

PHILOSOPHY 1 INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

Nicholas Diehl
TWR 10:00-11:50 a.m., 147 Olson
CRN: 80638

TEXTS: *Five Dialogues*, Plato
 What Does it All Mean?, Thomas Nagel
 Mortal Questions, Thomas Nagel
 A course reader

COURSE CONTENT: The unofficial course title is “Philosophy Then and Now”. We will begin on the shores of the Mediterranean, studying with the greatest philosophers of ancient Greece, Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. We will learn about their views on morality, knowledge, and the nature of human minds. In the second half of the course we will explore these same issues through the works of some select modern philosophers. We will find out how philosophical questions and answers have changed over two millennia and how they have stayed the same.

REQUIREMENTS: There will be 2 papers and regular quizzes. The quizzes will cover content and will be designed to keep us on pace with the reading and to generate discussion. The papers will be your opportunity to explore issues in more detail and to argue for your own point of view.

PREREQUISITE: None

G.E. CREDIT: Arts & Humanities, Writing Experience.

PHILOSOPHY 5 CRITICAL REASONING

Dana Goswick
TWR 12:10-2:00 p.m., 202 Wellman
CRN: 78424

TEXT: *Attacking Faulty Reasoning*, Damer's *A Rulebook for Arguments*, Weston's Course pack

COURSE CONTENT: The course will be based on the premise that you learn to think critically by thinking critically. Consequently, we will spend only the first two weeks reading a standard How to Think Critically manual. The remaining weeks will be spent putting into practice the critical thinking tools you have learned. To this end we will concern ourselves with two questions: (1) Does God exist? and (2) Is Abortion Morally Permissible? Our goal will not be to answer these questions, but rather to think critically about them. We will look at the Design Argument for the existence of God, as presented in David Hume's *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*. We will then examine the Problem of Evil argument against God's existence, as presented in J.L. Mackie's "Evil and Omnipotence". We will read Judith Jarvis Thomson's "A Defense of Abortion". Finally, we will discuss the arguments against abortion presented in Harriet McBryde Johnson's "Unspeakable Conversations" and/or Ronald Reagan's "Abortion and the Conscience of the Nation".

REQUIREMENTS: Four Content Quizzes; Two 3-5 page essays; occasional 1 page writing assignments

PREREQUISITES: None

G.E. CREDIT: Writing Experience

PHILOSOPHY 12 INTRODUCTION TO SYMBOLIC LOGIC

Brian Bowman
TWR 2:10-4:00 p.m., 147 Olson
CRN: 80639

TEXT: *The Logic Book*, fourth edition, by Merrie Bergmann, James Moor and Jack Nelson.

COURSE CONTENT: Philosophy 12 is an introduction to basic logical concepts and formal deductive logic. Understanding of this material is essential for work in philosophy and can be useful in other disciplines that benefit from rigorous argumentation, such as law.

This course will train you in a language of formal sentence logic and its proof techniques. Subjects will include: the syntax and semantics of sentence logic, truth tables, laws of logical equivalence, transcription between English and sentence logic, the concept of deductive validity, and methods of proof. There may be a short introduction to predicate logic at the end of the course.

REQUIREMENTS: TBA

PHILOSOPHY 14 CONTEMPORARY ETHICAL AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS

Matt Sensat Waldren
TR 7:10-10:00 p.m., 217 Art
CRN: 80640

TEXT: *Life and Death: A Reader in Moral Problems* by Louis Pojman (Editor), 2nd edition
Also Recommended: *A Rulebook for Arguments* by Anthony Weston, 3rd edition,

COURSE CONTENT: We will begin with a brief study of some moral theories (Relativism, Absolutism, Utilitarianism, and Kantianism) and possibly some political theory. We will then discuss some contemporary moral problems. Possible problems include human cloning, the death penalty, abortion, animal rights, war, and world hunger.

REQUIREMENTS: Two papers and a final examination.

PREREQUISITE: None

G.E. CREDIT: Arts & Humanities, Diversity, Writing Experience