

**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**PHILOSOPHY 1050 – INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY**  
**Fall 2006**

**Section 003, T/TH, 9:30-10:50am, ENV room 190**  
**Section 005, T/TH, 11:00-12:20pm, WH room 219**

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 Office hours: T/TH, 1:30-2:50pm or by appointment.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

In this course we will examine some of the fundamental questions, ideas, concepts, and arguments that have been central to the history of philosophical thought from the ancients to the present. We will examine, evaluate, and discuss various perspectives on a single philosophical question, whether God exists, for example, then draw our own conclusions and construct arguments in their defense.

**TEXTS**

REQUIRED.

(1) G. Lee Bowie, Meredith W. Michaels, and Robert C. Solomon, *Twenty Questions: An Introduction to Philosophy*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. (Belmont: Wadsworth, 2007).

RECOMMENDED.

(2) Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. (Chicago: University Press, 1996).

**GRADING AND ATTENDANCE**

Your final grade will be based on an introductory paper, 22 reading topic paragraphs (RTPs), 3 exams, a final paper, attendance, and participation in class discussion. You are responsible for keeping track of your grades. 5 or more unexcused absences will result in the loss of 3 points. Lack of regular participation in class discussion will result in the loss of 3 points. Makeup exams, papers, or RTPs will be accepted only with written documentation, such as a physician's note, that excuses your absence. Tardiness or leaving class early will constitute an absence. A breakdown of the 100 possible accumulated points is outlined below.

Assignment	Length	Due date	Points
Introductory paper	800 words	9/7	5
RTPs	One paragraph	Start of each class	2 each. 44 total
Exam 1	10 MC + 1 essay	9/26	10
Exam 2	10 MC + 1 essay	10/31	10
Exam 3	10 MC + 1 essay	Scheduled final	10
Final paper	4-6 pages	11/30	15
Attendance/Participation			3/3
			100 total

**READING TOPIC PARAGRAPHS (RTPs)**

For each regular class meeting there will be a reading assignment from the text. After carefully reading the assigned selection, provide a clear, concise, and thoughtful response that is at least 5 sentences in length that answers the following 4 questions. (1) What is the thesis (the main point or conclusion) that the author is defending in the article? (2) What is the argument for that thesis? (3) Do you agree or disagree with the author's argument? (3) Why or why not? Give reasons and evidence in support of your ideas. Your RTPs should be TYPED (double spaced, 12 point font, including your name, date, and title of the article). RTPs should be between ½ page and one page in length. There will be 22 reading assignments, each counting 2 points for a total of 44 points toward your final grade. Reading assignments are due at the beginning of each class. Late or emailed RTPs (unless you provide documentation excusing your absence) will not be accepted.

**EXAMS**

The exams will consist of 10 multiple choice questions and one essay. The multiple choice questions will cover lecture and discussion material, such as logical fallacies and definitions of terms. Each multiple choice question will count ½ point. For the essays, you will be asked to construct an argument that defends a thesis regarding one of the topics we have discussed. You will be asked to consider a position, a possible objection to that view, and a response to that objection. The grading criteria with point breakdown for the essay section of the exams will be posted at [www.livejournal.com/users/jbsimus](http://www.livejournal.com/users/jbsimus). Makeup exams will be approved only with written documentation, such as a physician's note, that excuses an absence on exam day.

**FINAL PAPER**

The final paper will be 4-6 pages in length (double-spaced, 12 point font, 1 inch margins). As in the exam essays, you will be asked to consider a position, a possible objection to that view, and a response to that objection. The grading criteria for the papers is similar to the criteria posted on the livejournal site, only each criterion will count 3 points for a total of 15 points. A preliminary thesis and outline of your paper will be due 11/2. You may write on any topic we have discussed in the course, or on another topic upon my approval. **ANY PAPER THAT IS LESS THAN 4 FULL PAGES WILL NOT RECEIVE ANY CREDIT. ANY PAPER THAT DOES NOT HAVE CORRECT AND COMPLETE FOOTNOTES ACCORDING TO THE CHICAGO MANUAL OF STYLE (TURABIAN) WILL NOT RECEIVE ANY CREDIT.** You will be required to cite at least one inside source (inside our text) and at least 1 relevant outside source. **NO WEBSITE CITATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** Your references and citations should come from journals, books, or other scholarly material. I suggest you use the philosopher's index, in the UNT library catalog, to help you locate proper reference material. Papers should be submitted at the beginning of class on the due date in hard copy form. You will be required to submit an electronic copy of your paper(s) upon request.

## CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

To prevent disruption, I do not allow the use of laptop computers, cell phones, text messaging devices, pagers, or other electronic devices in class. To encourage respectful and productive dialogue, I require that you do not interrupt others when speaking, that you refrain from issuing personal attacks, and that you keep your criticisms constructive during class discussion.

## ACADEMIC DISHONESTY AND PLAGIARISM

According to the UNT student code of conduct section A2, the term “plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to: (a) the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgement and (2) the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or by any agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials. **If you are guilty of academic dishonesty (cheating) or plagiarism, you will receive an F for the assignment, this course, and will be reported to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities.**

## RESOURCES

I will provide you with handouts and internet resources that will help you with philosophical reading, writing, and research. Go to [www.livejournal.com/users/jbsimus/](http://www.livejournal.com/users/jbsimus/) for links to philosophy resource material. See [www.phil.unt.edu](http://www.phil.unt.edu) for UNT philosophy department news, links, and resources.

## INTRODUCTORY PAPER

The purpose of this assignment is to introduce yourself and to get you started thinking about the kinds of questions we will discuss in this course. In a typed essay (800 words) please address the following questions. The due date for the introductory paper is 9/7.

1. Who are you?
2. Why study philosophy? (“course credit” is not an acceptable response)
3. What is your conception of the good life?
4. What philosophical questions are you most curious about?
5. What beliefs and values are most important to you?
6. Can you give reasons for holding those beliefs?
7. Have you considered an opposing point of view?
8. What role are you going to play in the success of this course?
9. What role should the instructor play in the success of this course?
10. What else do you want me to know?

## CLASS SCHEDULE

DATE	DISCUSSION TOPIC	READING/ ASSIGNMENT DUE
8/29	Course introduction	None
9/31	Philosophy introduction	Syllabus, pp. vii-x.
9/5	Evaluating arguments	Handout
9/7	<b>GOD</b>	Ch.2 intro, Aquinas, <b>intro paper due</b>
9/12		Paley

9/14		Hume
9/19		Kierkegaard
9/21		James
9/26	<b>EXAM 1</b>	None
9/28	<b>EGOISM</b>	Ch.14 intro, Plato
10/3		Epicurus
10/5		Hobbes
10/10		Rand
10/12		Rachels
10/17	<b>ETHICS</b>	Ch.16 intro, Aristotle
10/19		Kant
10/24		Mill
10/26	No class	None
10/31	<b>EXAM 2</b>	None
11/2	<b>KNOWLEDGE</b>	Ch.6 intro, Plato, <b>final paper thesis and outline due</b>
11/7		Descartes
11/9		Russell
11/14		Locke
11/16		Berkeley
11/21	<b>ART</b>	Ch.17 intro, Aristotle
11/23	Thanksgiving, no classes	None
11/28		Hume
11/30		Tolstoy, <b>final paper due</b>
12/5		Danto
12/7	“Review”	None
12/12	<b>EXAM 3</b>	Section 003; 8am-10am Section 004; 10:30am-12:30pm