

Unni

PH 100
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C. Unni

Introduction to Philosophy
Summer (II) 2000
From July 5th to Aug. 15th

General Objectives

This course is aimed at giving the student an understanding of the nature, scope and methods of western philosophy. The main topics that arise in the major areas of logic, ethics, aesthetics, metaphysics and epistemology will be identified and a variety of approaches to these topics will also be discussed. The method of teaching will combine, class discussions, video presentations, and writing essays.

Specific Objectives

1. What is philosophy and how can we distinguish it from science and religion in its approach?
2. What is ethics, how or where do the rules of conduct come from and how do we validate them?
3. What is logic and argumentation, why are logical rules so important and what limits can we place on them?
4. What are the criteria for aesthetic evaluation, can a work of art be assessed for its quality if so what criteria are to be used?
5. What are the principal theories of knowledge, how do we distinguish knowledge from belief and can we really have objective knowledge?
6. What are the theories of reality, how do we distinguish reality from appearance, and an we really have knowledge of the ultimate reality?
7. What is the status of religion in the modern world, how can the claims of religious experiences be validated, and can religion coexist with science?
8. What is the scientific method of acquiring knowledge, is there one such method or are these methods changing and can we rest confident of these methods?
9. How do we come to expect that life as such should have meaning, what is the concept of meaning that we use in this context and what are the contributions of religion and literature to define such a meaning?
10. What is the future of the discipline of philosophy, how will its concerns and method change with the new demands placed on it by the current issues in our global and media oriented culture?

Text

Perry and Bratman, Introduction to philosophy (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999)

Grading

Attendance	10 points
Tests	50 points
Midterm	15 points
Final	15 pints
Paper	10 points

A=100-95; B=85-94; C=75-84; D=65-74; F=below 65