

## **Philosophy 1: Introduction to Philosophy**

Fall Quarter, 2011

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**Course Details:** 2205 WLH 1-1:50 MWF

**Office Hours:** W 9-11, or by appointment (8037 HSS)

### **1. Introduction**

Philosophy is the study of fundamental questions about the world and our place in it. The content of these questions is wide ranging, including investigations into what it means to be an individual, the nature of “knowledge” as opposed to mere belief or opinion, whether there are any principled limits to what we can know, whether we have free will, how we ought to treat one another, and what a just world would look like. Though philosophy’s topics are wide ranging, it approaches inquiry with a more or less unified methodology: an unflinching examination of what we think we know, and why we think we know it, through the use of critical examination and argument. Human inquiry in all disciplines returns to philosophical questions at some point, which can only be answered by careful analysis of what we know and what we mean. In this course, we’re going to look at a few of the big questions in philosophy. They’re the kind of things which have occupied human beings, ancient and modern, who wonder about the nature of the universe and our place in it. We’ll read some historical and modern philosophical texts on a range of issues of perennial concern. An earnest effort at understanding these texts will, I promise you, be both unsettling and vastly rewarding.

### **2. What’s Expected of You**

- I expect you to put a serious amount of effort into understanding the readings, which can be quite difficult at times. This means more than simply reading them all the way through. You must do your best to understand them, engage them, and challenge them. Read slowly, with a pen in your hand to make notes as you go. Be sure to have read the assigned readings before you come to class. I’ll try to keep them short, with the expectation that you will read, and re-read, them carefully.
- I expect you to come to class, exams, and office hours well prepared. The best way to do this is to start early by talking things through with small groups of your fellow students outside of class.
- I expect that you will pay attention during class, and will at no time use your phone or surf the internet, read material for other classes, etc. Your job while in class is to listen carefully, take notes, ask questions when appropriate, and think carefully—nothing else.
- I expect you to do your work honestly and with the goal of coming to a clearer understanding of the work that philosophers do and your own opinions on the course topics.

### **3. Text**

*Introduction to Philosophy*. 5<sup>th</sup> edition. John Perry, Michael Bratman, John Martin Fischer (eds.) Available at the UCSD Bookstore, but probably for less money online.

### **4. Grades**

There will be three short mid-term exams and a final exam, all non-cumulative. All of them will be closed book and notes, and each will be worth 25% of your final grade. For each exam you will be asked to identify and explain some key concepts, and then write one or more short reaction essays. Each exam will require one blue book, which you should bring to the exam unmarked (i.e. don’t put your name or anything else on it).

Mid-Term Exam 1 (Personal Identity): Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup>

Mid-Term Exam 2 (Free Will): Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup>

Mid-Term Exam 3 (Epistemology): Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>

Final Exam (Ethics and Political Philosophy): Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup>

**5. Course Schedule (may be subject to change):** please complete readings before class.

Date	Reading(s)
<b>Introduction to Philosophy</b>	
F 9/22	Introduction (no reading)
M 9/26	Plato, "Apology: Defense of Socrates"
<b>Who are you?: The metaphysics of personal identity</b>	
W 9/28	Bernard Williams, "The Self and the Future"
F 9/30	Derek Parfit, "Personal Identity" (Sec. I-III)
M 10/3	Derek Parfit, "Personal Identity" (Sec. IV-VI)
W 10/5	David Velleman, "So It Goes"
F 10/7	Daniel Dennett, "Where am I?"
M 10/10	<b>Mid-Term Exam 1</b> (Bring a blue book to class)
<b>Are you free?: The metaphysics of free will</b>	
W 10/12	Peter van Inwagen, "The Powers of Rational Beings: Freedom of the Will"
F 10/14	David Hume, "Of Liberty and Necessity"
M 10/17	Harry G. Frankfurt, "Alternate Possibilities and Moral Responsibility"
W 10/19	Harry G. Frankfurt, "Freedom of the Will and the Concept of a Person"
F 10/21	Thomas Nagel, "Moral Luck"
M 10/24	<b>Mid-Term Exam 2</b> (Bring a blue book to class)
<b>What do you know?: Epistemology</b>	
W 10/26	René Descartes, "Meditations on First Philosophy"
F 10/28	David Hume, "An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding" (Sec. II-IV)
M 10/31	David Hume, "An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding" (Sec. V) W.C. Salmon "The Problem of Induction" (Sec. I)
W 11/2	W.C. Salmon "The Problem of Induction" (II-III)
F 11/4	Plato, "Theaetetus"
M 11/7	Edmund L. Gettier, "Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?"
W 11/9	<b>Mid-Term Exam 3</b> (Bring a blue book to class)

Date	Reading(s)
F 11/11	<b>No Class: Veterans Day Holiday</b>
<b>How should we live?: Ethics and Political Philosophy</b>	
M 11/14	John Stuart Mill, "Utilitarianism"
W 11/16	Peter Singer, "Famine Affluence, and Morality"
F 11/18	Bernard Williams, "Utilitarianism and Integrity"
M 11/21	Immanuel Kant, "Groundwork of the Metaphysic of Morals" (Chapter I) David Velleman, "A Brief Introduction to Kantian Ethics"
W 11/23	Thomas Nagel, "War and Massacre"
F 11/25	<b>No Class: Thanksgiving Holiday</b>
M 11/28	John Rawls, "A Theory of Justice"
W 11/30	Robert Nozick, "Justice and Entitlement"
F 12/2	G.A. Cohen, "Where the Action Is: On the Site of Distributive Justice"
M 12/5	<b>Final Exam (11:30-2:30)</b>

## 6. Notes

**Disabilities.** Please let me know of any disabilities or special accommodations as soon as possible, so that we may make suitable arrangements.

**Honesty.** All work that you turn in for this class, you present as your own. This doesn't mean you shouldn't study with others extensively, but when it comes to turning in work, papers or exams, I expect that what you give me is entirely your own work.

**Late Work.** I generally do not accept late work without an appropriately documented excuse. If, for whatever reason, you cannot turn in a paper or exam on the scheduled due date, the following procedure will apply. First, you **must** speak to me about the conflict at least 24 hours in advance. Second, if I agree to let you turn in your work late, it will typically be discounted at 1/3 of a grade (e.g. B to B-) per day late as a penalty. If you have any further questions, please ask.

**Office hours.** Please come to office hours. This is especially important in classes that do not have an assigned discussion section. Use your TAs too, when they're available. We're all here to make your life a little easier and the class material more accessible.