

Introduction to philosophy

PH 100

Dr. Chitta R. Unni

Chaminade University of Honolulu

Fall 2002

Objectives

This introductory course aims at engaging the student in an exercise in basic philosophical thinking. As such the student will learn how to conduct philosophical analysis, present valid arguments, identify fallacies in reasoning, understand the limits of scientific methods of inquiry, appreciate the type of issues with which religious and metaphysical reasoning are concerned with, evaluate morally acceptable conduct, evaluate public policy decisions, understand the concept of rule of law and understand the principles of aesthetics as they apply to the area of various arts.

Text.

PHILOSOPHY: Manuel Velasquez

Method of Instruction

Method of instruction will consist of a combination of lectures and discussions using both textual readings as well as video presentations of major philosophical themes by practitioners of the discipline at various universities in America, England and Europe. In introducing the major concepts of philosophy and their applications I shall first explain what these concepts are, and then through video lessons illustrate how they are understood by those who teach the subject, discuss the student's understanding of them and then test the student's comprehension of them.

Marianist Values.

Chaminade University is dedicated the religious and moral ideals of Fr. Joseph Chaminade the founder of the Marianist Catholic Order. The Marianist Values as stated in relevant publications refer to education for the formation of faith, excellence in education, educate in family spirit, educate for service, justice and peace, educate for adaptation and change. Our discussions are guided by an effort to understand what these values mean and how they can be practiced.

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 10%; Tests 40%; Midterm(25 x 2) 20%; Final 30%

Information About the Instructor

- Name: Dr. Chitta R. Unni
- Rank: Professor of philosophy
- Tel (H): 941 84 34
- Tel (O): 735 4775
- e-mail: crunni@yahoo.com
- Office Hours: T and Th from 8-12 AM or by appointment.
- Office Location: Henry 206 (A)

Course Schedule

1/14 Distribution of course outlines. Administer pre-test.	1/16 Video: What is Philosophy? Discussion.	1/18 Video: What is Human Nature? Discussion.	1/23 Video: Is there an enduring self? Discussion
1/25 Lecture: Chapter 1. Analysis	1/28 Lecture: Chapter 2. Analysis	1/30 Readings for Chapters 1 and 2.	2/1 Test (1) Chapters 1 and 2.
2/4 Video: What is real?	2/6 Lecture: Chapter 3. Analysis	2/8 Video: Is time real? Discussion	2/11 Test (2) Chapter 3.
2/13 Video: How do we encounter the world?	2/15 Video: Do we have free will? Discussion	2/20 Midterm (1) Chapters 1-3	2/22 Class standing. Special assignments. Student conference
2/25 Video: Does God Exist?	2/27 Lecture: Chapter 4. Analysis.	3/1 Video: Can we know God through experience?	3/4 Test (3) Chapter 4.
3/6 Video: Is reason the source of knowledge? Discussion	3/8 Video: Does knowledge depend on experience? Discussion	3/11 Video: Does science add to knowledge? Discussion	3/13 Test (4) Chapter 5.
3/15 Video: Does science give us truth? Discussion	3/18 Video: Are interpretations true? Discussion	3/20 Midterm (2) Chapters 4-6.	3/22 Class standing. Special assignments. Student conference.
4/1 Video: Can rules define morality?	4/3 Video: Does the end justify the means?	4/5 Video: Is ethics based on virtue?	4/8 Test (5) Chapter 7.
4/10 Video: What justifies the state?	4/12 Video: What is justice?	4/15 Video: Are we social beings?	4/17 Test (6) Chapter 8.
4/19 Video: What is art?	4/22 Video: What is the meaning of life?	4/24 Make up test.	4/26 Test (7) Chapter 9.
4/29 Course evaluation. Administer post-test.	5/1 Lecture Review.	5/3 Lecture Review	

Introduction to Philosophy (PH 100) Spring 2002 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. Define conditions of validity in 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. Articulate the notion of connective analysis.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Explain 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. Illustrate 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. Explain the concept of mind.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Explain how general ideas function in specialized disciplines.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. 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"/>