

COURSE SYLLABUS
PHILOSOPHY 1050: INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY
Spring 2009

Section 009: T/TH 12:30-1:50pm, WH 116

Section 010: T/TH 2-3:20pm, ENV 391

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Online resources: www.phil.unt.edu/resources/.

Office hours: T/TH 11-12:20pm or by appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this course is to (1) examine and discuss some of the fundamental questions, ideas, and concepts that have been central to the history of philosophical thought, and (2) learn to understand, evaluate, and construct arguments regarding philosophical topics.

TEXTS

REQUIRED.

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

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

GRADE DISTRIBUTION

Final grades will be based on 20 reading topic paragraphs (RTPs), 2 of the 3 exams (the lowest will be dropped), a final paper, and regular participation in class discussion.

Students are responsible for keeping track of their grades. Makeup assignments will be accepted only with written documentation.

Assignment	Length	Due Date	Percentage
RTPs	1 paragraph	Each class meeting	40%
Exam 1	10 MC + 1 essay	2/17	10%
Exam 2	10 MC + 1 essay	3/12	10%
Exam 3	10 MC + 1 essay	5/12; 5/14	10%
Final paper	4-6 pages	4/30	20%
Participation			10%
			100%

CLASSROOM AND EMAIL ETIQUETTE

The use of electronic devices in class is not permitted. I reply to most email messages promptly, but I do not reply to messages that are inappropriate or irrelevant to the course. Disrespectful behavior will count against your participation grade.

READING TOPIC PARAGRAPHS (RTPs)

For each regular class meeting there will be a reading assignment. After carefully reading the assigned selection, (1) **summarize the argument** (the thesis and supporting reasons), and (2) **pose a question** that is philosophically important (a question that would warrant a response from the author. Be prepared to pose your question in class). RTPs must be between 5 sentences and ½ page in length. RTPs must be typed and include your name, the date, author's name, and the title of article.

EXAMS

The exams will consist of 10 multiple choice questions and one essay. The multiple choice questions will cover lecture, reading, and discussion material. For the essays, you will:

1. Refer to at least one **author** from the readings in an introductory paragraph.
2. At the end of your introductory paragraph, provide a clear and explicitly stated thesis.
3. In the next paragraph(s), present a clear and thorough **argument** in defense of your thesis. Give reasons and evidence in support of your claims.
4. In the following paragraph(s), present one clear and thorough **objection** to your thesis. Explain the objection fully and fairly.
5. In a concluding paragraph, provide an **example** that illustrates how your thesis defeats the objection, thereby strengthening and refining your argument.

FINAL PAPER

The final paper will be 4-6 pages (double-spaced, 12 point font, 1 inch margins). The grading criteria are identical to those used for the exam essays. You may write on any topic we discuss in the course or on another topic upon my approval. A preliminary thesis and outline of your topic will be due two weeks before the paper's due date. Papers will be submitted at the beginning of class on the due date in hard copy form. You are required to submit an electronic copy of your paper at my request. **ANY PAPER THAT (1) HAS FEWER THAN 4 FULL PAGES, (2) DOES NOT HAVE CORRECT AND COMPLETE FOOTNOTES ACCORDING TO THE CHICAGO MANUAL OF STYLE (TURABIAN), (3) DOES NOT INCLUDE AT LEAST ONE INSIDE SOURCE (INSIDE ONE OF OUR TEXTS) AND ONE OUTSIDE SOURCE, OR (4) INCLUDES WEBSITE CITATIONS WILL NOT RECEIVE ANY CREDIT. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY AND PLAGIARISM

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 (b) 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 (i.e. cheating) or plagiarism, you will receive an F for the course and will be reported to the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities.**

CLASS SCHEDULE

DATE	DISCUSSION TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS DUE
1/20	Course introduction	None
1/22	Introduction to philosophy	Text introduction
1/27	Basic logic	Rachels handout
1/29	GOD	Ch. 2 intro; 1st rtp on Aquinas
2/3		Paley
2/5		Hume
2/10		Kant
2/12		James
2/17	EXAM 1	
2/19	ETHICS	Ch. 16 intro; Aristotle
2/24		Kant
2/26		Mill
3/3	JUSTICE	Ch. 19 intro; Plato
3/5		Hobbes
3/10		Rawls
3/12	EXAM 2	
3/17	Spring break	
3/19	Spring break	
3/24	KNOWLEDGE	Ch. 6 intro; Plato
3/26		Descartes
3/31		Russell
4/2		Locke
4/7		Berkeley
4/9	ART	Ch. 17 intro; Aristotle
4/14		Hume
4/16		Tolstoy; final paper theses and outlines due
4/21		Danto
4/23		Devereaux
4/28		Weitz (handout)
4/30		Final papers due
5/5	Review	
5/7	Review	
5/12	EXAM 3 section 009	1:30-3:30
5/14	EXAM 3 section 010	10:30-12:30