

PHIL 100: Introduction To Philosophy

Instructor: Adam D. Moore

Office: Savery M250

Office Hours: M, W, F, 11:00-12:30 and by appt.

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Teaching Assistants:

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Overview: This course is an introduction to the basic issues, disputes, and methods of traditional and contemporary philosophy. Issues that will be covered include: theory of knowledge, ethics, metaphysics, religion, personal identity, and social theory. Socrates once said that "the unexamined life is not worth living." What we will be doing in this class is examining philosophical views, theories, ideas, arguments, and beliefs. My hope is that by engaging in this process students will sharpen their reasoning and critical thinking skills, become better speakers and writers, and most importantly, critically evaluate their own beliefs and views.

Goals and Objectives:

- Students are expected to master the various philosophical theories, problems, or issues presented. For example, what is consequentialism or the problem of evil?
- Students are expected to develop and display a facility to do original constructive or critical work on the topics covered.
- Emphasis on critical thinking and correct reasoning. Students are expected to know what an argument is and how to evaluate arguments.

Text: *Reason at Work: Introductory Readings in Philosophy*, Third Edition, S. Cahn, P. Kitcher, G. Sher, P. Markie (Harcourt Brace Pub. 1996)

Requirements:

4 Pop Quizzes	Plus 1 make-up quiz	20%	200 points
Midterm Exam	Friday, April 30	20%	200 points
Term paper	Tuesday, June 1	20%	200 points
Group Presentations	Sign-up with TA	20%	200 points
Final Exam	Thursday, June 10, 8:30-1020	20%	<u>200 points</u>
			Total 1000

Tentative Course Assignments and Calendar

- Week 1 **Introduction to Philosophy**
Read: The Elements of Argument p. 1-19, "Junk Science" Video
- Week 2 **Freewill and Determinism**
Read: Skinner p. 519, Moore p. 526
- Week 3 **The Mind/Body Problem**
Read: Descartes p. 673, Skinner p. 683, Churchland p. 730
- Week 4 **Justifying a Belief in God**
Read: Anselm & Gaunilo p. 567, Aquinas p. 575, Hume p. 578
"The Power of Belief" Video
- Week 5 **The Problem of Evil**
Read: Nagel p. 597, Cahn p. 625, Flew, Hare, & Mitchell p. 630
- Midterm Exam** – Friday, April 30
- Week 6 **Ethics — Egoism & Relativism**
Read: Feinberg p. 25, Rachels p. 36, "Freeloaders" Video
- Week 7 **Utilitarianism**
Read: Mill p. 59, Bowie & Simon p. 73
- Week 8 **Deontology & Virtue Ethics**
Read: Kant p. 77, Nagel p. 98, Aristotle p. 122
- Week 9 **Helping the Poor & Abortion Rights**
Read: Singer p. 151, Thomson p. 162
- Week 10 **Social and Political Philosophy**
Read: Hobbes p. 198, Locke p. 210, Mill p. 232 "Greed" Video
- Term paper Due Tuesday, June 1*
- Final Exam** Thursday, June 10, 2004, 8:30-10:20

Overview of Requirements:

1. **Four Unannounced Quizzes (20%).** These quizzes, given in sections, will test for knowledge of the material presented in readings and lectures. There will be a bonus make-up quiz given at the end of the term. ***There will be no other make-up quizzes given for any reason.*** Format: multiple choice, true/false, and short answer.

2. **Exams (40%).** The first exam will cover the first five weeks of class while the final exam will be comprehensive. Questions will be constructed to test for understanding and comprehension of the material presented in lectures, discussions, and assigned course readings. A midterm/final study guide will be distributed prior to the exam. Format: multiple choice, short answer, and essay.

3. **Term Paper:** The term paper is to be a critical examination of one or more of the arguments presented in the assigned readings. The assignment is intended to be primarily an independent piece of scholarship; some additional readings will probably be necessary, but comprehensive knowledge of the literature is neither expected nor desired. The point is to struggle through the issue you choose in a philosophically sophisticated way, making sense of the issues involved and the arguments that surround them, and defending a position which you find tenable on the basis of those arguments. Papers handed in late will be marked down a letter grade for each day past the due date. **Note:** A "Term Paper Requirements" handout will be distributed and posted at the class web-site <http://courses.washington.edu/phil100/>

4. **Group Presentation (20%).** In sections each student will participate in one group presentation (4/5 students per group) during the term. The project will be to present an assigned article to the class and to lead a discussion and critique of the issue(s) presented. Handouts are expected, videos, dialogues/debates, etc. are welcome (anything goes so long as it is relevant to the issue being presented). The presentation and ensuing discussion should take about 40 minutes. A group project sign-up sheet will be passed around early in the semester by your TA.

If you have any further questions about these class requirements please see me.

Scales and Criteria For Grading

General grading information for the University of Washington is available at:

http://www.washington.edu/students/gencaf/front/Grading_Sys.html

When converting letter grades to points and total points to decimal grades the following scale will be used.

