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by appointment

## Introduction to Philosophy

Spring 2024  
Asynchronous Online Course

Office Hours: T/Th 5:00 P.M – 6:00 P.M. &

**Course Description:** This course will provide an overview of several topics in the field of philosophy, such as Propositional Logic, Epistemology, Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Religion, Philosophy of Action, and Ethics. By the end of the course, students will be introduced to and should have a general understanding of concepts, arguments, and debates in these fields.

**Required Texts:** The texts for this course will be various papers, excerpts from books and articles related to the topics under discussion, all of which will be uploaded to Blackboard.

**Course Requirements:** There will be 10 quizzes (25%), two midterm exams (50%), and a final exam (25%). Due dates for the midterms and final exam are scheduled below.

**First Class Begins on January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Evaluation	Value	Week Due	Calendar Date Due
Midterm I	25%	Friday	February 23rd
Midterm II	25%	Friday	April 5th
Final Exam	25%	Friday	May 3rd
Quizzes	25%		Every Friday

### Course Schedule

#### I. Propositional Logic and Arguments

1. *Conditionals, Conjunctions, Disjunctions, Biconditionals and Negations*
2. *Necessary and Sufficient Conditions*
3. *Deductive, Inductive and Abductive Reasoning*

#### II. Epistemology

1. *Justification, Truth and Belief*
2. *Gettier – “Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?”*

#### III. Philosophy of Mind

1. *Dualism, Physicalism, and Idealism*
2. *Searle – “The Chinese Room”*

#### **IV. Philosophy of Religion**

1. *The Nature of God*
2. *Mackie – “Evil and Omnipotence”*
3. *Leibniz – “On the Ultimate Origination of Things”*

#### **V. Philosophy of Action and Free Will**

1. *McKenna, Pereboom – “Free Will: A Contemporary Introduction”*
2. *Van Inwagen – “The Mystery of Metaphysical Freedom”*
3. *Frankfurt – “Alternate Possibilities and Moral Responsibilities”*
4. *G. Strawson – “The Impossibility of Moral responsibility”*

#### **VI. Ethics**

1. *Meta-Ethics*
2. *Normative Ethics*
3. *Applied Ethics*
4. *Thompson – “A Defense of Abortion”*
5. *Pruss – “I Was Once a Fetus: That is Why Abortion is Wrong”*

#### **Classroom Procedures**

**Late Assignments/Extra Credit:** Late assignments will not be accepted without a doctor’s note, or some requisite indication of an emergency. If some conflict with work or family occurs, at least a 2-day advanced notice is required, along with some form of written indication of the conflict.

There are no plans for extra credit assignments, though there will be extra credit questions on exams.

**Participation:** Participation and discussion are highly encouraged so it is imperative that you familiarize yourself with the material and keep up with works assigned for reading. The expectation is that students will gain an understanding of the various topics covered.

**Course Etiquette:** Cheating will not be tolerated. The topics we discuss may involve talking about issues which are sensitive. These topics should be discussed with respect, courtesy, and understanding for different perspectives. Insults, dismissiveness, and similar attitudes will not be tolerated.