

Date prepared: 5/31/16

University of New Orleans
Dept. of Philosophy

PHIL 1000: Introduction to Philosophy (3 credits)

SECTION 476

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Robert Stufflebeam
Office: UNO: LA 385
Office Hours: M-T-W-Th, 10:00 – 12:00 (and by appointment)
Office Phone: (504) 280-7473
Email: rstuffle@uno.edu (add 'PHIL 1000' to subject line)

Required Texts

- [1] L. P. Pojman & L. Vaughn (2009): **Philosophy: The quest for truth. (7th ed.)** Oxford: Oxford. ISBN 978-0-19-531132-7. [P]
- [2] Online supplemental readings. [O]
- [3] The Mind Project readings. [TMP]

Course Description

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: An introductory study of basic philosophical concepts and problems.

COURSE OVERVIEW: Doing philosophy requires using reason in the attempt to resolve philosophical questions. Philosophical questions are *fundamental* or *open* questions — questions that CANNOT be answered by appealing to facts alone. There are countless questions of this sort. We shall focus on the following:

- Can God's existence be proven through reason alone?
- Is knowledge possible? If so, how? Are we born with it (nativism)? Do we acquire it via reason alone (rationalism) or experience alone (empiricism)? How do we know that the world is as it appears?
- What is the nature of the mind? Are minds souls, thinking substance, matter, or something else (e.g., a kind of computer software)?
- Wherein lies personal identity? (That is, what makes you you and me me?) Sameness of body? Consciousness? Memories? Behavior?
- What sort of "things" have minds? How can we tell whether something has a mind? Is it possible for something nonhuman to have a mind?
- What is the philosophical significance (ethical, metaphysical, etc.) of machine or nonhuman intelligence?
- What properties must something possess to be a person? Could a machine or an animal or an alien be a person?
- What makes an action moral ("right") or immoral ("wrong")? Does it lie in what God commands? Does it lie in virtue (Aristotle)? Does it lie in the use of reason to determine our duties (Kant) or the greatest happiness for the most people (Mill)?

To explore these questions, we are not going to limit ourselves to online lectures and discussions of philosophical texts. Philosophy can be explored through movies (and TV episodes) too. Hence, you will be required to watch a few movies and/or TV episodes. The movie or episode will make the "abstract" concepts raised in the text more "real" or "concrete." Following the movie you will critically evaluate what you have seen using our discussion board. In the end, the aim of this course is not to solve the philosophical questions that will be raised. Rather, the aim is survey some of the major ideas, figures, and problems that have shaped Western philosophy ... and to have some fun doing it.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successfully completing this course, students will be able to do the following:

- recognize philosophical questions and problems
- distinguish the various subfields of philosophy and the sorts of questions dealt with by philosophers in those areas
- read primary and secondary philosophical texts and reconstruct the arguments contained in them sympathetically
- evaluate the cogency of arguments informally
- identify cosmological, teleological, and ontological arguments for the existence of God (and the problems associated with each of those arguments)
- identify the philosophical problems associated with the nature of minds and persons
- identify the philosophical problems associated with personal identity
- state the nature of the mind-body problem
- state the problem of other minds
- recognize the philosophical implications of the computer metaphor
- identify the philosophical implications of whether a machine can think
- state the different views of Descartes, Locke, Hume, etc. with respect to knowledge and personal identity
- demonstrate the difference between moral objectivism and moral nonobjectivism and different theories of each
- state the different views of Aristotle, Kant, Mill, etc. with respect to morality
- construct your own arguments with respect to the philosophical issues raised in this course
- respond to criticism in a reasoned manner

Final Grades

Grades will be based on a cumulative 100 point scale distributed as follows:

Requirement		Final grade	
One min. arguments	(20%) 20 points	A	100 – 89.5 points
Exam 1	(20%) 20 points	B	89.4 – 79.5 points
Exam 2	(20%) 20 points	C	79.4 – 69.5 points
Exam 3	(20%) 20 points	D	69.4 – 59.5 points
Exam 4	(20%) 20 points	F	59.4 — 0 points