Letter Grade	Individual Assignment	Total Class Points	Decimal Points
A	100-93	1000-930	1000-965 = 4.0, 964-930 = 3.9
A-	92-90	929-900	929-920 = 3.8, 919-910 = 3.7, 909-900 = 3.6
B+	89-87	899-870	899-890 = 3.4, 889-880 = 3.3, 879-870 = 3.2
B	86-83	869-830	869-860 = 3.1, 859-840 = 3.0, 839-830 = 2.9
B-	82-80	829-800	829-820 = 2.8, 819-810 = 2.7, 809-800 = 2.6
C+	79-77	799-770	799-790 = 2.4, 789-780 = 2.3, 779-770 = 2.2
C	73-76	769-730	769-760 = 2.1, 759-740 = 2.0, 739-730 = 1.9
C-	72-70	729-700	729-720 = 1.8, 719-710 = 1.7, 709-700 = 1.6
D+	69-67	699-670	699-690 = 1.4, 689-680 = 1.3, 679-670 = 1.2
D	66-63	669-630	669-660 = 1.1, 659-640 = 1.0, 639-630 = 0.9
D-	62-60	629-600	629-615 = 0.8, 614-600 = 0.7
E	59-0	599-0	599-0 = 0.0

There will be no curves and no extra credit in this class. You will not be graded relative to your fellow students. What this means is that it is possible for *everyone* to get an A or an E or anything in-between. In order to pass the course you must complete all assignments with an additive percentage of 60% or higher. Your written work in this course will be evaluated on the following criteria:

1. Accuracy of use of concepts and theories; in the presentation of the views of others.
2. Clarity of expression of your own views.
3. Cogency or Strength of the arguments that you present.
4. Completeness — every part of the assignment must be done and submitted.
5. Insightfulness displayed in your writing and presentation, where insightfulness refers to a complex attitude encompassing thought, imagination, sensitivity, and sensibility.

General Information

1. Attendance and Participation. Attendance is very important for doing well in the course. We will be discussing numerous cases, examples, beliefs, issues, and theories. Moreover the class builds upon itself — meaning that the cases, examples, and theories will come up again and again. Thus, attendance, participation, discussion, and asking questions, are all very important.
2. Policy on Missed Quizzes, Make-up Work, Late Papers. A make-up/bonus quiz will be given at the end of the term. ***There will be no other make-up quizzes given for any reason. Procrastination is no excuse:*** Papers that are not turned in to the TA on the due date will lose a letter grade for each day late (e.g. a B paper that is one day late becomes a C paper). If you see that you will not make a deadline, contact me or your TA immediately. An extension on the due date can be granted only if (i) you contact me or your TA in advance of the due date or (ii) you have a documented legitimate excuse. ***There will be no make-up midterms given for any reason.*** Students with a documented excuse who miss the midterm will have those points added to their final (thus making the final exam worth 40%). Students who miss the final exam and have a legitimate documented excuse will be allowed to complete a make-up final.
3. Cheating and Plagiarism. University policy defines "cheating" as "the practice of fraudulent and deceptive acts for the purpose of improving a grade or obtaining course credit — [cheating] includes any and all actions by a student which are intended to gain an unearned academic advantage by fraudulent and deceptive means." University policy defines "plagiarism" as "a specific form of cheating which consists of the misuse of the published and/or unpublished words of another by representing the material so used as one's own work." Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated in this course. Depending on the seriousness of the student's action, the student may be penalized by an "F" on the assignment, to an "F" in the course, or some other more serious penalty. The severity of the punishment is left to the discretion of the instructor.

4. Students with Disabilities. If you are a disabled student, be sure to identify yourself to the University and the instructor so that reasonable accommodation for learning and evaluation within the course can be made.

5. Critical thinking and respect for others. In philosophy, critical thinking is a constructive activity aimed at seeking wisdom. It is important not merely to have beliefs, but to support those beliefs with good reasons.
 - Every member of the class has a responsibility to think carefully about the ideas we cover and to comment, at appropriate times, on the quality of the arguments presented. I expect students to maintain a high level of professionalism in dealing with each other in the classroom.
 - Taking class members seriously means listening carefully to what they say (including what they mean that may not be expressed). It means recognizing good ideas and effective contributions; it also means questioning ideas you do not understand or do not agree with.
 - Respect for others is required. Whispering, giggling, mumbling, and other disruptive activity will not be tolerated. When someone else has the floor, LISTEN — or at least don't disrupt others from listening.
 - Evaluative comments should be presented in a considerate way, even if disagreement is warranted. *It is important to treat others with the respect that we would like for ourselves.*

6. General Class Rules. Disruptive behavior of any sort will not be tolerated. In general, see the Student Conduct Code. Pagers and Cell Phones: Turn them off while in class. Eating: Drinks are fine, no meals, dinners, or lunches. Lateness: excessive lateness (coming to class more than five minutes late) will not be tolerated – come to class on time and be prepared to begin class at the assigned time. Talking in class: except when recognized by the professor as having the floor, chatting, whispering, or talking are expressly forbidden. Such activity is disrespectful to whoever has the floor and undermines class discussion.