

OXFORD COLLEGE
INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

Philosophy 100:1A
MWF 1-2pm
Office: 203 Language Bldg.
Hours: W F 11am-noon, 2-3pm & by appointment

Dr. Ken Anderson
Spring, 1993

SYLLABUS: The objective of the course is to introduce the student to a range of philosophical methods and problems. We will try to accomplish this through the close reading and discussion of some fundamental texts in the philosophical tradition. The course will be divided into three parts. The first part will consist of texts by the seminal figures of the Ancient and Modern traditions, Plato and Descartes. The second part will consist of two reactions against the Cartesian conception of philosophy, Rousseau's cultural and historical philosophy and Sartre's Existentialism. The third part will consist of the reading of an existential novel, The End of the Road by John Barth, and a work by a contemporary American philosopher, John Searle, on the relation of mind to machine.

TEXTS: -Ten Great Works of Philosophy, ed. Robert Paul Wolff.
-Plato, Apology, Crito.
-Descartes, Meditations on First Philosophy.
-Hume, An Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding.
-Rousseau, First and Second Discourses.
-Film, Lord of the Flies.
-Sartre, Existentialism and Human Emotions.
-John Barth, The End of the Road.
-John Searle, Minds, Brains and Science.
-An introductory essay and excerpts from Plato's Euthyphro, copies in bookstore.

REQUIREMENTS: Two essays: on Plato and Rousseau.
Two exams: on part one (Plato, Descartes and Hume)
and part two (Rousseau and Sartre).
Final exam on part three.
Attendance is mandatory. More than three unexcused
absences will affect your grade.

GRADING: The first and second exams and the long essay will have approximately equal weight toward the grade. The short essay and the final exam will count less. Class participation will also be taken into account. I will be using the + / - grading system.

"Every thinker puts some portion of an apparently stable world in peril and no one can wholly predict what will emerge in its place."

-John Dewey

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