

# **Introduction to Philosophy**

Philosophy 110 – Section 01 – Div 09 – Fall Term 2007 – Purdue University

Instructor: Daniel Kelly

## **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 meets Monday/Wednesday/Friday, 11:30am-12:20pm in Room 1230 on the first floor of Beering Hall.

**110 09 01 MWF 11:30AM -12:20PM AUG 20 - DEC 9, 2007 [BRNG 1230](#) ([LEC 03 - 01](#))**

## **3. Office Hours and Contact Information**

Office: 7126 Beering Hall

Office phone: 765-494-4290 (4-4290)

Email: [dankelly@purdue.edu](mailto:dankelly@purdue.edu)

Fall Term Office Hours: Monday 9:30-11:00 or by appointment.

## **4. Course Requirements, Policies, and Grading**

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

100-90: A  
89-80: B  
79-70: C  
69-60: D  
59-0: F

Final grades will be determined by in class participation, 2 papers, a midterm, and a final exam. They will be weighted as follows:

Participation	5%
Papers	25% each, (50% total)
Midterm	15%
Final Exam	30%

Papers will be 2-3 pages, and paper topics will be handed out roughly 2 weeks before they are due.

The Final Exam is not scheduled yet; finals schedule will be announced on 9/13.

EMAILED AND ELECTRONICALLY SUBMITTED PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Papers not given to me by the end of class (12:20pm) the day they are due are LATE. For each day late, 7 points will be deducted.

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

Classes will be a mix of lecture and discussion focused on the topics raised by the readings. Students are encouraged to ask questions – this is usually the best way to understand philosophy. There is no mandatory attendance policy for this class, but lecture notes will not be posted online.

Class participation: I realize that not everyone is equally outgoing or talkative in class. While participation in class discussion almost always helps in learning philosophy and I highly encourage it, I do not penalize students for not speaking up – indeed, there is not even a formal attendance requirement for this course. However, a consistent record of participation and attendance will always help a student's final grade if it is on the borderline at the end of the semester. On the other hand, while I do not penalize for lack of participation, students who have not been present and engaged throughout the semester are much less likely to get the benefit of the doubt in similar borderline cases.

## 5. Texts

All readings will be distributed over email (or, if it is up in time, available online from the course website) or on reserve. No books need to be purchased for this course.

A word on using external (i.e. not required) sources in your papers: that is fine, as long as they are to the point, and are properly cited. When in doubt, ***cite your sources!*** It is the best way to avoid being accused of plagiarism.

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:

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy    <http://plato.stanford.edu/>  
The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy    <http://www.iep.utm.edu/>  
Episteme Links    <http://www.epistemelinks.com/Main/MainEncy.aspx>

## 6. Course Website

t.b.a. – details forthcoming, maybe.

## 7. Topics and Readings

Here is a tentative schedule of topics and readings. It is flexible, and any amendments and alterations that come up will be announced in class as we go, on the webpage and/or over the class email list. Since reminders and other information will be distributed of the email list, *make sure you check the website and your Purdue account on a fairly regular basis.*

(EC): Electronic Copy, sent out over email

(R): On Reserve

Week 1: August 20<sup>th</sup>

Introduction & Overview of the Course

Readings: Russell, "The Value of Philosophy" (EC); Plato 1<sup>st</sup> reading, *Apology*, (EC)

Philosophy of Religion: Groundwork, Questions, and Distinctions

Readings: Aquinas, *The Summa Theologica*, (EC)

Week 2: August 27<sup>th</sup>

Philosophy of Religion: 3 Arguments for the Existence of God

Readings: Anselm, *Proslogium, Or Discourse on the Existence of God*, (EC) Paley, *Natural Theology*, (EC), Hume 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*, (EC); Dennett 1<sup>st</sup> reading, "Show Me the Science", (EC)

Week 3: September 3<sup>rd</sup>: **No Class Monday – Labor Day**

Philosophy of Religion: The Problem of Evil, and Pascal's Wager

Readings: Hume 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*, (EC); Mackie, *Free Will and the Problem of Evil*, (EC); Pascal, *Notes on Natural Religion and Other Subjects*, (EC)

Week 4: September 10<sup>th</sup>

Philosophy of Religion: Epistemic Arguments/Epistemology: The External World

Readings: James, *The Will to Believe*, (EC); Plantinga, *An Interview with Alvin Plantinga*, (EC); Descartes 1<sup>st</sup> reading, *Meditations on First Philosophy*, (EC)

