when it gets into details, especially on philosophic topics, it is very often horrible – sketchy, convoluted, misinformed, and often simply wrong. If you wish to consult online resources, I suggest you use some of the other, much better sites. Most prominent is the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, but others are useful as well:

- Episteme Links [http://www.epistemelinks.com/Main/MainEncy.aspx](http://www.epistemelinks.com/Main/MainEncy.aspx)

6. **Website**

Information and comments will often be posted on the course website, which can be reached via my homepage:

[http://web.ics.purdue.edu/~drkelly/](http://web.ics.purdue.edu/~drkelly/)

I am teaching 2 different Introduction to Philosophy courses this semester, so make sure that you click on the correct link, or else you will get incorrect information about this course. I mark this as my “Lecture” course (the other is marked as “Section”). To go directly to this course’s website, the address is:

[http://web.ics.purdue.edu/~drkelly/KellyIntroPhilLectureFall2009.html](http://web.ics.purdue.edu/~drkelly/KellyIntroPhilLectureFall2009.html)
7. Topics and Readings

Here is a tentative schedule of topics and readings. Amendments and alterations will be announced in class as we go, on the webpage. Since reminders and other information will be distributed of the email list, make sure you check the website on a fairly regular basis.

Week 1: August 24th
   Introduction & Overview of the Course
   Readings: Russell, “The Value of Philosophy”; Plato 1st reading, Apology;
   Philosophy of Religion: Groundwork, Questions, and Distinctions
   Readings: Aquinas, The Summa Theologica,

Week 2: August 31st
   Philosophy of Religion: 3 Arguments for the Existence of God
   Readings: Anselm, Proslogium, Or Discourse on the Existence of God; Paley, Natural Theology; Hume 1st Reading, Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion; Dennett 1st reading, “Show Me the Science”

Week 3: September 7th
   Philosophy of Religion: The Problem of Evil, and Pascal’s Wager
   Readings: Hume 2nd reading, Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion; Mackie, Free Will and the Problem of Evil; Pascal, Notes on Natural Religion and Other Subjects; Saka, Pascal’s Wager about God (from IEP)

Week 4: September 14th
   Philosophy of Religion: Epistemic Arguments
   Readings: James, The Will to Believe; Plantinga, An Interview with Alvin Plantiga

Week 5: September 21st
   Epistemology: The External World
   Readings: Descartes 1st reading, Meditations on First Philosophy; Locke 1st reading, An Essay Concerning Human Understanding
   **First Paper due in Lecture Tuesday 22nd**

Week 6: September 28th
   Epistemology: The External World
   Readings: Locke 1st reading, An Essay Concerning Human Understanding; Berkeley, Three Dialogues Between Hylas and Philonous

Week 7: October 5th
   Epistemology: The Problem of Induction
   Readings: Hume 3rd reading, An Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding; Salmon, An Encounter with David Hume

Week 8: October 12th; **No Class Tuesday 13th – October Break**
   The Mind-Body Problem: Dualism
   Readings: Descartes 2nd reading, Meditations on First Philosophy

Week 9: October 19th
   The Mind-Body Problem: Alternatives to Dualism
   Readings: Lycan, The Mind-Body Problem
   **Midterm Exam Tuesday 20th**

Week 10: October 26th
   The Mind-Body Problem: The Limits of Materialism
   Readings: Searle, Minds, Brains, and Programs, Nagel, What is it Like to be a Bat?

Week 11: November 2nd
   Free Will, Responsibility, and Determinism: Compatibilism and Libertarianism
   Readings: Timpe, Free Will (from IEP)

Week 12: November 9th
Free Will, Responsibility, and Determinism: Compatibilism and Libertarianism
Readings: James, *The Dilemma of Determinism*

Personal Identity: Selves and Souls

Second Paper due in Lecture Thursday 12th

Week 13: November 16th
Personal Identity: Memories and Brains
Readings: Locke, 2nd reading, *Of Identity and Diversity*; Perry 2nd reading, *A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality*

Week 14: November 23rd. No Class Thursday 26th or Friday 27th – Thanksgiving Break
Personal Identity: Memories and Brains
Readings: Perry 3rd reading, *A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality*

Week 15: November 30th
MetaEthics: The Meaning of Morality
Readings: Plato 2nd reading, *Euthyphro*; Rachels 1st reading, *Does Morality Depend on Religion?*; Rachels 2nd reading, *Subjectivism in Ethics*

Week 16: December 7th
MetaEthics: The Meaning of Morality
Readings: Stevenson, *The Emotive Meaning of Ethical Terms*; Firth, *Ethical Absolutism and the Ideal Observer*

Normative Ethics: Utilitarian and Deontological Theories

Third Paper Due at Last Discussion Section Dec 11th

Final Exam: Wednesday 12/16, 7:00pm – 9:00pm, in Room 172 in the Wetherill Lab of Chemistry (where lectures are held).