

SE '01
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CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY
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INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY (PH100) 20
Kaneohe Wednesday 5:30-9:40 p.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 (Fifth Edition)* by David Stewart and H. Gene Blocker (Prentice-Hall, Inc. © 1996 ISBN 0-13-030896X.

- 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 to examine the student's understanding of the material and an opportunity to retake the lowest quiz at the end of the course. (*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.")
- 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 outline of the missed chapter and sign up to make up the missed quiz on the last day of class (a missing outline and/or quiz will result in a 10% drop in points).
- 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 required step (Topic, Thesis/Outline to be discussed and returned, Rough and Final drafts by the assigned dates.)

April 4: 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

April 11: 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

April 18: 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.

April 25: 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.

May 2: 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.

May 9: 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.

May 16: 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.

May 23: 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.

May 30: 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 6 : Final Meeting

Final Papers (for those opting to do the paper) due.

Review of Chapters I-X

Make-up examinations, re-take examinations.