



# Phil 173 Intro Lecture

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April 1 2025

# About Me

Dr. Reuven Brandt

Office Hour: Thr. 2PM-3PM Arts and Humanities Building 0497

Zoom: Mon 10-11AM (link on canvas)

Email: [rabrandt@ucsd.edu](mailto:rabrandt@ucsd.edu) (**Put Phil 173 in subject**)

Personal Webpage: [www.reuvenbrandt.com](http://www.reuvenbrandt.com)

I am Canadian!

colour = color

programme = program

I sometimes throw in Scottishisms

Aye = yes

wee = small

# About the class

- Slides will be posted online
- I do not take attendance, but skipping class is at your own peril
- I will do my best to enroll students on the waitlist
- The course website is on Canvas – let me know if you have problems accessing it
- All reading will be available online
  - If you want additional readings on a topic just ask!



# About doing philosophy

We will be trying to figure out answers to moral questions by examining arguments:

Do the premises give me good reason to believe the conclusion?  
Why/Why not?

That you think the conclusion is true (or the fact that it is true) is not in of itself reason to think the argument is good!

E.g.

Many students take an ethics course. There are many students in this class. So this class is a philosophy class.

Is this a good argument? Why / why not?



# About doing philosophy

Discussing the course material in lecture, office hours, and with classmates/friends is key to doing well in this class.

There is nothing wrong with playing ‘the devil’s advocate’ - trying to defend a position you don’t actually think is true.

There is nothing wrong with using hypothetical examples to aid your argument.

When discussing with your classmates, remember that we are analyzing arguments not people – someone might present an argument just to see what reasons can be given for why it’s wrong. Try not to jump to conclusions about an interlocutor’s beliefs based on the arguments they put forward for discussion.

**Be Respectful**



# About reading philosophy

Philosophical texts are often challenging to understand on the first read – if you don't understand a text right away *it does not mean that philosophy is not for you*

I read new texts at least twice

A good strategy for this class is to read over a text prior to lecture, then read it over again afterwards, keeping in mind what was emphasized in class

Some texts are very long – I will give guidance on what parts to focus on



# Assessments

Midterms:

Will be short answer / paragraph answer

Final Exam:

The final exam will be a take-home paper. There is no sit-down final.

I will go over how to write a philosophy essay closer the final. In the meantime here are some resources:

Feinberg, J. *Doing Philosophy: A Guide to the Writing of Philosophy Papers*.  
Wadsworth Publishing Company, 2002

Harvard's "A Brief Guide to Writing the Philosophy Essay"



# Phil 173 Optional Discussion

Leader: Damon Kalokerinos

Email: [dkalokerinos@ucsd.edu](mailto:dkalokerinos@ucsd.edu)

Meeting times:

**When:** Tues and Thurs, 2-3PM

**Where:** South Conf Rm 0474 (Arts and Humanities Building)





# The Syllabus

- Puzzles about human procreation and harm
- The acquisition of parental responsibilities and rights
- The value of genetic ties
- Surrogacy
- Some tough cases



# Philosophical warm-up

- Should drugs be legal?
  - ☐ What are your reasons?
  - ☐ What moral principles are you appealing to?