

# Introduction to Philosophy

Philosophy 110

Fall Term 2014 – Purdue University

Instructor: Daniel Kelly

Teaching Assistants: Tiffany Montoya and Zach Murphy

## **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 9:30pm – 1:20pm in Room 172 of the Wetherill Hall of Chemistry. Recitation sections are as follows:

#### **REC**

001 REC	25205	W	8:30 – 9:20a	BRNG B268	Zach Murphy
005 REC	25207	W	9:30 – 10:20a	BRNG B268	Zach Murphy
004 REC	25203	W	10:30 – 11:20a	BRNG B268	Zach Murphy
003 REC	25206	W	11:30–12:20p	BRNG B268	Tiffany Montoya
002 REC	25202	W	12:30 – 1:30p	BRNG B268	Tiffany Montoya
006 REC	25204	W	1:30 – 2:30p	BRNG B268	Tiffany Montoya

### 3. Office Hours and Contact Information

Professor Kelly

Office: 7126 Beering Hall

Office Phone: 765-494-4290

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

Office Hours: 11:00am – 1:00pm Wednesdays and by appointment

Tiffany Montoya

Office: 7143 Beering Hall

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

Office Hours: 9:00am – 11:00am Monday and by appointment

Zach Murphy

Office: 7145 Beering Hall

Email: [murph167@purdue.edu](mailto:murph167@purdue.edu)

Office Hours: 10:30am – 12:30pm Tuesday/Thursdays and by appointment

### 4. Course Requirements and Grading

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

100-93:	A
92-90:	A-
89-87:	B+
86-83:	B
82-80:	B-
79-77:	C+
76-73:	C
72-70:	C-
69-60:	D
59-0:	F

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

Three Papers	20% each (60% total)
Midterm	15%
Final Exam	25%

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 4 – 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

**Lectures:** 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.

**Laptop computers:** I would prefer that you exercise enough self-restraint to keep from texting for the 50 minutes that lectures are in session, but since a formal prohibition would be too difficult to enforce, this remains a preference. Use of laptop computers and iPads during lectures will not be allowed, however.

**Attendance:** See Attendance Policy for details.

**Emergencies:** (See end of Syllabus for full Purdue attachment on Emergency Procedures). 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. Information about emergencies changes in the course can be gotten by contacting either instructor via email or phone, or by consulting the course website (see above for that information). Purdue's Emergency Procedures Handbook and other important emergency planning information is available online at

[http://www.purdue.edu/emergency\\_preparedness/](http://www.purdue.edu/emergency_preparedness/)

To obtain updates regarding an ongoing emergency, and to sign up for Purdue Alert text messages, go to

[www.purdue.edu/ea](http://www.purdue.edu/ea)

For the full document of Wetherill Hall Building Emergency Plan

<http://web.ics.purdue.edu/~drkelly/WetherillEmergencyProcedures2014.pdf>

**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 or your TA.

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 websites:

[http://www.purdue.edu/univregs/pages/stu\\_conduct/stu\\_regulations.html](http://www.purdue.edu/univregs/pages/stu_conduct/stu_regulations.html)

<http://www.purdue.edu/odos/osrr/academicintegritybrochure.php>

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 useful for getting a very broad grasp of positions and debates, but when it gets into details, especially on philosophic topics, it can just as often be 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. Website

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

<http://web.ics.purdue.edu/~drkelly/>

To go directly to this course's website, the address is:

<http://web.ics.purdue.edu/~drkelly/KellyIntroPhilFall2014.html>

## 7. Topics and Readings

Here is a tentative schedule of topics and readings. Depending how fast we are going, amendments and alterations will be announced in class as we go, on the webpage. Since reminders and other information will be posted on the course website, *make sure you check that website on a fairly regular basis.*

### Week 1: August 25<sup>th</sup>

Introduction & Overview of the Course

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

**New Chapter:** Philosophy of Religion: Groundwork, Questions, and Distinctions

Readings: Aquinas, *The Summa Theologica*; Anselm, *Proslogium, Or Discourse on the Existence of God*

### Week 2: September 1<sup>st</sup>: **No Class Monday 9/1 – Labor Day** (Doesn't affect us)

Philosophy of Religion: 3 Arguments for the Existence of God (cont.)

Readings: Anselm, *Proslogium, Or Discourse on the Existence of God*; Paley, *Natural Theology*;

Hume 1<sup>st</sup> Reading, *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*; Dennett 1<sup>st</sup> reading, "Show Me the Science"

### Week 3: September 8<sup>th</sup>

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

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

### Week 4: September 15<sup>th</sup>

Finish up Philosophy of Religion: Epistemic Arguments

Readings: James, *The Will to Believe*; Plantinga, *An Interview with Alvin Plantinga*

