

Introduction to Philosophy

Survey of Problems

Chaminade University of Honolulu -- Tripler AMC, Building 102
 PH 100-30. Thursdays, January 13 to March 26, 2002, 5:30-9:40 p.m.
 Instructor: Robert Buss (Phone: 528-4067, home; email: rbuss@hihumanities.org)

Introduction to Philosophy: Survey of Problems -- An examination of the role, themes, arguments, and discursive styles that characterize philosophy as an intellectual discipline. Traditional and critical theories from Western and Eastern philosophy will be considered.

Text: -- *Exploring Philosophy: An Introductory Anthology*
 (Oxford University Press, 2000) -- edited by Steven M. Cahn.
 -- There will also be occasional handouts and study aids.

Organization of Course and Basis for Grading

The course will be divided into units, with readings from primary and secondary sources of key figures in the history of Western philosophy. Occasional references will be made to Asian and non-Western philosophy, however this material will not be covered on the exams unless students choose to incorporate such ideas into their responses to essay questions. You will be assigned three essay projects (3-5 pp each) on subjects designated on the course outline; you will receive handouts and guidelines for each essay. A final exam will cover the entire range of topics covered in the class. Class participation and special written assignments -- home work and in-class projects -- will count toward your final grade.

Your final grade will be determined as follows --

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| • Three thought pieces (essays) | 40 percent of final grade |
| • Final Examination | 40 percent of final grade |
| • Class participation, attendance, and special in-class assignments and exercises | 20 percent of final grade |

"People would rather die than think... and most do." (Bertrand Russell)

"Arguments, like men, are often pretenders." (Plato)

**"The philosopher's treatment of a question is like the treatment of an illness."
 (Ludwig Wittgenstein)**

GENERAL OUTLINE OF TOPICS

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topics and Issues</i>	<i>Assigned Readings from Text</i>				
Jan. 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction: What is Philosophy? • "Philosophy & the Examined Life." • The Activity, Practice & Limits of Philosophy • "opinion" or faith (<i>pistis</i>) vs "ideas" (<i>eidos</i>) • Moral Problem: Breaking through Dogmatism: "Right You Are If You Think You Are" 	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;"><i>What is Philosophy?</i></td> <td style="text-align: right;">page 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>Defense of Socrates.</i></td> <td style="text-align: right;">page 13</td> </tr> </table>	<i>What is Philosophy?</i>	page 3	<i>Defense of Socrates.</i>	page 13
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<i>Defense of Socrates.</i>	page 13					

Jan. 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reasoning: Thinking About Thinking. • Logic and Critical Thinking Skills. •• Moral Problem: Making Moral Arguments 	Handouts on Logic and Critical Thinking <i>The Scope of Logic & Improving Your Thinking</i> Handout: "The Conscience of Huckleberry Finn" by Jonathan Bennett	
First Essay Topic: What is Conscience? -- Racism and Its Sources in Human Feeling, Imagination and Knowledge Claims			
Jan. 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge and Self. • Appearance and Reality. • Free Will or Determinism •• Moral Problem: The Crisis of Modernism •• Moral Problem: How Claims of Knowledge Relate to the Origins of Ethics 	Essays on Theory of knowledge <i>Meno</i> by Plato. <i>Meditations on First Phil</i> by Descartes. Free Will / Determinism	pages 71-80 page 117 page 151 pages 88-101
Feb. 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philosophy of Religion. • The World as <i>mythos</i> and <i>logos</i> • The Problem of Evil. •• Moral Problem: Faith, Reason and Morality 	Essays on God. Essays on Faith. Readings by Plato, Aquinas and Hume	pages 175-97 pages 198-209 pages 210-41
Feb. 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •• Religious Fundamentalism, Terrorism and the Modern World 	Handout: "The Ethics of Retaliation" Handout: "Terrorism, Innocence and War" From Text: "Political Action: The Problem of Dirty Hands" by Michael Walzer (p. 326)	
Second Essay Topic: Terrorism as a Philosophical Problem			
Feb. 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philosophy of Morality. • The Moral Challenge of Relativism. • Three Traditions of Moral Argument. (Virtue Ethics, Duty Ethics & Utilitarianism) •• Moral Problem: Ethics at the Beginning of Life: Abortion 	Essays on Ethics. Reading by Aristotle. Readings by Feinberg and Held	pages 245-65 page 303 pages 270-87
Feb. 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philosophy of Morality. • Moral Principles, Character and Liberty. • Three Traditions of Moral Argument. •• Moral Problem: Ethics at the End of Life: Active and Passive Euthanasia 	Essays on Ethics. Readings by Kant & John Stuart Mill. Readings by Rachels, Sullivan and Hook	pages 265-70 pages 308-18 pages 288-302
Third Essay Topic: Medical Ethic, Genetic Technologies and Personal Boundaries			
Mar. 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Philosophy. • Concepts of Equality, Justice, Fairness, Human Rights, and Social Responsibilities. •• Moral Problem: The Death Penalty 	Essays on Society. <i>Crito</i> by Plato. <i>The Death Penalty Capital Punishment</i>	pages 321-34 page 373 page 334 page 336
Mar. 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Philosophy. • Concepts of Equality, Justice, Fairness, Human Rights, and Social Responsibilities. •• Moral Problem: Privacy and the Internet • Philosophy and the Meaning of Life. • The Value of Philosophy. • Review for Final exam 	<i>Democracy</i> by Dewey. <i>On Liberty</i> by J.S. Mill. Privacy Essay by R. Taylor. Essay by B. Russell.	page 321 page 386 page 330 page 405 page 413
Mar. 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Exam (in-class) 		