

## **PHI 171 – PROBLEMS OF PHILOSOPHY – FALL 2014**

**MARCELLO DI BELLO – LEHMAN COLLEGE, CUNY**

### **PHILOSOPHICAL DIALOGUE SCHEDULE**

Twenty percent of your final grade will depend on your performance in a philosophical dialogue. You will discuss a philosophical question with a fellow classmate for 10-15 minutes. During the discussion you will be expected to defend a specific philosophical thesis. Your interlocutor will defend the opposite thesis. **See the tables on the next two pages to know when you are scheduled to partake in the philosophical dialogue and which philosophical thesis you are expect to defend.** In assigning a thesis to defend, I have tried to accommodate your preferences as much as possible.

What are you supposed to say or do in a philosophical dialogue? Here are some key points:

- draw from the relevant course readings, materials and slides;
- bring up your own ideas, observations and original thinking;
- listen to your interlocutor as carefully as possible;
- identify the weak points in your interlocutor's argument;
- always be calm and respectful; and
- have the courage to admit that you are wrong (if that's indeed the case).

A good philosophical dialogue is one in which:

- the reasoning in the dialogue proceeds slowly and in small steps;
- the interlocutors do not talk for too long and each interlocutor is given a chance to raise objections; and
- examples are used to illustrate difficult concepts.

The schedule for the 11AM class is on the next page. The schedule for the 12:30PM class is on the page following the next.

**If you do not see your name, please contact me ASAP.**

**11AM CLASS DIALOGUE SCHEDULE**

DATE	QUESTION	PARTICIPANTS	THESIS DEFENDED
Nov 3	Does the world change?	Daniel Anthony	Change isn't real Change is real
Nov 5	Is time real?	— —	Time is in the mind only Times isn't in the mind only
Nov 12	If God exists, why do we suffer?	Nellilson Jewel	God's existence is incompatible with suffering God's existence is compatible with suffering
Nov 12	Can we prove that God exists?	Ramon Victor	We can prove that God exists We cannot
Nov 17	Can we prove that God exists?	Adefemi Carolina	We can prove that God exists We cannot
Nov 19	Is the future predetermined ?	Shanice Marleny	The future is predetermined The future is not predetermined
Nov 24	Do we have free will?	Perla Chanel	We don't have free will We have free will
Nov 26	Can everything we believe be false?	Kayshavanie Alys	Yes, it could all be false Not, that's impossible
Dec 1	What is the right thing to do?	Starling Clifford	We should donate our money to the poor We have no such moral obligation
Dec 3	Is time real?	Poche Bianca	Time is in the mind only Times isn't in the mind only
Dec 8	TBA	TBA	TBA TBA
Dec 10	TBA	TBA TBA	TBA TBA

**12:30 PM CLASS DIALOGUE SCHEDULE**

DATE	QUESTION	PARTICIPANTS	THESIS DEFENDED
Nov 3	Does the world change?	Edward Hanane	Change isn't real Change is real
Nov 5	Is time real?	Marcello Daniel	Time is in the mind only Times isn't in the mind only
Nov 10	If God exists, why do we suffer?	Erica Shari-Gaye	God's existence is incompatible with suffering God's existence is compatible with suffering
Nov 12	Can we do away with faith?	Ashley Christina	We can do away with faith We cannot
Nov 17	Are we just our bodies and brains?	Ja'von Karina	Physicalism is true Physicalism is false
Nov 19	Can machines/computers think and understand?	Seoyoung Kaitlyn	Machines cannot think nor understand Machines will think and understand
Nov 24	Is the future predetermined ?	Marlyn Nelson	The future is predetermined The future is not predetermined
Nov 26	Do we have free will?	Leonel Davida	We don't have free will We have free will
Dec 1	What is the right thing to do?	Yemisi Jessica	We should donate our money to the poor We have no such moral obligation
Dec 3	Can economic inequalities be justified?	Raphaella Kammie	Economic inequalities are justified They are not
Dec 8	Can everything we believe be false?	Chayenne Antonio	Yes, it could all be false No, that's impossible
Dec 10	Can we prove that God exists?	Arlette Jillian	We can prove that God exists We cannot
Dec 15	Is Time Real A	Joel Innocencia	Time is in the mind only Times isn't in the mind only