

## Introduction to Philosophy

730:103:04, Spring 2012

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<b>Office:</b>	3 Seminary Place, Room 016, CAC
<b>Office Hrs:</b>	M 12p-1p, Th 11a-1p, and by appt.
<b>Meeting Place:</b>	Hickman Hall, Room 216, Cook/Douglas
<b>Meeting Times:</b>	TF 10:55a-12:15a
<b>Textbook:</b>	Reason and Responsibility, 14th ed. Joel Feinberg and Russ Shafer-Landau, eds. Wadsworth Publishing, 2010.
<b>Course website:</b>	Sakai: Phil 103, s12

### 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.

Core Curriculum Learning Goal: This course meets goal ‘o’: ‘Examine critically philosophical and other theoretical issues concerning the nature of reality, human experience, knowledge, value, and/or cultural production.’ Assessment will be by an SAS generic rubric embedded in the evaluation criteria laid out in this syllabus.

### Assessment

Student grades will be determined based on performance on **two in class exams** and **four reading response assignments**. The exams will involve a combination of short and extended response questions. The reading response papers are short writing assignments pertaining to the assigned readings. The purpose of the response papers is to develop the students’ critical reading skills.

Details regarding the assessment criteria, including a grading rubric, will be provided on the first day of classes. Late assignments will be accepted only if the instructor is given notice prior to the due date.

Assignment	Due date and time	Point value
Midterm exam	March 6 in class	100pts
Final exam	May 9 @ 8a	100pts
Reading responses	Various	4 @ 25pts = 100pts

### 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

### Philosophical method

Introduction	01/17/12 01/20/12	Syllabus Philosophical questions and methods	Russell: <i>The value of philosophy</i> (p. 11)
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### Epistemology

External world	01/24/12 01/27/12 01/31/12	Skepticism and certainty Mind and world Appearance and Reality	Descartes: <i>Meditations 1 and 2</i> (p. 182) Descartes: <i>Meditations 3 and 4</i> (p. 191) Berkeley: <i>On the principles of human knowledge</i> (p. 223) <b>Russell: <i>Appearance and reality and the existence of matter</i> (p. 175) Due 1/30</b>
Analysis	02/03/12	What is knowledge?	<b>Plato: <i>Knowledge as justified, true, belief</i> (p. 167) Due 1/30</b> Gettier: <i>Is knowledge justified true belief?</i> (p. 171)
Scientific knowledge	02/07/12 02/10/12	Problem of induction Methods of science	<b>Hume: <i>An inquiry concerning human understanding</i> Due 2/6 (p. 237 through sect. 5, part 1)</b> <b>Kitcher: <i>Believing where we cannot prove</i> (p. 286) Due 2/6</b>

### Metaphysics

Mind	02/14/12 02/17/12 02/21/12 02/24/12	Dualism Physicalism–identity Physicalism–functionalism Artificial intelligence	Jackson: <i>The qualia problem</i> (p. 315) Carruthers: <i>The mind is the brain</i> (p. 319) <b>Churchland: <i>Functionalism and eliminative materialism</i> (p. 327) Due 2/20</b> <b>Turing: <i>Computing machinery and intelligence</i> (p. 335) Due 2/20</b> Searle: <i>Minds, brains, and programs</i> (p. 344)
Self	02/28/12 03/02/12	Personal identity Ego and bundle	Locke: <i>The prince and the cobbler</i> (p. 373) <b>Reid: <i>Of Mr. Locke's account of our personal identity</i> (p. 376) Due 2/27</b> Hume: <i>The self</i> (p. 379) <b>Parfit: <i>Divided minds and the nature of persons</i> (p. 381) Due 2/27</b>
	03/06/12 03/09/12	Midterm exam Belief and reason	Pascal: <i>The wager</i> (p. 135) Clifford: <i>The ethics of belief</i> (p. 117)
Religion	03/20/12 03/23/12	Cosmological arg Teleological arg	Rowe: <i>The cosmological argument</i> (p. 37) <b>Paley: <i>The argument from design</i> (p. 46) Due 3/19</b> Hume: <i>Dialogues concerning natural religion</i> (p. 52 through part 3)
	03/27/12	Problem of evil	<b>Johnson: <i>God and the problem of evil</i> (p. 113) Due 3/26</b>
Free will	03/30/12 04/03/12	Deliberation and determinism Compatibilism	<b>Chisholm: <i>Human freedom and the self</i> (p. 430) Due 3/26</b> Ayer: <i>Freedom and necessity</i> (p. 475) Frankfurt: <i>Alternate possibilities and moral responsibility</i> (p. 481)

### Value theory

Metaethics	04/06/12 04/10/12 04/13/12	Subjectivism Utilitarianism Contractualism	Shafer-Landau: <i>Ethical subjectivism</i> (p. 540) <b>Mill: <i>Utilitarianism</i> (p. 597) Due 4/9</b> <b>Rawls: <i>Justice as fairness</i> (p. 579) Due 4/9</b>
Applied ethics	04/17/12 04/20/12	Charity Animals	<b>Singer: <i>Famine, affluence, and morality</i> (p. 630) Due 4/16</b> <b>Singer: <i>Unsanctifying human life</i> (p. 645) Due 4/16</b>
	04/24/12	Meaning of life	Taylor: <i>The meaning of life</i> (p. 675)

### Conclusion

	04/27/12 05/09/12	Review Final exam	
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