

# **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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:

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 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 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](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:

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 course website, which can be reached via my homepage:

<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>

## 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 24<sup>th</sup>

Introduction & Overview of the Course

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

Readings: Aquinas, *The Summa Theologica*,

Week 2: August 31<sup>st</sup>

Philosophy of Religion: 3 Arguments for the Existence of God

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 7<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*; Saka, *Pascal's Wager about God* (from IEP)

Week 4: September 14<sup>th</sup>

Philosophy of Religion: Epistemic Arguments

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

Week 5: September 21<sup>st</sup>

Epistemology: The External World

Readings: Descartes 1<sup>st</sup> reading, *Meditations on First Philosophy*; Locke 1<sup>st</sup> reading, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*

**First Paper due in Lecture Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Week 6: September 28<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*

Week 7: October 5<sup>th</sup>

Epistemology: 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 12<sup>th</sup>: **No Class Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> – October Break**

The Mind-Body Problem: Dualism

Readings: Descartes 2<sup>nd</sup> reading, *Meditations on First Philosophy*

Week 9: October 19<sup>th</sup>

The Mind-Body Problem: Alternatives to Dualism

Readings: Lycan, *The Mind-Body Problem*

**Midterm Exam Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup>**

Week 10: October 26<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 2<sup>nd</sup>

Free Will, Responsibility, and Determinism: Compatibilism and Libertarianism

Readings: Timpe, *Free Will* (from IEP)

Week 12: November 9<sup>th</sup>

Free Will, Responsibility, and Determinism: Compatibilism and Libertarianism

Readings: James, *The Dilemma of Determinism*

Personal Identity: Selves and Souls

Readings: Perry 1<sup>st</sup> reading, *A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality*,

**Second Paper due in Lecture Thursday 12th**

Week 13: November 16<sup>th</sup>

Personal Identity: Memories and Brains

Readings: 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 23<sup>rd</sup>: **No Class Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> or Friday 27<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving Break**

Personal Identity: Memories and Brains

Readings: Perry 3<sup>rd</sup> reading, *A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality*

Week 15: November 30<sup>th</sup>

MetaEthics: The Meaning of Morality

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

Week 16: December 7<sup>th</sup>

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

Readings: Mill, *Utilitarianism*; Kant, *Foundations of the Metaphysics of Morals* (time permitting)

**Third Paper Due at Last Discussion Section Dec 11<sup>th</sup>**

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