

SSEI '01  
1  
Res

CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY  
Instructor: Dr. Mark Brasher  
(voice mail:381-6080; email: mark-brasher@hawaii.rr.com)

INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY (PH100)80  
Camp Smith MWF 5:30-9:30 p.m. / S 8-12 a.m.

*Description: An examination of the role, themes, arguments, and discursive styles that characterize philosophy as an intellectual discipline. Both traditional and critical theories will be considered and the role of the mytho-poetic and religious discourses will receive special attention.*



Textbook: *Fundamentals of Philosophy* by David Stewart and H. Gene Blocker (Prentice-Hall, Inc. © 1996 ISBN 0-13-397696-3).

**Course Format:** Students will read the appropriate pages in Stewart and Blocker's *Fundamentals of Philosophy* prior to the class meeting and complete the assigned exercises to hand in at the beginning of the class (see the assignments for each meeting listed below as "For next class"). During class the instructor will present additional background information and explain the central ideas of the chapter\* as well as answer all student questions. There will be quizzes at the end of each meeting and a final examination.

**Grading:** Grading will be based on the average of the quizzes and the final exam. The quizzes are designed to allow the student the best opportunity to demonstrate that he or she has read and understood the material in the current topic.

**Requirements:** Attendance is absolutely mandatory at every meeting. In the event of an emergency, students who miss class *must* contact the instructor (as soon as possible and prior to the next meeting) in order to arrange to take the missed quiz and to schedule make-up work due dates. Make-up work will consist in an assigned essay or short essay questions about the chapter topic (in addition to the quiz).

**Optional Term Paper:** Students may opt to do a philosophy paper (see the handout "Philosophy Term Paper") and then have their grade averaged across their quizzes and paper (50% quiz average / 50% paper grade). To do the paper, it is necessary to fulfill each listed step (Topic 6/17, Thesis/Outline 6/19 to be discussed and returned, Rough 6/24 returned 6/26 and Final drafts 6/30) by the assigned dates.

\*Note: "Chapter" is used in this textbook to indicate a section, "Part" is used to indicate what would normally be called a chapter. We will examine one "part" each week, consisting of several extremely short "chapters."

#### **June 14: Introduction to Philosophy**

---

##### I. WHAT IS PHILOSOPHY?

1. The Activity of Philosophy.
2. Philosophy and the Examined Life. **READING:** Socrates, *In Defense of Philosophy*.
3. The Practice of Philosophy. **Reading:** Rosenberg *The Character of Philosophy*.

Quiz: Chapters 1-31

For the next class: read Chapters 5 - 8

#### **June 16: Logic**

---

##### II. THINKING ABOUT THINKING (LOGIC).

5. The Life of Reason.
6. Argument Forms.

7. Inductive Arguments and Scientific Reasoning.

8. Strategies for Philosophical Argument.

Quiz: Chapters 5-8

For the next class: read at least Chapters 9-11 on Metaphysics

### **June 17: Metaphysics**

---

#### III. WHAT IS REAL? (METAPHYSICS).

9. Introduction to Metaphysics. READING: Plato, Phaedo.

10. Materialism.

READING: Epicurus, First Principles of Materialism.

11. Idealism.

READING: George Berkeley, Three dialogues

Discuss: (12. The Mind-Body Problem. /13. Metaphysics and Language)

Quiz: Chapters 9-11

For the next class: read 14-18 on Epistemology.

### **June 19: Epistemology**

---

#### IV. HOW DO WE KNOW? (EPISTEMOLOGY).

14. Introduction to Epistemology.

15. Appearance and Reality. READING: Plato, The Visible and the Invisible.

16. The Quest for Certainty. READING: René Descartes, Mediations.

17. Trust Your Senses. READING: David Hume, Skeptical Doubts Concerning the Operations of the Understanding.

18. A Compromise. READING: Immanuel Kant, Two Sources of Knowledge.

(Discuss: Chapter 19. The Challenges of Postmodernism.)

Quiz: Chapters 14-18

For the next class: read 20, 22-24 on Ethics.

### **June 21: Ethics. Teleological, Consequentialist and Deontological Ethics**

---

#### V. WHAT OUGHT WE TO DO? (ETHICS).

20. Introduction to Ethical Reasoning.

22. The Morality of Self-Realization.

READING: Aristotle, The Good Life.

23. Morality Depends on the Consequences.

READING: John Steward Mill, Utilitarianism.

24. Morality Depends on Motives.

READING: Immanuel Kant, Moral Duty.

Quiz: Chapters 20, 22-24.

For the next class: read Chapters 25-28 on Philosophy of Religion.

### **June 23: Philosophy of Religion**

---

#### VI. PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION.

25. Introduction to Philosophy and Religion.

READING: Leo Tolstoy, A Confession.

26. Arguments for God's Existence: The Ontological Arguments.

READING: St. Anselm, The Proslogion.

27. Arguments for God's Existence: The Cosmological Arguments.

READINGS: St. Thomas Aquinas, The Five Ways; William Paley, Natural Theology.

28. The Problem of Evil.

READING: C. S. Lewis, The Problem of Pain.

Quiz: Chapters 25-28. For the next class: read Chapters 29-32 on Philosophy of Art.

**June 24: Philosophy of Art**

---

## VII. PHILOSOPHY OF ART (ESTHETICS).

- 29. Introduction to the Philosophy of Art.
- 30. The Value of Art.  
READING: H. Gene Blocker, The Esthetic Attitude.
- 31. Art as Ideal.  
READING: Kenneth Clark, The Naked and the Nude.
- 32. Esthetics and Ideology.  
READING: Jennifer M. Jeffers, The Politics of Representation.

Quiz: Chapters 29-32.

For the next class: read Chapters 33-36 on Social and Political Philosophy.

**June 26: Social and Political Philosophy**

---

## VIII. SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY.

- 33. Introduction to Social Philosophy.
- 34. The Libertarian View of the State.  
READING: John Locke, The State and the State of Nature.
- 35. The Egalitarian View of the State.  
READING: Kai Nielsen, In Defense of Egalitarianism.
- 36. Justice as Fairness.  
READING: John Rawls, A Theory of Justice.

Quiz: chapters 33-36

For the next class: read Chapters 37-39 on Eastern Philosophy.

**June 28: Eastern Thought.**

---

## IX. EASTERN THOUGHT

- 37. Philosophy East and West.
- 38. Eastern Thought: Theories of Human Nature.  
READINGS: Mencius, Xun Zi, and Dong Zhongshu.
- 39. Eastern Thought: The Individual and the Collective.  
READINGS: The Bhagavad Gita; Lao Tzu, Tao Te Ching.

Quiz: Chapters 37-39

For the next class: review your coursework (outlines, quizzes, notes, text).

**June 30: Final Meeting**

---

Review

Final Examination

(end of course)