

Philosophy 111.02: INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY
Spring 2009

Professor: Alan Schrift
Office: Steiner 311
Office Phone: 3161
Office Hours: MW 11:00-12:00, 4:15-5:00, and by appointment

Required Texts

Plato *The Republic and Other Works* (Doubleday)
Descartes *Discourse on Method and Meditations* (Macmillan)
Hume *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding* (Hackett)
Kant *Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics* (Macmillan)
Nietzsche *Twilight of the Idols* (Penguin)
Sartre *Anti-Semite and Jew* (Schocken)

There will also be a few reading assignments available on e-reserve.

Course Objectives

The purpose of this course is to provide students with a general introduction to some of the major figures in the history of Western philosophy. During the semester, we will examine a number of basic philosophical approaches (idealism, realism, rationalism, empiricism, existentialism) as well as some of the main philosophical problems which the advocates of these approaches have addressed: the sources of knowledge; the relation between the human mind and the human body; freedom, determinism and responsibility; proving the existence of God; etc. In our examination of these philosophical approaches, the basic philosophical skills of reasoning, argumentation, and evaluation will be developed--that is, we will examine what these philosophers have said, why they have made these claims, and whether or not they have good reasons for making these claims. By the end of the semester, students should be both more adept at utilizing these skills and more familiar with the way some representative philosophers have utilized them in attempting to answer some fundamental philosophical questions.

Course Requirements

Final grades will be determined on the basis of the following requirements:

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| Two Quizzes: on Socrates/Plato; Hume/Kant | 25% |
| Mid-term Exam: on Socrates, Plato, and Descartes | 30% |
| Final Exam/Paper: on Hume, Kant, Nietzsche, Sartre, and Beauvoir | 35% |
| Class Participation | 10% |

ATTENDANCE: You are **expected** to attend class. Although attendance normally will not be taken, excessive unexcused absences will result in a lowering of your grade for the class participation component. More than **EIGHT** unexcused absences will result in failure of the course. You will be responsible for the material covered in class, not all of which will be found in the readings. In addition, you may find some of the selections difficult; there should be ample time for you to raise questions in class as well as for class discussions, during which some of the more difficult ideas should be clarified.

LATE POLICY: Written assignments which are submitted late will be penalized **one letter grade** for each 24 hours late. Papers submitted more than 48 hours late will **NOT** be accepted. Exceptions to this policy will be made only for medical reasons.

Tentative Course Outline

Week of:

Jan. 19 GENERAL INTRODUCTION + Logic Handout (Blackboard)
Begin SOCRATES: "Apology," pp. 447-470 (in *The Republic and Other Works*)

Jan. 26 SOCRATES: in *The Republic and Other Works*,
"Apology," pp. 447-470
"Crito," pp. 471-485
"Phaedo," pp. 549-552
Begin PLATO: *The Republic*, Book I, II, pp. 9-70

Feb. 2 PLATO: *The Republic*, Book I, II, pp. 9-70
Book IV, pp. 109-137

Feb. 9 PLATO: *The Republic*, Book V, VI, VII, pp. 166-208
DESCARTES: *Discourses I & II*, pp. 3-18

Feb. 20 FIRST QUIZ DUE

Feb. 16 DESCARTES: *Meditations* Preface, Dedication, and Meds. I-III, pp. 61-70, 75-108

Feb. 23 DESCARTES: *Meditations* V-VI, pp. 118-143

Feb. 27 MIDTERM EXAM In Class

Mar. 2 HUME: *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, pp. 1-53

Mar. 9 HUME: *Enquiry*, pp. 53-94, 102-114

Mar. 16 - 29 SPRING VACATION

Mar. 30 KANT: *Prolegomena*, Introduction, Preamble pp. 3-27
Prolegomena, Part One pp. 28-41

Apr. 6 KANT: *Prolegomena*, Part Two, pp. 42-74
"The Categorical Imperative" from *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*
(Blackboard)

Apr. 13 NIETZSCHE: *Twilight of the Idols*, pp. 29-70

Apr. 20 NIETZSCHE: *Twilight*, pp. 71-122

Apr. 24 SECOND QUIZ DUE

Apr. 27 SARTRE: *Anti-Semite and Jew*, pp. 7-141

May 4 SARTRE: *Anti-Semite and Jew*, pp. 143-153
BEAUVOIR: Selections from *The Second Sex* and *The Ethics of Ambiguity* (Blackboard)

May 12 FINAL EXAM/PAPER DUE