

Philosophy 101

Dr. Ralph Baergen
Section #8

Office: LA 247
Tues & Thurs, 11 am – 12:15 pm

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Office Hours: Tues, Wed, & Thurs., 9 – 10:30 am; other days & times by appointment

REQUIRED TEXT: *Introduction to Philosophy* 3rd ed. (Baergen, custom reading packet).

COURSE OBJECTIVE: The central goal is for you to become acquainted with the work of various philosophers in the Western intellectual tradition. This is important, for the influence of these philosophers can be seen in current psychological and political theories, as well as in our science and literature. Thus, an understanding of them contributes greatly to an understanding of contemporary Western culture. Another objective is to start you thinking about the issues that these figures have addressed. The conclusions they reach are often startling, and examining these can help you think more clearly about the issues and arrive at your own positions. Furthermore, your ability to identify and evaluate philosophical arguments will be sharpened.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Your course grade will be based on three short papers (3 - 5 pp., typewritten, double-spaced), a midterm exam, and a final exam. Each of the papers will account for 20% of your course grade. The midterm is worth 15%, and the final exam is worth 25%. The final exam will be cumulative. Topics for essay questions will be given every week or so, and you must write on any three of these. More than three paper topics will be presented, so you need not write on every topic. If you wish, you may write on as many as five topics; if you do, your lowest two paper grades will be dropped.

Guidelines for Papers: All papers must be typed and double-spaced. (If meeting this requirement would be *very* burdensome, you may handwrite your papers—but your writing must be PERFECTLY legible, and must still be double-spaced.) Errors in spelling, grammar, and organization may lower your grade. The absence of clarity or precision will definitely lower your grade. These papers will not require consulting any outside sources. If you do make use of other material, however, *be sure to cite this clearly*. You must provide references for direct quotations *and for ideas drawn from other sources*. Plagiarism—even when it is committed unwittingly—will not be tolerated. Finally, please do *not* use plastic covers, folders, or even title pages; just be sure your name appears on the front page of your paper.

ADA Statement: Our program is committed to helping all students achieve their potential. Students with disabilities who wish to have accommodations provided by the university must identify themselves. If you have a diagnosed disability, or if you believe that you have a disability that might require special accommodations, please contact the ADA and Disabilities Resource Center, Gravely Hall, 282-3599.

Course Schedule:

Jan 11	Intro to ethics	Read pp. 81-86
	Read pp. 1-5, 14-17, 27-30	Jan 25 Aristotle's ethics
Jan 13	Moral relativism	Read pp. 91-102
	Read pp. 31-55	Essay Question: p. 97 (2 nd one)
Jan 18	Moral relativism, cont'd	Jan 27 Epicurus' ethics
Jan 20	Plato's ethics	Read pp. 103-121

- Feb 1 Essay Question: p. 114
Stoic ethics
Read pp. 123-135
Essay question p. 132
- Feb 3 Kant's ethics
Read pp. 199-200
Aristotle essay due (p. 97)
- Feb 8 Kant, cont'd
Read pp. 200-208
Epicurus essay due (p. 110)
- Feb 10 Kant, cont'd
Read pp. 208-220
Essay Question: Are C11 & C12 equivalent?
- Feb 15 Mill's ethics
Read pp. 215-228
- Feb 17 Mill, cont'd
Read pp. 228-237
Essay Question: p. 242
- Feb 22 Moral Rights
Read pp. 245-268
Essay Question: p. 268
Kant essay due (C11 & C12)
- Feb 24 Review for Midterm
- Mar 1 **MIDTERM EXAM**
Bring a blue exam booklet
Mill essay due (p. 236)
- Mar 3 Plato's Metaphysics: Forms
Read pp. 63-74
Moral rights essay due (p. 262)
- Mar 8 Aristotle: metaphysics
Read pp. 86-91
- Mar 10 Locke: Representative realism
Read pp. 161-167
- Mar 15, 17: Spring Break
- Mar 22 Locke, cont'd
Read pp. 167-170
- Mar 24 Locke, cont'd
Essay Question: Inference to the best explanation
- Mar 29 Berkeley: Idealism
Read pp. 171-178
- Mar 31 Berkeley, cont'd
Read pp. 178-185
Essay Question: Berkeley's criticisms of Locke
- Apr 5 Berkeley, cont'd
- Apr 7 Essay Question: Locke & Berkeley on certainty
Locke essay due (best explanation)
- Apr 7 Descartes
Read 137-144
- Apr 12 Descartes, cont'd
Read 144-150
Berkeley essay due (criticism of Locke)
- Apr 14 Descartes, cont'd
Read pp. 150-159
Berkeley & Locke essay due (certainty)
- Apr 19 Arguments for God's existence
- Apr 21 Arguments for God's existence
- Apr 26 Arguments against God's existence
- Apr 28 Arguments against God's existence
- May 3 Review for Final Exam
- May 5 Review for Final Exam
- May 11 **FINAL EXAM 3 – 5 pm**
Bring a blue exam booklet