

Pray

SE 99

# Introduction to Philosophy

(PH 10003)  
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Chaminade University of Honolulu  
Spring 1999, at Schofield Barracks, Building 560  
April 5 through June 14, 1999 (Fridays, 5:30-9:40 p.m.)  
Instructor: Robert Buss (Phone: 528-4067)

**"Introduction to Philosophy"** -- An examination of the role, themes, arguments, and discursive styles that characterize philosophy as an intellectual discipline. Traditional and critical theories from Western and Eastern philosophy will be considered.

**Text:** -- *Fundamentals of Philosophy* (fourth edition, 1996)  
by David Stewart and H. Gene Blocker.  
-- There will also be occasional handouts and study aids.

## Organization of Course and Basis for Grading

The course will be divided into nine units, explored weekly. A final exam will cover the entire range of topics. You will be expected to write five formal essays (3-5 pages, double-spaced) on topics identified by the instructor.

Your final grade will be determined as follows --

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|--|----------------------------|
| Final Examination  | 40 points                  |
| Five formal Essays   | 50 points (10 points each) |
| Class participation, special<br>in-class assignments and exercises | 10 points                  |

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"People would rather die than think... and most do." (Bertrand Russell)

"Arguments, like men, are often pretenders." (Plato)

"The philosopher's treatment of a question is like the treatment of an illness." (Ludwig Wittgenstein)

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## GENERAL OUTLINE OF TOPICS

|          |   |        |
|----------|---|--------|
| April 9  | What is Philosophy? "Philosophy & the Examined Life"<br>The Activity, Practice and Limits of Philosophy.  | Part 1 |
| April 16 | Thinking About Thinking. Logic and Critical Thinking Skills.<br>The Nature of Philosophical Argument and Writing.   | Part 2 |
| April 23 | What is Real? Metaphysics.<br>The Mind-Body Problem. Metaphysics and Language.  | Part 3 |
| April 30 | How Do We Know? Epistemology or Theory of Knowledge.<br>Appearance and Reality, the One and the Many. Skepticism.<br>Rationalism: The Quest for Certainty. Empiricism: Trust Your Senses.<br>Critical Philosophy: A Compromise. | Part 4 |
| May 7    | What Ought We to Do? Ethics.<br>What is Right? What is Good? Development of Character.<br>Morality and Self-Realization, Consequences, Absolute Duty.   | Part 5 |
| May 14   | Philosophy of Religion.<br>Arguments for God's Existence ("the God of the philosophers").<br>The Problem of Evil. The Nature of Religious Language.   | Part 6 |
| May 21   | Philosophy of Art. Aesthetics.<br>Theories of Aesthetics: Expressionism, Formalism, Representation.<br>Art and Audience, Creativity, Communication.<br>Art and Context: The Politics of Representation.                         | Part 7 |
| May 28   | Social and Political Philosophy.<br>Theories of Justice. Concepts of Equality, Liberty, Fairness.<br>Social Contract Theories.  | Part 8 |
| June 4   | Eastern Thought and Theories of Human Nature.<br>Confucian Philosophy of Man as a Social Being.<br>Taoist Philosophy of Nature.<br>Hindu and Buddhist Philosophy of Action (karma and dharma).                                  | Part 9 |
| June 11  | Final Exam (in-class)   |        |