

**PHI 2010-02: Introduction to Philosophy**  
**Spring Semester 2002**  
**TR 12:30 – 1:45 p.m., 201 DIF (Diffenbaugh)**

**Instructor**

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**Texts:** *Introduction to Philosophy: Classical and Contemporary Readings* (third edition), edited by John Perry and Michael Bratman.

*The Elements of Style*, by William Strunk Jr. and E. B. White.

**Course Description and Course Objectives:** In this introductory course the general goal is to investigate some fundamental philosophical questions. We will begin with a brief introduction to the nature of language, logic, and conceptual analysis. We will then investigate the following philosophical questions: What and how can I know something? Does God exist? What makes an action morally right or wrong? and What is the nature of human consciousness? You will have the opportunity to develop your own answers, in writing, to these philosophical questions. Some specific objectives that will aid in the attainment of the general goal are:

- to gain an understanding of the variety of answers that have been given to the philosophical questions mentioned above,
- to gain an appreciation of some historical and contemporary philosophical texts,
- to hone one's skills in identifying and evaluating arguments, and
- to improve one's ability to both think and write clearly and critically.

**Assignments:** Reading assignments will be issued during each class meeting. Since this is a philosophy course where reading is essential, students are *strongly* encouraged to do the readings before the lecture on that assignment. This practice will reinforce basic information while providing students the opportunity to formulate pertinent questions about difficult material for the upcoming lecture. If you do not do the readings, this class will be extremely difficult.

Graded assignments will include:

1. At least 10 quizzes; if there are more than 10, then only the best 10 will count towards the student's final grade,
2. Reading précis. The best 10 will count toward the student's final grade. Précis must be turned in at the beginning of class and must be a full typed page (at least 250 words).
3. Three essay exams. (You will have to supply 5 blue books before the end of week 2)
4. One 1,200-word paper.

**Grading:** Since this course satisfies the liberal studies area IV requirement (Gordon Rule), students who fail to write at least 3000 words will receive a grade lower than C-. Assignments will count toward the final grade as follows:

Each exam, the paper, the précis average, and the quiz average will all count as 1/6<sup>th</sup> of your final grade. To determine your grade, add all six totals together and divide by six—that will be your course score. Take the course score and find where it falls on the scale below.

Final grades will be assessed on the following scale:

100-93 A	86-83 B	76-73 C	66-63 D
92-90 A-	82-80 B-	72-70 C-	62-60 D-
89-87 B+	79-77 C+	69-67 D+	59-00 F

**Attendance:** Attendance is *not* mandatory, and will *not* be a factor in the determination of final grades. Nevertheless, because of the abstract character of much of the material covered in this course, regular attendance is **strongly** recommended. Additionally, students should make every effort to be on time to class for late arrivals are disruptive and rude to both the instructor and fellow students. Leaving class early is equally disruptive. So, students that need to leave early should notify the instructor at the beginning of class, and sit where it will minimize disturbance.

**Late Policy:** All late work must be accompanied by **written** documentation from a health care provider (or other appropriate source; further legitimate excuses may include religious and university obligations) explaining why the student was unable to complete the assignment on time. When possible, I should be informed *before* the assigned work is due. When these conditions are satisfied, appropriate accommodations will be made for the student to complete the missed assignment. When these conditions are not satisfied, the following conditions hold:

1. Quizzes cannot be made up.
2. All papers and précis are due at the *beginning* of class.
  - (i) Précis cannot be turned in after the class for which the reading is assigned.
  - (ii) 5 points will be deducted from papers [2 from précis] received after the beginning, but before the termination, of the class period in which they are due.
  - (iii) For papers received after the end of the class in which they are due, 10 points will be deducted for each 24 hour period following the end of that class. For example, 10 points will be deducted from a paper submitted an hour after the relevant class period, while 20 points will be deducted from a paper submitted 25 hours after the end of the same class. Late penalties will be assessed for the time at which papers are *received*. “Received” means handed to the instructor, the teaching assistant, or philosophy department staff that signs and writes the time and date on the paper before putting it in a mailbox. It is your responsibility to make sure that papers are turned in on time.
3. Exams cannot be made up.

