

Introduction to philosophy
PH 100 01, 07
Dr. Chitta R. Unni
Chaminade University of Honolulu
Fall 2001

Course Basics

- Course Name: Introduction to Philosophy
- Course Code: PH 100 01
- Semester: Fall 2001
- Days: MWF
- Time: 08:00-08:50 AM
- Room: H 223

Texts.

- Nigel Warburton, *Philosophy: The Basics*
- Nigel Warburton, *Philosophy: Basic Readings*
- Horner and Westacott, *Thinking Through Philosophy*

Recommended further reading.

- Nigel Warburton, *Philosophy the Classics.*
- Richard Kearney, *Modern Movements in European Philosophy.*
- Anthony Kenny, *Oxford History of Modern Philosophy.*
- Cooper, *World Philosophies.*

Suggested References.

- A. R. Lacey, *A Dictionary of Philosophy.*
- Simon Blackburn, *The Oxford Dictionary of Philosophy.*
- Nigel Warburton, *Thinking from A to Z.*

Topics covered: Main Areas

- Central concepts and methods.
- logic..
- Theories of ethics.
- Theories of aesthetic.
- Theories of knowledge. (Epistemology)
- Theories of reality. (Metaphysics)

Topics Covered: Applications

- Politics
- Law
- Science
- Psychology
- Religion

Course Objectives

- Be able to distinguish valid from invalid arguments.
- Identify the most central and general ideas in terms of which we think.
- Distinguish philosophical method from science and philosophy.
- Demonstrate the difference between conceptual issues and factual issues.

- Distinguish reductive from connective types of analysis.
- Understand how the relations between central ideas are structured.
- Have some detailed knowledge of such ideas like knowledge and reality.
- Be able to explain the concept of mind.
- Show how general ideas function in specialized disciplines.
- Distinguish theory and practice and explain the nature of judgments.

Marianist Values.

- Chaminade University is dedicated to the philosophical ideals of Fr. Joseph Chaminade the founder of the Marianist Catholic Order.
- The Marianist Values are:
 - Education for the formation of faith.
 - Excellence in education.
 - Educate in family spirit.
 - Educate for service, justice and peace.
 - Educate for adaptation and change.
- These values enter our discussions throughout.

Method of Teaching

- Explaining central ideas.
- Showing how to apply them.
- Relating to readings.
- Demonstrating competence.

Grading Standards

- The following grading standards are specified in Chaminade General Catalog 2000-2001, page 42
- A = Outstanding scholarship and an unusual degree of intellectual initiative.
- B = Superior work done in a consistent and intellectual manner.
- C = Average grade indicating a competent grasp of the subject matter.
- D = Inferior work of the lowest passing grade.
- F = Failed to grasp the minimum subject matter; no grades given.

Requirements

- Attendance 5%
- Participation 5%
- Homework 5%
- Quizzes 15%
- Tests 40%
- Midterm 10%
- Final 20%

Attendance

- Attendance will constitute 5% of the final course grade.
- Students missing 9 or more class sessions will receive no percentage points for attendance.
- Attendance will be recorded and absences reported in accordance with University policy.
- Students arriving 10 minutes late will receive 0 points for their attendance on that day.
- Students leaving before the class is over will receive 0 points for their attendance on that day.

Participation

- Participation will constitute 5% of the final course grade.

- Do the required readings on time and be prepared for quizzes and tests.
- Take the quizzes and tests regularly at the time when they are given.
- Submit all in-class projects and assignments on time, well edited and in proper format.
- Refrain from sleeping in class, reading material not relevant for the class or engaged in disruptive activities such as talking to others.
- Those who do the above will be regarded as a non-participants.

Homework

- Homework will constitute 5% of the final course grade.
- All assignments must be done in a neat and proper fashion, meeting any required format that is specified in the assignment.
- They should be submitted on time.
- Homework assignments not submitted on time will not be accepted.

Quizzes

- Quizzes will constitute 15% of the final course grade.
- They are short queries addressed to the student after a power point presentation of the day's lecture by the instructor.
- Their objective is to assess the student's grasp of what the instructor regards as the central point in that day's lecture.
- They are also designed to make students pay attention to class discussions, ask questions if they did not understand what was presented in a lecture and take notes of important ideas discussed by the instructor.

Tests

- All the tests taken together will constitute 40% of the final course grade.
- At the end of presenting each of the course objectives, there will be a test.
- The test objective is to assess the student's competence level for that particular course objective.
- The test dates are specified in the syllabus.
- These tests are given in addition to any quizzes that may be given at the end of any power point presentation.
- Students arriving more than 5 minutes for the test will not be given the test.

Mid-Term

- The Mid-Term will constitute 10% of the final course grade.
- The Mid-Term will be a take-home project.
- It will be distributed in class.
- Late submission will carry a grade penalty.
- Submissions not meeting proper format will not be accepted.
- The proper format and due date will appear on the mid-term assignment.

Final

- The final will constitute 20% of the final course grade.
- The final exam will be administered on the date and at the time and place set by the registrar.
- Please check your Chaminade Course Schedule, which you received from the authorities to determine these details.

Make Up test.

- Students who missed tests will get one opportunity to make up their losses.
- A general make up tests will be given on a date that will be announced later in class.
- No other make up tests will be given.
- Students who miss this day will not be able to take any other make up tests.
- Students who come late for the make up tests will not be able to take it.

Special Project.

- Students may do one project as a special project for extra grade.
- Students are not required to do any special projects but any student may opt in favor of it.
- The special project will count up to 5% of the final grade.
- The project proposals must follow guidelines that will be distributed to the class by.

Test on submissions.

