

FE '01

CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY

Instructor: Dr. Mark Brasher
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Available: at class breaks, after class and by appointment (call or email to schedule an appointment)

INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY (PH100)

Pearl Harbor Mondays 4:45-8:55 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 assigned pages in Stewart and Blocker's *Fundamentals of Philosophy* prior to the class meeting, making an outline of the main ideas to hand in at the beginning of the 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. Students have the option of retaking their lowest quiz at the end of the last class meeting (December 10). (*Note: "Chapter" is used in this textbook to indicate a section, "Part" is used to indicate what would normally be called a chapter (about 30-40 pages). We will examine one "part" each week, consisting of several extremely short "chapters," (of about 5-10 pages each).

Grading: Grading will be based on the average of the quizzes and the points for chapter outlines (minus any points lost for absences). The quizzes are designed to allow the student the best opportunity to demonstrate that he or she has read and understood the chapter as well as the class lecture on the current topic. Each chapter outline is worth up to 100 points. Incomplete outlines will be returned to be completed. Late and returned outlines will lose 20 points / week.

Points: $[\frac{1}{2} = \text{Outlines averaged (up to 100 pts each)} + \frac{1}{2} = \text{Quizzes averaged}] - \text{points deducted for absences.}$

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, outlines and paper (50% quiz average plus outline average / 50% paper grade). To do the paper, it is necessary to fulfill each required step (see dates below) but a student may opt out at any time without penalty.

Attendance: Attendance is absolutely mandatory at every meeting for the entirety of the session, as with all classes at Chaminade University. In the event of an emergency, students who miss class must submit their outline of the missed chapter by the next class meeting 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 your *course grade* per outline/quiz). Multiple absences will result in additional make-up work to compensate for lost classroom instructional time (a 1500 word essay comparing two major approaches to the missed topic may be required in order not to lose 200 points for each additional absence). However, more than three absences results in automatic failure due to poor attendance. It is your responsibility to inform the instructor about the reason for your absence and to request make-up work as soon as possible, preferably prior to the next class meeting. Excessive tardiness which disrupts the class will also result in 200 point loss per 3 tardies.

Conduct: Student conduct in class is regulated by the code of conduct printed in your Student Handbook and the College Catalog. Basically, the code requires that everyone in the classroom treat each other with respect. Additionally: one must never present another's work as his or her own (plagiarism) or cheat in any way. Students failing to abide by the code may be reprimanded, asked to leave class or be expelled from the course, as appropriate to the situation and provided for by the policies of Chaminade University.

Syllabus: This syllabus describes all of the requirements for the course and the due dates of all work. If you have any questions about any of the information contained within it, ask the instructor as soon as possible. If you lose your syllabus you should call the base Chaminade coordinator or Evening Program office at the main campus and ask for the instructor's phone number and call the instructor immediately to ask about work due and to request a new syllabus, the loss of the syllabus does not excuse one from any deadlines.

The schedule of class meetings and assignments follows.

SCHEDULE

October 1: Introduction to Philosophy

I. WHAT IS PHILOSOPHY?

1. The Activity of Philosophy.
2. Philosophy's History

For the next class: read and outline Chapters 3 – 4, to add to your in-class outline of chapters 1-2 (submit October 8)

October 8: (Introduction Continued)

3. Philosophy and the Examined Life. READING: Socrates, In Defense of Philosophy.
4. Philosophy and the Search for Truth. READING: David Stewart, The Philosopher as Detective.

Quiz: Chapters 1-4

For the next class: read and outline Chapters 5 – 7 (submit October 15)

October 15: Logic

II. THINKING ABOUT THINKING (LOGIC).

5. Argument Forms.
6. Inductive Arguments and Scientific Reasoning.
7. Strategies for Philosophical Argument.

Quiz: Chapters 5-7

For the next class: read and outline at least Chapters 8-10 on Metaphysics (skip Epicurus, 104-109) (to submit October 22)

October 22: Metaphysics

(Optional: paper topic due)

III. WHAT IS REAL? (METAPHYSICS).

8. Introduction to Metaphysics. READING: Plato, Phaedo.
9. Materialism.
10. Idealism.

Discuss: (11. The Mind-Body Problem. /12. Metaphysics and Language)

Quiz: Chapters 8-10

For the next class: read and outline 13-17 on Epistemology (Skip readings on 175-180; 190-193) (Submit on October 29)

October 29: Epistemology

(Optional: thesis statement due)

IV. HOW DO WE KNOW? (EPISTEMOLOGY).

13. Introduction to Epistemology.
14. Appearance and Reality. READING: Plato, The Visible and the Invisible.
15. The Quest for Certainty. READING: René Descartes, Mediations.
16. Trust Your Senses. READING: David Hume, Skeptical Doubts Concerning the Operations of the Understanding.
17. A Compromise. READING: Immanuel Kant, Two Sources of Knowledge.
(Discuss: Chapter 18. The Challenges of Postmodernism.)

Quiz: Chapters 13-17

For the next class: read and outline 19, 21-23 on Ethics (submit November 5)

November 5: Ethics. Teleological, Consequentialist and Deontological Ethics (Optional: outline due)

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

19. Introduction to Ethical Reasoning.
21. The Morality of Self-Realization. READING: Aristotle, The Good Life.
22. Morality Depends on the Consequences.
READING: John Steward Mill, Utilitarianism.
23. Morality Depends on Motives. READING: Immanuel Kant, Moral Duty.

Quiz: Chapters 19, 21-23.

For the next class: read and outline Chapters 24, 25, 26 (skip 297-298 "Proslogion"), read and outline 27 (skip 318-327) "Natural Theology", read and outline 28 (skip 331-337 "Vale...") on Philosophy of Religion (submit November 19). Note: there is no class meeting for two weeks.

November 12: Veteran's Day (Holiday): No class meeting

November 19: Philosophy of Religion (Optional: rough draft due)

VI. PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION.

24. Introduction to Philosophy and Religion.
25. Religion and Life's meaning 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 24-28.

For the next class: read and outline Chapters 29-32 on Philosophy of Art (submit November 26)

November 26: Philosophy of Art

(Rough drafts returned to those opting to do papers)

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 and outline Chapters 33-35, 37 on Social and Political Philosophy (submit December 3)

December 3: 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 Individual and the State. READING: J.S. Mill, On Liberty
37. Minority Group Rights

Quiz: chapters 33-35, 37

For the next class: read and outline Chapters 38-40 on Eastern Philosophy (submit December 10)

All make-up and all other work will be due at the beginning of the next class (December 10). (If there is any possibility you may be called to duty or miss class you must sign an "incomplete contract" in advance on December 3, in order to make-up the last quiz and submit all work.)

December 10: Eastern Thought. (Optional: final draft due at start of class)

Final Class Meeting.

IX. EASTERN THOUGHT

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

Quiz: Chapters 38-40

(Make-up examinations, re-take examinations.)

End of course: grade book closes, all work must be in at the beginning of class.