

PHIL 100: Introduction to Philosophy, Spring 2013

Language Hall 101, Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays, 12PM-1:05PM

Instructor: Apaar Kumar

Office Hours: Humanities Hall 205, MWF, 4:50-5:50PM

Email: akumar6@emory.edu

Course Description

In this introductory survey course, we will acquaint ourselves with a selection of canonical texts in Western philosophy. We will concern ourselves with a range of metaphysical and epistemological questions regarding the nature of reality; the nature, source and limits of knowledge; the relationship between the mind and the body; personal identity; the nature and extent of free will; and the relationship between faith and reason. We will also acquaint ourselves with the practical question of what is the best life.

Texts

The Pre-Socratics (Heraclitus, Parmenides) (on reserve)

Plato, *Gorgias* (selections), *Meno*, *Republic* (selections), *Phaedo* (selections) (on reserve)

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, trans. Terence Irwin. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1999.

Rene Descartes, *Discourse on Method and Meditations on First Philosophy*, 4th edition, trans. Donald A. Cress. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1998.

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan* (on reserve)

John Locke, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, ed. Kenneth P. Winkler. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1996.

David Hume, *An Enquiry Concerning the Human Understanding*, ed. Eric Steinberg. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1993.

George Berkeley, *A Treatise Concerning the Principles of Human Knowledge*, ed. Kenneth Winkler. Indianapolis: Hackett, 1982.

Immanuel Kant, *Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics That Will Be Able to Come Forward As a Science*. Indianapolis: Hackett, 2002.

Friedrich Nietzsche, *Twilight of the Idols*, trans. Duncan Large. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998.

Honor Code

It is assumed that you are familiar with the honor code and understand the implications of academic misconduct. Cheating on exams and quizzes will not be tolerated. If you're caught cheating on the quizzes and exams, you will be referred to the honor council.

Absence Policy

You will not be penalized for absences if there is a valid reason and if you have informed me in advance. In cases of illness, a letter from the Student Health Center is required. Three unexcused absences will cost you a letter grade.

Course Requirements

I Reading: As is usually the case, you will read the material in advance before we discuss it in class – so, for instance, when you come to class on January 18th, you will have read the required pages from the pre-Socratics.

Note: The pace of the course will be dictated by our progress in class, and the syllabus may have to be changed to accommodate it. New versions of the syllabus (if required) will be sent to you in advance via Blackboard. **Checking the Blackboard conference is your responsibility.**

II Homework: To ensure that you come prepared to class, I will assign homework after every class (on Blackboard). You will send me this work via email to the following address: akumar6@emory.edu, with the subject heading "Phil100: [Author] HW." The homework assigned for a Monday class needs to be sent to me by 8pm on Sunday, the homework assigned for a Wednesday class needs to be sent to me by 8pm on Tuesday, and the homework assigned for a Friday class needs to be sent to me by 8pm on Thursday. For the most part, homework will be directly related to the reading assigned for a class.

III Exams and Essay: There will be a mid-term exam and a final exam. You will also be required to write a 5-6 page essay comparing and contrasting two authors on a particular issue that they both discuss, or critiquing a claim by a particular author. You will be required to rewrite this essay based on feedback from me.

Note: There will be no make-up quizzes or exams unless you have a genuine reason for missing them (refer to Absence Policy above).

Grading

Overall grades for the course will be calculated according to the following 1000-point scale:

A =	950-1000	B- =	800-832	D =	600-699
A- =	900-949	C+ =	767-799	F =	Less than 600
B+ =	867-899	C =	733-766		
B =	833-866	C- =	700-732		

The grade distribution is as follows:

Essay:	25%
Final Exam:	30%
Midterm:	20%
Homework:	15%
Class participation:	10%

Grading Policy:

- (i) Homework: If your homework is done regularly and honestly and sent to me on time, you will get 15% of the grade. Every time you fail to do so, you will lose 10 points.
- (ii) Exams and the essay: Grading is relative to the class. I will give the best exam/essay an A, and grade the other assignments in terms of this exam/essay.

Note

"Student work submitted as part of this course may be reviewed by Oxford College and Emory College faculty and staff for the purposes of improving instruction and enhancing Emory education."

Reading Schedule

January 16	Introduction
January 18	Pre-Socratics: Heraclitus and Parmenides (on reserve)
January 21	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day [Holiday]
January 23	Plato, <i>Gorgias</i> , 447a-461b
January 25	Plato, <i>Gorgias</i> , 461b-481b
January 28	Plato, <i>Republic</i> , Book VI
January 30	Plato, <i>Republic</i> , Book VI
February 1	Plato, <i>Meno</i> (selections) & <i>Phaedo</i> (selections) (on reserve)
February 4	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book I, pp. 1-18
February 6	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book II, pp. 18-30
February 8	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book II, pp. 30-45
February 11	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book V, pp. 67-84
February 13	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book VI, pp. 86-99
February 15	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book VII, pp. 99-119
February 18	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book VII, pp. 99-119 (cont.)
February 20	Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> , Book X, pp. 153-71
February 22	Descartes, <i>Discourse</i> , Part I-V, pp. 1-33
February 25	Descartes, <i>Discourse</i> , Part VI, pp. 33-44
February 27	Descartes, <i>Discourse</i> , Part I-VI (cont.)
March 1	Midterm Examination
March 4	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , Chapters 1-5, 34, 46 (20 pages: On Reserve)
March 6	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> , Chapters 1-5, 34, 46 (cont.)
March 8	Locke, <i>Essay</i> , I, pp. 4-14
March 11-15	Spring Break
March 18	Locke, <i>Essay</i> , II, pp. 33-63
March 20	Locke, <i>Essay</i> , II, pp. 63-89 & 114-29
March 22	Locke, <i>Essay</i> , II, pp. 129-50
March 25	Locke, <i>Essay</i> , II, pp. 154-57; II, pp. 160-66; II, pp. 166-71
March 27	Locke, <i>Essay</i> , III, pp. 176-96
March 29	Locke, <i>Essay</i> , IV, pp. 224-42
April 1	Locke, <i>Essay</i> , IV, pp. 250-57 & IV, pp. 257-64

Paper Topics Assigned

April 3	Berkeley, <i>Principles</i> , Introduction (pp. 7-21) & Props. 1-33 (23-35)
April 5	Berkeley, <i>Principles</i> , Introduction (pp. 7-21) & Props. 1-33 (23-35)
April 8	Hume, <i>Enquiry</i> , Sections I-III
April 10	Hume, <i>Enquiry</i> , Sections IV-V

First Draft of Paper Due

April 12	Hume, <i>Enquiry</i> , Sections VI-VII
April 15	Hume, <i>Enquiry</i> , Sections VIII-IX
April 17	Kant, <i>Prolegomena</i> , pp. 1-9, 11-24
April 19	Kant, <i>Prolegomena</i> , pp. 25-37
April 22	Kant, <i>Prolegomena</i> , pp. 38-68
April 24	Kant, <i>Prolegomena</i> , pp. 69-90
April 26	Kant, <i>Prolegomena</i> , pp. 91-110
April 29	Nietzsche, <i>Twilight</i> , pp. 15-19

May 7 **Final Exam, 2PM-5PM**