ONE-MINUTE ARGUMENTS: My only means of interacting with you as a class is through our discussion board. Since interacting with each other and me is important, after almost every lecture there is a discussion question to which you need to post a response. Each student is required to post a response within a few DAYS of when the lecture should be completed. (For each week of the semester, the Game Plan tells you what you need to READ, which lecture to COMPLETE, and to which one minute argument question you need to POST your response.) If you post your response a week after a lecture should have been completed, your response will be late. Consider your responses to be "one-minute arguments." What that means is you will need to make a claim, give some evidence in support of that claim, and it should take me about 1 minute to read it. What that means is you need to write a paragraph as a response, not a single sentence. After posting your response, you may then post a response to someone else's response ... continuing the discussion. Your one-minute argument grade will be based on the quality, timeliness, and thoughtfulness of your replies. Overall, it is worth **20%** of your final grade.

EXAMS: There will be **4** exams, each covering about 1/4 of the course material. Each exam will be completed online. **You MAY use your text and notes but you may NOT collaborate.** The **Game Plan** tells you when each exam must be completed. **You will have exactly 1 attempt to complete an exam**, so load an exam only if you are prepared to finish it. **Each exam must be completed within 90 minutes.** Regardless of when you begin the exam, **each exam must be submitted by 11:55 p.m. CST on the day of the exam.** One minute later, that exam will disappear and it will impossible to submit your exam for a grade. Each exam will be composed of various short answer (T/F and MC) and short essay questions taken from the study questions for that exam (see Moodle). The exams are worth **80%** of your final grade.

EXTRA CREDIT: On each exam there is an extra credit question worth 10% of the exam. Additional extra credit is possible by completing the "extra extra credit" assignment (guidelines are on Moodle).

What follows are my class policies. If for any reason you are unable to abide by these policies, you should withdraw from my course.

- ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:** Academic honesty is fundamental to the process of learning and to evaluating academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, disseminating any part of an exam, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the Student Code of Conduct for further information. The Code is available on Moodle and online at <http://www.studentaffairs.uno.edu>. Each student is required to pledge that all completed work will be submitting according to the principles of academic integrity as defined in the statement on Academic Dishonesty in the UNO Student Code of Conduct
- CONDUCT:** Feel free to say anything to me or to your peers, but tailor your remarks so as not to be uncivil, abusive, or inappropriate. I will not tolerate ANY abusive behavior in the one minute argument discussions, so do not engage in any personal attacks or name calling. (See my 'warning' below.)
- DISABILITIES:** It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services as well as their instructors to discuss their individual needs for accommodations. For more information, please go to <http://www.ods.uno.edu>.
- INCOMPLETES:** Incompletes are STRONGLY discouraged. Should you need to take an incomplete, arrangements must be made with me well BEFORE Exam 4.
- LATE WORK:** A one minute argument response will be penalized a letter grade for each week it is late. Hence, if you post a reply to a question 5 weeks late, you the highest you could receive is a 50. Waiting until the end of the semester to post your replies is utterly self-defeating.
- MAKE-UPS:** All exams will be available the first day of class. Each exam will disappear at **11:55 p.m.** CST the night it must be submitted. No make-up exam will be given to any student who did not attempt an exam before it disappears.
- MEDIA:** The game plan tells you what movie to watch for which lecture. Since the lecture will tell you how you are to apply what we are studying while you watch the media, COMPLETE the lecture before watching the media, then POST your reply to the one minute argument question for that lecture. If you have already seen the media, you need to watch it again.
- PARTICIPATION:** Since this is an internet course, your participation will be limited to the one minute arguments. Your responses should be posted each week, NOT weeks later. You need to have read the material and completed the lecture prior to posting your discussion response.
- PROCTORING:** To ensure academic integrity, all students enrolled in distance learning courses at the University of New Orleans may be required to participate in additional student identification procedures. At the discretion of the faculty member teaching the course, these measures may include on-campus proctored examinations, off-site or online proctored examinations, or other reasonable measures to ensure student identity. Authentication measures for this course may include Proctor U and any fees associated are the responsibility of the student. University of New Orleans partners with Proctor U, a live, online proctoring service that allows students to complete exams from any location using a computer, webcam, and reliable internet connection.
- WITHDRAWALS:** You may withdraw from this course for any reason. Withdrawal is strictly up to you and none of my business. Look in the course listings for the last day to withdraw without a penalty — a 'W' appearing on your transcript.

