

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 --

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

"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 and illness." (Ludwig Wittgenstein)

GENERAL OUTLINE OF TOPICS

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