

FE '00
Rus

Introduction to Philosophy

(PH 100-40)

Chaminade University of Honolulu
Five Week Class, Fall Evening 2000, at Fort Shafter
November 8 through December 11, 2000
Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:30-9:40 p.m.
Instructor: Robert Buss (Phone: 528-4067, home)

"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: -- *Exploring Philosophy: An Introductory Anthology*
(Oxford University Press, 2000) -- edited by Steven M. Cahn.
-- There will also be occasional handouts and study aids.

Organization of Course and Basis for Grading

The course will be divided into units, with readings from secondary sources as well as primary sources from key figures in the history of Western philosophy. Occasional references will be made to Asian and non-Western philosophy, however this material will not be covered on the exams unless students choose to incorporate such ideas into their responses to essay questions. A mid-term exam (in-class) and final exam (take-home) will cover the entire range of topics. Class participation and special written assignments -- home work and in-class projects -- will count toward your final grade.

Your final grade will be determined as follows --

- Midterm Examination (in-class on Nov. 27) 40 percent of final grade
- Final Examination (take-home) 40 percent of final grade
The final exam will be given out on Dec. 4 and will be due on Dec. 11.
- Class participation and attendance, special in-class assignments and exercises 20 percent of final grade

"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)**

GENERAL OUTLINE OF TOPICS

Readings

Nov. 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction: What is Philosophy? • "Philosophy & the Examined Life." • The Activity, Practice & Limits of Philosophy. 	<i>What is Philosophy?</i> <i>Defense of Socrates</i>	page 3 page 13
Nov. 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reasoning: Thinking About Thinking. • Logic and Critical Thinking Skills. 	Essays on Logic Handouts	pages 43-68
Nov. 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge and Self. • Appearance and Reality. • What Can I Know? 	Essays on Theory of knowledge <i>Meno</i> by Plato	pages 71-87 page 117
Nov. 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge and Self. • Free Will or Determinism. • Mind and Body. Death. • Rationalism and Empiricism. 	Essays on Theory of knowledge <i>Meditations on First Phil</i> by Descartes <i>Enquiry...</i> by Hume	pages 88-116 page 151 page 162
Nov. 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philosophy of Religion. • Does God Exist? • The Problem of Evil. • Faith and Reason in Religion. 	Essays on God Essays on Faith Readings by Plato, Aquinas, Descartes and David Hume	pages 175-97 pages 198-209 page 210-41
Nov. 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Midterm Exam (in-class). 	On Units 1-4.	
Nov. 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philosophy of Morality. • The Moral Challenge of Relativism. • Three Traditions of Moral Argument. (Virtue Ethics, Duty & Consequences) 	Essays on Ethics Reading by Aristotle	pages 245-65 pages 303
Dec. 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philosophy of Morality. • Moral Principles, Character and Liberty. • Three Traditions of Moral Argument. (Virtue Ethics, Duty & Consequences) • Take-home exam given out (due Dec. 11). 	Essays on Ethics Readings by Kant & John Stuart Mill	pages 265-70 pages 308-18
Dec. 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Philosophy. • Democracy. Political Action. Privacy. • Concepts of Equality, Justice, Fairness, Human Rights, and Social Responsibilities. • Review and Progress Report on Final Exam. 	Essays on Society <i>Crito</i> by Plato <i>On Liberty</i> by Mill	pages 321-34 page 373 page 386
Dec. 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philosophy and the Meaning of Life. • The Value of Philosophy. • Final Exam due. 	Essay by R. Taylor Essay by B. Russell On Units 5-7.	page 405 page 413