**Honor Code:** Students must uphold the Academic Honor Code published in *The Florida State University Bulletin* and the *Student Handbook*. Violations of the honor code may result in an ‘F’ for the course or other disciplinary action. On-line at: <http://registrar.fsu.edu/bulletin/undergrad>

**Students with Disabilities:** Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with disability. Such students must (1) register with, and provide documentation to, the Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC), and (2) submit a letter from SDRC stating that such academic accommodations are needed. All relevant documentation should be submitted within the first week of classes or as soon as a disability is identified.

## Course Schedule

- Tuesday, 8 January 2002                      Introduction To Class; Syllabus
- Thursday, 10 January 2002                      Introduction to Philosophy  
Read: Russell, "The Value of Philosophy" p.9-12  
Read: J.J.C. Smart, "The Province of Philosophy" p.12-20  
Read: Perry and Bratman, "On The Study of Philosophy" p.1-6
- Tuesday, 15 January 2002                      Branches of Philosophy, Philosophy Terms, and Natural Language  
Read:\* † Website pages with corresponding titles from above.
- Thursday, 17 January 2002                      Validity and Deduction  
Read:\* † Website page "Validity & Deduction"
- Tuesday, 22 January 2002                      Induction  
Read:\* † Website page "Inductive Arguments"
- Thursday, 24 January 2002                      Epistemology & Methodological Skepticism  
Read: Descartes, *Meditations I and II* p. 116-121
- Tuesday, 29 January 2002                      Hume's Skepticism  
Read: Hume, "On Scepticism with Regard to the Senses" p. 176-190
- Thursday, 31 January 2002                      G. E. Moore, Plato, and JTB  
Read:\* Moore, "A Defence of Common Sense" & "Proof of an External World"  
Read:\* Plato, *Theaetetus* and *Meno*
- Tuesday, 5 February 2002                      The Gettier Problem and Modern Epistemology  
Read:\* Gettier, "Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?"
- Thursday, 7 February 2002                      **Exam 1**
- Tuesday, 12 February 2002                      God Arguments  
Read: Anselm, "The Ontological Argument" p. 45-6
- Thursday, 14 February 2002  
Read: Aquinas, "The Existence of God" p. 47-48
- Tuesday, 19 February 2002  
Read: Pascal, "The Wager" p. 49-52
- Thursday, 21 February 2002  
Read: Russell, "Why I am not a (Christian) Theist" p. 53-56
- Tuesday, 26 February 2002  
Read: Hume, *Dialogue Concerning Natural Religion* p.57-91
- Thursday, 28 February 2002                      Ethics  
Read: Bentham, "The Principle of Utility" p. 483-485  
Read: Mill, *Utilitarianism* p. 486-502

Tuesday, 5 March 2002

Read: Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* p. 564-579

Thursday, 7 March 2002

Read: Kant, *Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals*, p. 529-545

Tuesday, 11 March 2002

**Spring Break**

Thursday, 13 March 2002

**Spring Break**

Tuesday, 19 March 2002

More on either Bentham, Mill, Aristotle, or Kant.

Thursday, 21 March 2002

**Exam 2**

Tuesday, 26 March 2002

Metaethics

Read: Mackie, "The Subjectivity of Value" p. 753-764

Thursday, 28 March 2002

Read: Harman, "Ethics and Observation" p. 765-768

Tuesday, 2 April 2002

Consciousness

Read: Russell, "The Argument from Analogy for Other Minds" p. 314-316

Thursday, 4 April 2002

Read: Lewis, "Mad Pain and Martian Pain" p. 331-336

Tuesday, 9 April 2002

Read: Nagel, "What is it Like to be a Bat?" p. 382-389

Thursday, 11 April 2002

Read: Jackson, "What Mary Didn't Know" 390-394

Read: Lewis, "Knowing What it is Like" 394-396

Tuesday, 16 April 2002

Paradoxes

Read: "Goodman's New Riddle of Induction" p. 791; "Kavka's Toxin Puzzle" p.794

Read: "The Paradox of the Liar" p.796; "The Prisoner's Dilemma" p.792

Read: "Grelling's Paradox" p. 798

Thursday, 18 April 2002

Review Day

Tuesday, 23 April 2002

**Final Exam 10:00 to Noon.**

\* These assignments will be on the website or they will be handed out to you a few days before the reading assignment is due. Readings with a '†' are not eligible for précis grades.

The schedule and content of this course are subject to revision.