

SSF'02

Chaminade University of Honolulu
Introduction to Philosophy *PH10010*

Instructor: Professor Sears
Location: Schofield Barracks, Army Ed. Ctr.
Saturdays 8-12

Instructor Phone: (808) 721-9322 (leave message 24/7)
Instructor E-mail Address: searsaliman@hotmail.com
Office Hours: As arranged in advance
(Tom Chaminade: 624-2515)

General

- No prior knowledge of philosophy is required for this course.
- All work turned in must be **easily legible** or typed.
- The Class Schedule and Readings (see table below) are subject to minor change.
- I don't have an office, but I have an open door policy. We can arrange to meet at mutually convenient times or locations. I also encourage communication by phone and e-mail. I am available to assist you.
- Attendance is mandatory--make-up work is required for missed classes.

Class Discussion

It is crucial that you participate in class discussion. This helps to check your own understanding of the material, and it makes the class more interesting for you and the other students. When you believe you have detected an error in the evidence or the argument in the readings (or in what I say), then by all means speak up in class. The discussion may change the way in which you think about the issue. The point is that we all learn by the attempt to **constructively** criticize the other person's viewpoint or argument. In addition, don't be afraid of speaking up and being wrong, because making a comment that is factually **incorrect** is just as instructive as saying something that is factually **correct**! Everything is instructive. Class discussion/attendance will comprise 10% of your final grade.

Required Textbook

Stewart, David and H. Gene Blocker. *Fundamentals of Philosophy*. 5th ed. Upper Saddle River: Prentice-Hall. 2001.

Course Requirements

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|--|---|
| 1. Attend Classes, Participate in Discussions, Take Quizzes (20% of final grade) | 3. One Mid Term Exam (20% of final grade) |
| 2. Standard Homework Assignments (20% of final grade) | 4. One Term Paper (20% of final grade) |
| | 5. One Final Exam (20% of final grade) |

Course Requirements In More Detail:

1. Attend classes, participate in discussions, and take quizzes:

The rationale for this aspect is reviewed under "Class Discussion" above. Regarding absences, there is make-up work (a six page paper) due for each class missed, excused or unexcused. Two unexcused classes and you fail the course, unless you can show extenuating circumstances (letters excusing you from attendance written by commanding officers, medical doctors, etc.). **Quizzes** will always be on the reading material that you just read for class. This requirement will count for 20% of your final grade.

2. Standard Homework Assignments

One typed single spaced page (or two **neatly written** pages) on the homework readings will be turned in at the beginning of **each class**. You will receive Credit or No Credit for these standard homework assignments. The assignments will be turned in at the

beginning of class only. Also, "vocabulary cards" will be due for the Key Terms in the chapter. You may miss **ONE** standard homework assignment but further missed assignments will result in a lowered grade. There are no make-ups. The standard homework assignment should be a **summary** of what you read rather than simply your opinion or some random thoughts. The Standard Homework Assignments will comprise 20% of your final grade.

3. Mid Term Exam

The mid term exam will cover the material presented in classes one through four, and count for 20% of your final grade.

4. Term Paper

You will review and critically discuss a specific issue (of your choice) covered in the course. The paper will be between six and nine double-spaced pages, plus a bibliography. A minimum of five sources will be used (quoted from) and only **two** of the five will be from the internet.

An outline of your paper is due on 8-3-02. A first draft is due on 8-10-02 and the final draft is due on 8-24-02.

If you need help, then please see me and we will discuss it. No late papers or outlines will be accepted. The term paper will count for 20% of your final grade.

5. Final Exam

The final exam will be cumulative, and counts for 20% of your final grade.

Grading

Since this course is designed with five elements, each weighted equally, it rewards the student who works steadily on a consistent basis, rather than the one who lacks consistency and only crams for exams at the last minute.

Final Grades: Each Course Requirement/Assignment will be graded on a scale of 4 through 1 (**4=A, 3=B, 2=C, 1=D**). The six resulting numbers will be multiplied by the respective percentages, and the sum indicates your final grade. For example:

1. Attendance: "4" (A)	4 x .20 =	.80
2. Standard Homeworks: "4" (A)	4 x .20 =	.80
3. Mid term exam: "3" (B)	3 x .20 =	.60
4. Term paper: "2" (C)	2 x .20 =	.40
5. Final exam: "2" (C)	2 x .20 =	.40
		+ _____
		3.0 → Final Grade of "B"

Active Studying & Vocabulary

This course is designed to facilitate you getting a good grade based on your close reading and "active studying" of the assigned text. Also, the final grade you'll receive will most likely be a function of your command of the **philosophical terminology**.