**First Paper due Wednesday 12th**

Week 5: September 17<sup>th</sup>

Epistemology: The External World

Readings: Locke 1<sup>st</sup> reading, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, (EC); Berkeley, *Three Dialogues Between Hylas and Philonous*, (EC)

Week 6: September 24<sup>th</sup>

Epistemology: The Problem of Induction

Readings: Hume 3<sup>rd</sup> reading, *An Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, (EC); Salmon, *An Encounter with David Hume*, (EC)

Week 7: October 1<sup>st</sup>

The Mind-Body Problem: Dualism and Other Minds

Readings: Descartes 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, *Meditations on First Philosophy*, (EC), Nagel, *What is it Like to be a Bat?* (EC)

**Midterm Exam Friday 5th**

Week 8: October 8<sup>th</sup>: **No Class Monday 8<sup>th</sup> – October Break**

The Mind-Body Problem: Alternatives to Dualism

Readings: Lycan, *The Mind-Body Problem*, (EC); Searle, *Minds, Brains, and Programs*, (EC)

Week 9: October 15<sup>th</sup>

Free Will, Responsibility, and Determinism: Compatibilism and Libertarianism

Readings: d'Holbach, *Of the System of Man's Free Agency*, (R); Taylor *Freedom and Determinism*, (R); Holmstrom, *Firming Up Soft Determinism*, (R)

Week 10: October 22<sup>nd</sup>

Free Will, Responsibility, and Determinism: Compatibilism and Libertarianism

Readings: d'Holbach, *Of the System of Man's Free Agency*, (R); Taylor *Freedom and Determinism*, (R); Holmstrom, *Firming Up Soft Determinism*, (R)

Personal Identity: Selves and Souls

Readings: Hume 4<sup>th</sup> reading, *A Treatise on Human Nature*, (EC); Dennett 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, *The Self as a Center of Narrative Gravity*, (EC); Perry 1<sup>st</sup> reading, *A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality*, (R)

Week 11: October 29<sup>th</sup>

Personal Identity: Selves and Souls

Readings: Hume 4<sup>th</sup> reading, *A Treatise on Human Nature*, (EC); Dennett 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, *The Self as a Center of Narrative Gravity*, (EC); Perry 1<sup>st</sup> reading, *A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality*, (R)

Personal Identity: Memories and Brains

Readings: Locke, 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, *Of Identity and Diversity* (EC); Perry 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, *A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality*, (R)

Week 12: November 5<sup>th</sup>

Personal Identity: Memories and Brains

Readings: Locke, 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, *Of Identity and Diversity* (EC); Perry 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, *A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality*, (R)

Normative Ethics: Utilitarian and Deontological Theories

Readings: Mill, *Utilitarianism*, (EC); Kant, *Foundations of the Metaphysics of Morals*, (EC); Rawls, *Justice as Fairness*, (EC)

**Second Paper due Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup>**

Week 13: November 12<sup>th</sup>

Normative Ethics: Utilitarian and Deontological Theories

Readings: Mill, *Utilitarianism*, (EC); Kant, *Foundations of the Metaphysics of Morals*, (EC); Rawls, *Justice as Fairness*, (EC)

Week 14: November 19<sup>th</sup>: **No Class Wednesday 21<sup>th</sup> or Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Thanksgiving Break**

Normative Ethics: Utilitarian and Deontological Theories

Readings: Mill, *Utilitarianism*, (EC); Kant, *Foundations of the Metaphysics of Morals*, (EC); Rawls, *Justice as Fairness*, (EC)

Week 15: November 26<sup>th</sup>

MetaEthics: The Meaning of Morality

Readings: Plato 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, *Euthyphro*, (EC); Rachels 1<sup>st</sup> reading, *Does Morality Depend on Religion?* (EC); Rachels 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, *Subjectivism in Ethics*, (EC)

Week 16: December 3<sup>rd</sup>

MetaEthics: The Meaning of Morality

Readings: Plato 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, *Euthyphro*, (EC); Rachels 1<sup>st</sup> reading, *Does Morality Depend on Religion?* (EC); Rachels 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, *Subjectivism in Ethics*, (EC)

**Last Day of Classes is Dec 8<sup>th</sup>; our last day is Friday 7<sup>th</sup>**