

Introduction to Philosophy

730:103:01, Fall 2011

Instructor: Erik Hoversten
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Office: 3 Seminary Place, Room 016, CAC
Office Hrs: M 12p-1p, Th 11a-1p, and by appt.

Meeting Place: Hardenbergh Hall, Room B6, CAC
Meeting Times: TF 9:50a-11:10a

Textbook: Reason and Responsibility, 14th ed. Joel Feinberg and Russ Shafer-Landau, eds. Wadsworth Publishing, 2010.

Course website: Sakai: Phil 103, f11

Course overview

In this course, we will examine some of the central questions and methods of the western analytic philosophy tradition. The purpose of the course is to introduce the students to the broad range of philosophical topics and develop their ability to critically assess arguments and theses available in the philosophical literature as well as to hone their own thoughts on the issues. We will discuss topics in five different areas of philosophical thought: logic and reasoning, epistemology, philosophy of mind, metaphysics, and value theory.

Assessment

Student grades will be determined based on performance on **two in class exams** and **weekly reading response assignments**. The exams will involve a combination of short answer and essay response questions. The reading response papers are short (no more than one page) responses to the readings assigned each week. The purpose of the response papers is to develop the students' critical reading skills. The content of the papers can range from a well thought out question about the content of one of the readings to a critical assessment of the author's argument. There will be opportunity to submit 14 response papers; the ten best submissions will be used to calculate the student's final grade. The reading response assignments should be submitted via the course website.

Assignment	Due date and time	Point value
Midterm exam	Oct 21 in class	100pts
Final exam	Dec 23 @ 8a	100pts
Reading responses	Mondays @ 5p ¹	10 @ 10pts

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University's [Absence Reporting Website](#) to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me.

While attendance and participation are not formally used in calculating the final grade, the content of the exams will draw heavily on the lecture material. In addition, one of the best ways to develop an understanding of the material is to actively engage in class discussion.

Academic integrity

You must abide by the University's [Academic Integrity Policy](#). The basic guideline is that credit should be given where credit is due. If you have any uncertainty regarding an issue of academic integrity please contact me about it.

Course schedule

A lecture schedule and reading list is available on the course website.

¹The first reading response of the semester is due on **Wednesday** 9/7/2011 at 5p.