

Instructor: Annemarie Butler
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Office Hours: MWF 9:00–9:50 a.m., or by appointment

Course Description: This course is designed to be an introduction to some major problems and figures in philosophy. No previous philosophical study is presupposed.

Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to explain various philosophical problems and critically assess arguments for responses to those problems.

Required Texts: Available in the bookstore.

[UNIT 1] Rene Descartes, *Meditations on the First Philosophy*, trans. Donald Cress (Indianapolis, Indiana: Hackett Publishing Company, 1993).

[UNIT 2] John Perry, *A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality* (Indianapolis, Indiana: Hackett Publishing Company, 1978).

[UNIT 3] Robert Kane, *A Contemporary Introduction to Free Will* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005).

Course Requirements:

Attendance and Participation: Students are expected to attend class regularly. In general, frequent absences strongly correlate with poor performance. If a student misses a class, he or she should try to get notes from another classmate and arrange to discuss any questions with the instructor outside of class. Students are also expected to actively participate in class discussion. Participation may include asking questions and engaging in class discussion. Many students find that their comprehension and mastery of views and arguments are improved by discussing them with others.

Quizzes: There will be regular in-class quizzes. The questions may be true/false, matching, multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, or multiple choice with possibly more than one correct answer. Each quiz is worth 4 points. The top twenty-five quizzes will count towards the quiz grade, totaling 100 possible points. Any additional quiz scores will be added as “extra credit” to the final grade.

Late Policy: A student may make up any quiz that he or she has missed at any point during the unit. However, once the time during which the student might make up the examination has lapsed (the last class prior to that unit’s examination), no quizzes may be made up.

Examinations: There will be three in-class, closed-book, closed-notes examinations. In addition to questions like those from the quizzes, the examination will include short essays. The non-essay questions will be administered by bubble sheet; students will be required to bring a #2 pencil to the examination. Students will be expected to have mastered the relevant vocabulary, concepts, and arguments, and be able to assess the arguments. Each examination will be worth 100 points.

Late Policy: If a student foresees that he or she will be unable to attend class on the day of an examination, the student must contact the instructor prior to the examination date in order to arrange for a make-up. If a student happens to miss an examination, but has failed to contact the instructor ahead of time, the student should contact the instructor as soon as possible. A make-up will be administered and 10 points will be deducted from the student’s score. If a student does not contact the instructor within two days (48 hours) of the examination, no make-up examination will be allowed, and the student will receive 0 points for the examination.

Computation of Overall Grade:

All examinations must be completed in order to receive a passing grade in this course.

Quizzes: 4 points each x 25 = 100 points

Examinations: 100 points each x 3 = 300 points

Total: = 400 points

Throughout the semester, students may view their scores using the "Grades" function on Canvas.

Final grades will be determined according to the following scale:

A: 373–400

B+: 347–359

C+: 307–319

D+: 267–279

A-: 360–372

B: 333–346

C: 293–306

D: 253–266

B-: 320–332

C-: 280–292

D-: 240–252

F: below 240 points

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Iowa State University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Sect 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you have a disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please contact me to set up a meeting within the first two weeks of the semester or as soon as you become aware of your need. Before meeting with me, you will need to obtain a SAAR form with recommendations for accommodations from the [Disability Resources Office](#), located in Room 1076 on the main floor of the Student Services Building. Their telephone number is 515-294-7220 or email disabilityresources@iastate.edu. Retroactive requests for accommodations will not be honored.

Academic Misconduct: Please take note of the College's policies regarding academic dishonesty. See the "Academic Dishonesty" section of the "Academic Conduct" page of the 2018–2019 University Catalog. (Available in PDF at http://catalog.iastate.edu/academic_conduct/#academicdishonestytext) Any student who engages in such academic misconduct faces penalties that may include an F on the assignment or an F in the course and referral to the Dean of Students' Office of Judicial Affairs.

Procedure for Complaints: If you have concerns about this course, you should discuss them with me. If it is not possible for us to resolve the issue, I will direct you to the DEO.

Tentative Schedule:**Unit 1. Knowledge and Doubt** (August 21 – September 26)

Rene Descartes, *Meditations on the First Philosophy*

Last day to make up quizzes for Unit 1: Monday, September 24, 2018 in class

Examination 1: Wednesday, September 26, 2018 in class

Unit 2. Identity of Persons over Time (September 28 – October 31)

John Perry, *A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality*

Last day to make up quizzes for Unit 2: Monday, October 29, 2018 in class

Examination 2: Wednesday, October 31, 2018 in class

Unit 3. Freedom and Alternate Possibilities (November 2 – December 12)

Robert Kane, *A Contemporary Introduction to Free Will*, chapters 1 - 9 (pages 1 - 106)

Last day to make up quizzes for Unit 3: Friday, December 7, 2018 in class

Examination 3: Wednesday, December 12, 2018, 9:45 a.m. in our usual classroom (Pearson 2115)