WARNING! *Doing philosophy requires a willingness to think critically. Critical thinking does not consist in merely making claims. Rather, it requires offering reasons/evidence in support of your claims. It also requires your willingness to entertain criticism from others who do not share your assumptions. You will be required to do philosophy in this class. Doing philosophy can be hazardous to your cherished beliefs. Consequently, if you are unwilling to participate, to subject your views to critical analysis, or to explore issues that cannot be resolved empirically, then my course is not for you.*

PHIL 1000 Game Plan

WEEK	TOPIC	READ (7 th ed.)	COMPLETE LECTURE	POST 1 MIN. ARG.
(1) 05/31 – 06/03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome/Syllabus 		1	1
	A. What is philosophy? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome/Syllabus subfields fundamental questions 	P: 2-5	2	2
(2) 06/06 – 06/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> arguments 	O: Stufflebeam	3	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> history of philosophy trial of Socrates 	P: 6-17	4	4
(3) 06/13 – 06/17	B. Does God exist? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> divine attributes (and problems) Cosmological argument <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aquinas Teleological argument <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paley v. Hume Ontological argument <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anselm v. Gaunilo 	P: 50-52, 110-112 P: 52-55 P: 85-87; 88-94 P: 95-99	5	5
	Exam 1 (by 11:55 p.m. CST on THURSDAY, 06/16)			
	C. Is knowledge possible? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture 6 media: <i>The matrix</i> 		6	6
(4) 06/20 – 06/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propositional knowledge = justified true belief <i>Rationalism</i>: Descartes <i>Empiricism</i>: Locke <i>Truth</i>: Russell 	P: 183-189 P: 189-201 P: 229-234	7	7
	D. What makes you you and me me? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soul: Dualism: Descartes v. Ryle Memory: Locke v. Hume Psych. continuity: Parfit v. Vesey 	P: 262-264, 334-338 P: 265-278 P: 339-345 P: 346-351	8	8
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture 9 media: <i>Total recall</i> 		9	9
	Exam 2 (by 11:55 p.m. CST on FRIDAY, 06/24)			
(5) 06/27 - 07/01	E. How do you tell whether sth. has a mind? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The analogy argument Can a machine think? Functionalism "Turing test" Searle's Chinese room thought experiment Robot reply Nagel 	O: Russell (1948) TMP: Can a machine think? TMP: Functionalism O: Turing (1950) P: 326-333 TMP: The Chinese room P: 305-313	10	10
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture 11 media: <i>STNG: The measure of a man & Bicentennial man</i> 		11	11
	Exam 3 (by 11:55 p.m. CST on FRIDAY, 07/08)			
(6) 07/07 - 07/08	F. How should we tell right from wrong? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> moral objectivism v. moral nonobjectivism moral relativism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benedict v. Rachels 	P: 442-445 P: 446-460	12	12
	Exam 3 (by 11:55 p.m. CST on FRIDAY, 07/08)			
(7) 07/11- 07/15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> moral egoism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plato: 'Ring of Gyges' Hobbes Pojman 	P: 461-466 P: 534-544 P: 473-483	13	13
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture 14 media: <i>Hollow man</i> 		14	13
(8) 07/18 - 07/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> virtue ethics: Aristotle deontological ethics: Kant utilitarianism: Mill 	P: 485-495 P: 495-508 P: 508-514	15	14
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture 16 media: <i>Star Trek: Nemesis</i> 		16	15
Tue., 07/26		Exam 4 & EC due (by 11:55 p.m. CST on TUESDAY, 07/26)		