First, the assigned readings are crucial to successful completion of this class. The student is encouraged to actively study the material as opposed to passively reading it. Actively studying means reviewing the readings first to establish a context, and then reading through the material keeping that context in mind, thus giving yourself an overall scheme of the key ideas. **Then, the material should be read or skimmed again--this second pass is when a more thorough understanding takes place.** I have made the attempt to keep the readings down to approximately 30-40 pages per week to give you time to actively study.

Second, active studying means actively seeking out word definitions. Language is power. Mastery of vocabulary is fundamental to succeeding in the university, in raising your IQ, in getting promoted, in learning any discipline, or in securing a high paying job/career. If you can speak the lingo you have a tremendous advantage. By memorizing and correctly using key terminology in philosophy, you demonstrate that you have gained control over the subject. Use a dictionary of philosophy to look up words that are new to you. Two internet sources are:

<http://www.philosophypages.com/dy/> and <http://www.swif.uniba.it/lei/foldop/contents.html>

Lateness/Absences

- In general, late work and make-ups will not be accepted without a valid excuse (doctor's note, etc.).
- Be ON TIME for class. More than two late arrivals will begin to lower your attendance/participation grade.
- Everyone starts out with an "A" for attendance/participation. One absence will lower your attendance grade to a "C." On the second absence you will most likely be dropped from the course. Any in-class assignments or homework due on days you are absent count as a "0."
- **Contact me by phone or email *BEFORE* you have to miss class.**

Academic Honesty/Plagiarism

Academic honesty is central to learning and scholarship. Violations of the principle of academic honesty are extremely serious and cannot be tolerated. Any cheating or plagiarism (claiming another's writing as your own) will be dealt with strictly and swiftly, and I will recommend to the administration of Chaminade University the strongest possible punitive measures. In addition to whatever action is taken by Chaminade University, note also that active US military personnel on a military base are subject to punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Class Schedule (Subject to minor amendment)

Date	Topic of Lecture/Discussion:	Assignments/Reading Due For <u>Next</u> Week:
Week #1: 7-6-02	Course Introduction: --Discussion of syllabus and expectations. --Lecture/Discussion: General Introduction To Philosophy	HANDOUTS: Term Paper Topics; Term Paper Guidelines --No reading or Standard Homework due for week two as book is not yet available.
Week #2: 7-13-02	--Lecture/Discussion: Ch. 1, 2 B&S --Discussion of Term Papers	HANDOUTS: Footnote & Bibliography Example; "Writing a Philosophy Paper" by P. Horban --Read for week #3: Chapters 1,2,3,4, and 5 in B&S --Standard Homework due week #3: Summary ch.'s 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5; Think About Term Paper Topic
Week #3: 7-20-02	--Turn in Standard Homework for ch's 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 --Turn in general term paper topic --Quiz on CH's 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 --Lecture/Discussion: Ch's 3, 4, 5	--Read for week Four: Part three (omit ch. 12) --Homework: One standard homework due every Saturday+Vocab.
Week #4: 7-27-02	--Turn in Standard Homework for part three --Quiz on part three --Lecture/Discussion: Part three & four --Midterm exam review	--Read for week five: Part four (omit ch. 18) --Homework: Research term paper --Homework: Study for midterm
Week #5: 8-3-02	--Turn in Informal term paper outline --MID TERM EXAM (Includes part four) --Lecture/Discussion: Part four & five	--Read for week six: Part five --Homework: Write 1 st draft of term paper; Prepare for "Peer Teaching"
Week #6: 8-10-02	--Turn in 1 st Draft of Term Paper --Lecture/Discussion: Part five --PEER TEACHING	--Read for week seven: Part six (omit ch. 28) --Homework: One standard homework due every Saturday+Vocab.
Week #7: 8-17-02	--Prof. Sears returns 1 st draft term papers --Turn in Standard Homework for part six --Quiz on part six --Lecture/Discussion: Part six	--Read for week eight: Part seven (omit ch. 32) --Homework: One standard homework due every Saturday+Vocab. --Complete term paper
Week #8: 8-24-02	--Turn in standard homework for part seven --Turn in Final Draft of Term Paper --Lecture/Discussion: Part seven	--Read for week nine: Part eight (omit ch. 37) --Homework: One standard homework due every Saturday+Vocab.
Week #9: 8-31-02	--Turn in standard homework for part eight --Lecture/Discussion: Part eight --Final Exam Review	--Read for week ten: Part nine --Homework: Complete take home portion of final exam
Week #10: 9-7-02	--Complete in-class portion of Final Exam	--Good Luck: have a nice, philosophical life.