

Philosophy 1101: Introduction to Philosophy  
Spring 2006: T/TH 10:00-11:40 HFA 15

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Office: M/W 10:45am – 11:30am  
T/TH 9:00am – 10:00am  
and other times by appointment

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Our text is Philosophy for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, edited by Steven M. Cahn. Our reading schedule is listed below with article titles from the Cahn anthology (with page length in parentheses).

### **Section 1: Metaphysics and Logic**

- 1.16 Introductions; Aristotle's Metaphysics Bk 1, Chp 2 (web)
  - 1.18 Blackburn, "What is Philosophy?" (5)  
Hesiod's Theogony (web)
  
  - 1.23 Aristotle's Metaphysics Bk 1, Chp 3,4 (web)
  - 1.25 Blackburn, "The Elements of Logic" (6)  
Handout: Logical Form
- First Paper and Logic Assignment**

### **Section 2: Philosophy of Religion**

- 1.30 Anselm, "The Ontological Argument" (2)  
Gaunilo, "In Behalf of the Fool" (2)
- 2.1 Kant, "Critique of the Ontological Argument" (2)
  
- 2.6 **First Paper and Logic Assignment Due**  
Rowe, "Why the Ontological Argument Fails" (4)
- 2.8 Swinburne, "Why God Allows Evil" (9)  
Cahn, "The Moriarty Hypothesis" (2)
  
- 2.13 **First Exam**

### **Section 3: Epistemology and Skepticism**

- 2.15 Locke, An Essay Concerning Human Understanding (6)
- 2.20 Berkeley, Three Dialogues Between Hylas and Philonous (23)
  
- 2.22 more Berkeley
- 2.27 Descartes, Meditations on First Philosophy (9)  
**Second Paper Assignment**
  
- 3.1 Hume, An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding (5)  
Skryms, "The Traditional Problem of Induction" (5)
  
- 3.6 Review
- 3.8 **Second Exam**

- 3.13 **Spring**
- 3.15 **Break**

#### **Section 4: Metaphysics and Free Will**

- 3.20 Aristotle, "The Sea Battle Tomorrow" (2)
- 3.22 Taylor, "The Problem of Future Contingencies" (13)  
**Second Paper Due**
  
- 3.27 Ayer, "Freedom and Necessity" (8)
- 3.29 Chisholm, "Human Freedom and the Self" (7)
  
- 4.3 Frankfurt, "Alternative Possibilities and Moral Responsibility" (6)
- 4.5 **Third Exam**

#### **Section 5: Ethics and Political Philosophy**

- 4.10 Mackie, "The Subjectivity of Values" (8)
- 4.12 Bamforth, "A Proof of the Objectivity of Morals" (5)  
Rachels, "Egoism and Moral Scepticism" (7)
  
- 4.17. Bennett, "The Conscience of Huckleberry Finn" (7)
- 4.19 Hobbes, "Leviathan" (8)  
**Third Paper Assignment**
  
- 4.24 Rawls, "A Theory of Justice" (10)
- 4.26 Nozick, "Anarchy, State, and Utopia" (11)
  
- 5.1 Cohen, "Illusions About Private Property and Freedom" (10)
- 5.3 Review
  
- 5.7 **Spring Study Day**
- 5.9 **Final: Wednesday 11:00am -1pm and Third Paper Due**

This course is designed to be an introduction to philosophy. We will cover several major areas of interest and read important works of several classical and contemporary philosophers. My aim in this course is to provide a course to you which will stimulate your own philosophical thinking. Some of our readings will be difficult and some of the ideas and assignments may be puzzling, you will need to persevere through them. Many of our readings will be challenging and thought provoking. A good foundation in philosophical thinking provides both new ideas and important tools for you to use in both critical and creative thinking. If you are successful in this course, you should expect to

be able to progress in your own personal and philosophical thinking on a wide range of issues.

As for the course requirements, there are three paper assignments and four exams. There are three in-class exams each worth 12% of your final grade. There is a final which covers section 5 (another 12%) and is also comprehensive over the rest of the course (another 12%). There are also three two to three page papers; each is worth 12% of your final grade. This should add up to 96%. The exams will be short answer and essays concerning the readings and class lectures and discussions. The papers will require you to construct, analyze, and evaluate philosophical arguments.