
**Requirements**

1. Read all material assigned before attending class discussion. Be prepared to answer questions in class, and generally be prepared to participate in class discussion of the assigned text.
2. Attend every class meeting. Absences will be noted and taken into account at the time of the final grade in the course.
3. Complete 4 in-class exams. No make-up for any *unexcused* absence from an exam. Absences excused only for official documented reasons, such as a doctor’s letter stating that the student could not take the exam at the scheduled time. Documentation must be written by someone in a professional capacity to issue such documentation.
4. Make any request for special accommodation for a documented disability or religious practice before the time of the requested accommodation.
5. Observe university policy on academic integrity.

This course is taught in the context of both the history of philosophy and the problems of philosophy. It will consist in direct instruction, class participation, and written work. For this 4 credit course the dean’s office expects you to give it at least 9 hours of study a week. It is hoped you will get from the course knowledge of philosophical skills, techniques, and terms. The course will introduce you to the topics of major concern. They will include: logical and causal connections among objects; how these connections have appeared among certain philosophers; the metaphysical implications of the relations between the connections and among the terms of the connections; the implications of the metaphysics for theory of knowledge, theory of ethics, and theory of action. Although no prerequisites will be involved, the course will probably be difficult. Grades will be based on the instructor’s evaluation of your verbal and written display of your comprehension of the material that is presented in class and in the reading.

**Assigned Reading**

All readings from *Reason and Responsibility*, ed. Feinberg and Shafer-Landau

August

30 Wed. Introduction

I Descartes *Meditations*

September

1 Fri. *Meditations*, I

6 Wed. *Meditations* I continued
8 Fri. *Meditations* I continued
11 Mon. *Meditations* II
13 Wed. *Meditations* II continued

II Locke “The Causal Theory of Perception”
15 Fri. “CTP”
18 Mon. “CTP” continued
20 Wed. “CTP” continued

III Berkeley *Of the Principles of Human Knowledge*
25 Mon. *PHK*
27 Wed. *PHK* continued
29 Fri. *PHK* continued

October
2 Mon. **First Quiz**

IV Hume *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*

October
4 Wed. *ECHU*
6 Fri. No class; to be rescheduled
9 Mon. No class; to be rescheduled
11 Wed *ECHU* continued

V Kant “The Good Will and the Categorical Imperative”
13 Fri. “GWCI”
16 Mon. “GWCI” continued
18 Wed. “GWCI” continued
20 Fri. **Second Quiz**

VI Mill *Utilitarianism*
23 Mon. *Utilitarianism*
25 Wed. *Utilitarianism* continued

VII G.E. Moore “Proof of an External World”
November


1 Wed. “WMRAR”

3 Fri. “WMRAR” continued

IX Russell “Appearance and Reality and the Existence of Matter”

6 Mon. “AREM”

8 Wed. “AREM” continued

10 Fri. “AREM” continued

13 Mon. Third Quiz

X John Rawls “Justice as Fairness”

15. Wed. “JF”

17 Fri. “JF” continued

20 Mon, “JF” continued

XI Thomas Nagel Moral Luck

27 Mon. Moral Luck

29 Wed. Moral Luck continued

December

XII Searle Minds, Brains, and Programs

1 Fri. MBP

4 Mon. MBP continued

6 Wed. MBP continued

8 Fourth Quiz