- If the instructor feels that the student's take home work submitted to him require a discussion with the student then the student should be prepared to meet with the instructor for such discussions.
- The grade for any take home submissions will be subject to the instructor determining that the student actually understands what he or she has written.

Use of e-mail.

- Students are expected to submit their take home projects in class personally to the instructor.
- The student may, with the instructor's permission submit his or her assignments through the <http://www.blackboard.com> course site.
- E-mail is not a preferred format to submit assignments.
- E-mail submission in the form of attachments will not be acceptable.
- E-mails should be strictly restricted to brief communications with the instructor.

Course Grade

- The course grade will be computed from the overall performance of the student in the course.
- In computing it the grades from the quizzes, homework, midterm, and final will be taken into consideration.
- Attendance and participation will also count towards the course grade.
- The weight of each of these factors as specified will be applied in determining the final course grade.

Class Conduct

- Set any electronic devices to silent mode or turn them off.
- Sleeping or doing other unrelated work in class will cost points in terms of attendance.
- Students are expected to be in class on time, walking in late will disrupt the class.
- Please refrain from excessive talking or other conduct that will be a nuisance to others.
- A generally polite, friendly atmosphere will make our semester enjoyable.

Information About the Instructor

- Name: Dr. Chitta R. Unni
- Rank: Professor of philosophy
- Tel (H): 941 84 34
- Tel (O): 735 4879
- e-mail: crunni@yahoo.com
- Office Hours: T and Th from 8-12 AM or by appointment.
- Office Location: Henry 206 (A)

Schedule of meetings

- | | | | |
|---|--------|---|--|
| 1 | 27-Aug | M | Pre-test and course outline. |
| 2 | 29-Aug | W | Philosophical methods, dialectic and analysis. |

3	31-Aug	F	Analysis, reductive and connective.
4	5-Sep	W	Test 1
5	7-Sep	F	Knowledge and skepticism. Knowledge of the external world. Can we trust our senses? The logical prerequisites for entertaining doubt.
6	10-Sep	M	Realism and idealism in theory of knowledge.
7	12-Sep	W	Critique of realism and idealism.
8	14-Sep	F	Test 2
9	17-Sep	M	The role of experience in knowledge and the simple view of scientific method.
10	19-Sep	W	The role of observation and the problem of induction.
11	21-Sep	F	Alternatives to induction and a critical appraisal of the notion of scientific method.
12	24-Sep	M	Test 3
13	26-Sep	W	What sorts of things exist? The difficulties with the view that the only things that exist are minds and bodies.
14	28-Sep	F	The view that mind is reducible to brain and or brain states and the difficulties with such a view.
15	1-Oct	M	Towards a concept of mind that demystifies it and the difficulties in explaining such a view.
16	3-Oct	W	Test 4
17	5-Oct	F	The concept of causation and how things happen in the world. Can freedom and determinism coexist with one another?
18	10-Oct	W	Is the world one, two or many? The differences between idealistic and materialistic conceptions of the world.
19	11-Oct	F	How justified are we in attempting a metaphysical or systematic understanding of all reality? Is reality the sort of thing that allows itself to be understood in this manner?
20	15-Oct	M	Test 5
21	13-Oct	W	The concept of God and the role it plays in our experience of the world.
22	18-Oct	F	Are the traditional proofs for the existence of God logically sustainable? Is proof the sort of thing that we ought to be looking for in religion and especially with respect to God?
23	22-Oct	M	Philosophy of religion and the future of religion and its influence on the modern views about life and experience.
24	24-Oct	W	Test 6
25	26-Oct	F	Morality and the concepts necessary to engage in discussing the rightness and wrongness of actions.
26	29-Oct	M	Some basic theories of ethics.
27	31-Oct	W	Is the kind of discourse we find taking place in ethics, helpful or harmful to the ultimate objectives of ethics?
28	2-Nov	F	Test 7
29	5-Nov	M	What determines who gets what and how in real life?
30	7-Nov	W	The ideas of liberty and equality and how they shape our political view of the world.
31	9-Nov	F	Can law solve social problems? The strength and weakness of the legal institution.
32	14-Nov	W	Test 8
33	16-Nov	F	What is aesthetics and how is it different from ethics or religion?
34	19-Nov	M	Is it possible to evaluate works of art?
35	21-Nov	W	A critical assessment of some theories of aesthetics.
36	26-Nov	M	Test 9
37	28-Nov	W	Philosophy of science.
38	30-Nov	F	Philosophy of religion.
39	3-Dec	M	Philosophy of history.
40	5-Dec	W	Test 10
41	7-Dec	F	Evaluations and post-test

Introduction to Philosophy (PH 100) Fall 2001 Pre-Test. Instructor Dr. C. R. Unni

The following is administered to each student to collect statistical data regarding the effectiveness of the class in meeting educational objectives.

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Gender: Male Female

Age _____

Major _____

Minor _____

Class Standing: Freshman

Sophomore

Junior Senior

Race or ethnicity _____

Please respond to the following by marking the appropriate boxes.

If given a test today at what level will you be able to perform the following tasks? The levels are:

A = Excellent

B = Good

C = Fair

D = Barely

F = Not at all

Statements	A	B	C	D	F
1. I can distinguish valid from invalid arguments.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Identify the most central and general ideas in terms of which we think.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Distinguish philosophical method from that of the sciences and the various religions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Demonstrate the difference between conceptual and factual questions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Distinguish reductive from connective types of analysis.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. I understand how the relations between central ideas of thought are structured.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. I can show how the concepts of knowledge and reality function in philosophy.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. I can explain the concept of mind.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. I can explain how general ideas function in specialized disciplines.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. I can distinguish theory from practice and explain the nature of judgments..	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>