

Phil 101, Summer II 2015, Online.

Persons & Problems

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07/06/2015–08/20/2015

Course Description and Objectives

Are you free? Why live? What should you do with your life? In this course, we'll be asking some of these deep philosophical questions. We will begin by examining two classic arguments for the existence of God as well as concerns that God's existence is incompatible with the existence of evil. Many respond to this concern by claiming that evil is the product of our Godly given free will. But do we have free-will or are all of our actions determined by preceding events? If we don't have free will, can anyone be blamed or praised for their actions? In the third unit of the course, we will ask what determines the moral character of our actions. We will also ask whether living morally is the same as living a full and meaningful life. In this final part of the course, we will discuss the meaning of life, especially why some philosophers have connected a meaningful life with God's existence.

Learning Objectives

Upon completing this course, students will be able to (i) read philosophical texts, (ii) clearly and charitably explain viewpoints that are not their own, (iii) think critically and philosophically, (iv) write well-structured prose in which they clearly state a thesis and persuasively defend it, (v) demonstrate an understanding of several core philosophical topics.

Reading

The following are required for this course:

- [Philosophy Here and Now: Powerful Ideas in Everyday Life](#), by Lewis Vaughn
(Available in the campus book store and online retailers)

Requirements

- *Workload:* Successful students will spend at least 6 hours a week on this course.
- *Quizzes:* There are 7 weekly online quizzes administered through Blackboard. Once you open a quiz, you will have 30 minutes to complete it. This will be an automatic function performed by Blackboard, **so make sure you have 30 unbroken minutes in which to complete the quiz**. It is your responsibility to use a charged device on a stable internet connection. The quizzes will be posted on Mon. night by 11:59 PM. You must submit your answers by 11:59 PM on Sun. night. Please note that Blackboard does not allow me to selectively extend the deadline for any student.
- *Essays:* You will write three essays throughout the summer. I will grade the essays according to a rubric that can be found at the end of this syllabus. If you have questions, concerns, or would like detailed comments on a returned essays, I am happy to give them over a video conference. Please
- *Late work & Make-up Policy:* I will not allow any make-ups without proper certification. This is a strict policy. Please do not ask for special treatment.

Policies

- *Communication:* I will normally respond to emails within two days of receiving them. This will normally be during business hours on Mon. through Fri. Please check your NJCU email address.
- *Grading Schedule:* Grades will be available within 2 weeks of an assignment being submitted.
- *Statement for students with disabilities:* If you are a student with a disability and wish to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, please register with the Office of Specialized Services and Supplemental Instruction (OSS/SI). To begin this process, complete the registration form available on the OSS/SI

website at www.njcu.edu/Specialized_Services.aspx (listed under Student Resources-Forms). Contact OSS/SI at 201-200-2091 or visit the office in Karnoutsos Hall, Room 102 for additional information.

NJCU Community Standards

- Please familiarize yourself with [NJCU's Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- Penalty for plagiarism:
 - 1st infraction: F on the relevant assignment.
 - 2nd infraction: F for the entire course.

Course Schedule

1. 07/06/2015 Mon Critical Thinking Fri Quiz 1 due
2. Proofs of God's Existence Fri Quiz 2 due
3. Proofs of God's Non-Existence Fri Quiz 3 due
4. Ethics Fri Quiz 4 due
5. Ethics Fri Quiz 5 due
6. Meaning of life Fri. Quiz 6 due
7. Meaning of life 07/20/2015, Fri Quiz 7 due

Grading Rubric

Essay 1

Rubric	V. Good (10)	Good (9)	OK (8)	Weak (7)	Poor (6)	V. Poor (3)	No Attempt (0)
Grasp of Material (X2)							
Application of logical tools							
Independent thought							
Mechanics							
						Total	

Explanation

stuff