### Week 5: September 22<sup>nd</sup>

**New Chapter:** Epistemology – The External World

Readings: Descartes 1<sup>st</sup> reading, *Meditations on First Philosophy*

**First Paper due in Lecture Thursday September 25<sup>th</sup>**

### Week 6: September 29<sup>th</sup>

Epistemology: The External World

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

Epistemology: The Problem of Induction

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

### Week 7: October 6<sup>th</sup>

Epistemology: Finish up The Problem of Induction

- Readings: Hume 3<sup>rd</sup> reading, *An Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding*; Salmon, *An Encounter with David Hume*
- Week 8: October 13<sup>th</sup> **No Class 10/13 and 10/14 – Fall Break**  
**Midterm Exam Thursday October 16<sup>th</sup>**
- Week 9: October 20<sup>th</sup>  
**New Chapter:** The Mind-Body Problem: Dualism and Reductive Materialism  
Readings: Descartes 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, *Meditations on First Philosophy*  
 The Mind-Body Problem: Alternatives to Dualism  
Readings: Lycan, *The Mind-Body Problem*; Fodor, *The Mind-Body Problem*
- Week 10: October 27<sup>th</sup>  
 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 3<sup>rd</sup>  
**New Chapter:** Free Will, Responsibility, and Determinism: Compatibilism and Libertarianism  
Readings: Timpe, *Free Will*; Holmstrom, *Firming Up Soft Determinism*; Nahmias, *Neuroscience and the Death of Free Will?*
- Week 12: November 10<sup>th</sup>  
 Free Will, Responsibility, and Determinism: Compatibilism and Libertarianism  
Readings: James, *The Dilemma of Determinism*  
**Second Paper due in Lecture Thursday November 13<sup>th</sup>**
- Week 13: November 17<sup>th</sup>  
**New Chapter:** Personal Identity: Selves and Souls, Memories and Brains  
Readings: Perry 1<sup>st</sup> reading, *A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality*; Locke, 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, *Of Identity and Diversity*; Perry 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, *A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality*
- Week 14: November 24<sup>th</sup> **No Class 11/27 and 11/28 – Thanksgiving Break**  
 Personal Identity: Memories and Brains  
Readings: Perry 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, *A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality*  
**New Chapter:** MetaEthics: The Meaning of Morality  
Readings: Plato 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, *Euthyphro*; Rachels 1<sup>st</sup> reading, *Does Morality Depend on Religion?*; Antony, *Good Minus God*
- Week 15: December 1<sup>st</sup>  
 MetaEthics: The Meaning of Morality  
Readings: Rachels 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, *Subjectivism in Ethics*; Rachel's 3<sup>rd</sup> reading, *The Challenge of Cultural Relativism*  
 MetaEthics: The Meaning of Morality  
Readings: Rachel's 3<sup>rd</sup> reading, *The Challenge of Cultural Relativism*
- Week 16: December 8<sup>th</sup>  
 Normative Ethics: Utilitarianism (Time permitting)  
Readings: Mill, *Utilitarianism*  
**Third Paper Due in Lecture Thursday December 11<sup>th</sup>**
- Final Exam:**  
 Time and Date **TBA**, Room 172 in the Wetherill Lab of Chemistry



## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS SYLLABUS ATTACHMENT

**EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES** are based on a simple concept – if you hear a fire alarm inside, proceed outside. If you hear a siren outside, proceed inside.

- **Indoor Fire Alarms** mean to stop class or research and immediately **evacuate** the building.

Proceed to your Emergency Assembly Area away from building doors. **Remain outside** until police, fire, or other emergency response personnel provide additional guidance or tell you it is safe to leave.

- **All Hazards Outdoor Emergency Warning Sirens** mean to immediately seek shelter (**Shelter in Place**) in a safe location within the closest building.

“Shelter in place” means seeking immediate shelter inside a building or University residence. This course of action may need to be taken during a tornado, a civil disturbance including a shooting or release of hazardous materials in the outside air. Once safely inside, find out more details about the emergency\*. **Remain in place** until police, fire, or other emergency response personnel provide additional guidance or tell you it is safe to leave.

*\*In both cases, you should seek additional clarifying information by all means possible...Purdue Home page, email alert, TV, radio, etc...review the Purdue Emergency Warning Notification System multi- communication layers at [http://www.purdue.edu/ebps/emergency\\_preparedness/warning-system.html](http://www.purdue.edu/ebps/emergency_preparedness/warning-system.html)*

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROCEDURES:

- Review the **Emergency Procedures Guidelines**  
[https://www.purdue.edu/emergency\\_preparedness/flipchart/index.html](https://www.purdue.edu/emergency_preparedness/flipchart/index.html)

- Review the **Building Emergency Plan** (available from the building deputy) for:

Evacuation routes, exit points, and emergency assembly area

when and how to evacuate the building

Shelter in place procedures and locations

Additional building specific procedures and requirements.

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AWARENESS VIDEOS

- "Shots Fired on Campus: When Lightning Strikes," is a 20-minute active shooter awareness video that illustrates what to look for and how to prepare and react to this type of incident.

See: <http://www.purdue.edu/securePurdue/news/2010/emergency-preparedness-shots-fired-on-campus-video.cfm> (Link is also located on the EP website)

## MORE INFORMATION

Reference the Emergency Preparedness web site for additional information:

[http://www.purdue.edu/emergency\\_preparedness](http://www.purdue.edu/emergency_preparedness)