

Introduction to Philosophy

026:061:002

John M. DePoe, Course Instructor
Office: 252 EPB Ph: 335-0030
Hours: Mon & Weds 9:30-11:00am, and *by appointment*
E-mail: XXX-XXX@uiowa.edu

Diane Jeske,
Philosophy DEO
274 EPB Ph: 335-0026
Hours: Tu 1:30-4:30, Th 10-12
XXX-XXX@uiowa.edu

David Cuning,
Course Supervisor
EPB 250 Ph: 335-0027
Hours: Tu & Th 12-1:30pm
XXX-XXX@uiowa.edu

Required Texts: All required texts will be made available through the class's ICON site.

<u>Assignments</u>	<u>Grade Scale</u>												
Midterm Exam: 20%	F	D-	D	D+	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A	A+
Final Exam: 30%	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Paper/Draft: 35%													
Quizzes: 8%													
Participation: 7%													

Course Description

This course will examine a number of the central issues of philosophy, including: the mind-body problem, free will, the existence of God, the nature of human knowledge, and the objectivity of moral values. This course can be used to satisfy a humanities' gen. ed. requirement.

Exams

Exams will be administered in class. Exams will test students over information given in the readings and lectures. Students will be given more information in class regarding what to expect from and how to prepare for these exams. Anyone who is unsure about the nature of an exam or the material covered in it is encouraged to meet with the instructor during **office hours** or to schedule an appointment with the instructor **before the exam**.

Paper & Draft

Each student will be required to write a 6-8 page philosophy paper. Further guidelines for the paper will be given in class. The draft of the paper will count as 5% of one's overall grade. The final paper will count as 30% of one's overall grade. **ANY PLAIGARISM WILL AUTOMATICALLY RESULT IN AN UNREPLACEABLE 0 FOR THE GRADE, AND THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ASSIGN A FAILING GRADE FOR THE COURSE IN SEVERE CASES.** Students are strongly encouraged to consult the instructor for constructive help while working on papers. The paper topic must be approved by Week 5, the first draft (for a grade) is tentatively due on the Friday of Week 9, and the final version of the paper is tentatively due on the Monday of Week 13.

Quizzes

Reading is an essential part of learning philosophy. Periodic pop quizzes will be given during classes for the purposes of checking that reading assignments are done on time. Students are encouraged to take notes on the readings, and *students will be allowed to use their own handwritten notes on pop quizzes.* The two lowest quiz grades will automatically be dropped when calculating the final grade.

Participation/Attendance

Each day of class students will be given a grade for participating in the course. Since being absent entails not participating in class, absences will count as a zero for that day's participation. Those who attend class, stay awake, take notes, show engagement with the material, and participate in discussion (both in class and online) will receive proportionate credit for that day's participation. The participation grade will also consider participation with the online discussion board on this course's ICON site. The three lowest daily participation grades will automatically be dropped when calculating the final grade.

Minimal Passing Requirement

In order to pass the course students must meet three basic requirements: (1) to take both exams; (2) to turn in the final paper; and (3) to attend two-thirds of classes. *Those who do not meet these conditions will fail the course regardless of their overall average.*

Tentative Schedule of Readings

Week 1

J. Rachels, "The Challenge of Cultural Relativism"

Week 2

J. Rachels, "The Challenge of Cultural Relativism"

Week 3

Baron d'Holbach, "The Illusion of Free Will"

Campbell, "In Defence of Free Will"

Week 4

Walter Stace, "The Problem of Free Will"

Week 5

Thomas Nagel, "What is it Like to be a Bat?"

Paul Churchland, "Eliminative Materialism"

paper topics due

Week 6

John Searle, "Can Computers Think?"

Week 7

R. Swinburne, "A Defense of Substance Dualism"

MIDTERM EXAM

Week 8

George Berkeley, *Principles of Human Knowledge & Three Dialogues* (excerpts)

Week 9

George Berkeley, *Principles of Human Knowledge & Three Dialogues* (excerpts)

first paper draft due

Week 10

B. Russell, *The Problems of Philosophy* (excerpts)

Week 11

B. Russell, *The Problems of Philosophy* (excerpts)

Week 12

B. Russell, *The Problems of Philosophy* (excerpts)

Week 13

W. L. Craig, "The Existence of God and the Beginning of the Universe"

final paper due

Week 14

R. Collins, "The Fine-Tuning Design Argument"

W. Rowe, "The Problem of Evil and Some Varieties of Atheism"

Week 15

G. Schlesinger & W. Lycan, "You Bet Your Life"

Final Exam: 9:45am, Friday, May 15, 2009

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Policies and Procedures

Administrative Home The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is the administrative home of this course and governs matters such as the add/drop deadlines, the second-grade-only option, and other related issues. Different colleges may have different policies. Questions may be addressed to 120 Schaeffer Hall or see the CLAS *Student Academic Handbook* [www.clas.uiowa.edu/students/academic_handbook/index.shtml].

Academic Fraud Plagiarism and any other activities when students present work that is not their own are academic fraud. Academic fraud is a serious matter and is reported to the departmental DEO and to the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs and Curriculum. Instructors and DEOs decide on appropriate consequences at the departmental level while the Associate Dean enforces additional consequences at the collegiate level. See the CLAS *Student Academic Handbook*.

Making a Suggestion or a Complaint Students with a suggestion or complaint should first visit the instructor, then the course supervisor, and then the departmental DEO. Complaints must be made within six months of the incident. See the CLAS *Student Academic Handbook*.

Accommodations for Disabilities A student seeking academic accommodations should first register with Student Disability Services and then meet privately with the course instructor to make particular arrangements. See www.uiowa.edu/~sds/ for more information.

Understanding Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. All members of the UI community have a responsibility to uphold this mission and to contribute to a safe environment that enhances learning. Incidents of sexual harassment should be reported immediately. See the UI *Comprehensive Guide on Sexual Harassment* at www.uiowa.edu/~eod/policies/sexual-harassment-guide/index.html for assistance, definitions, and the full University policy.

Reacting Safely to Severe Weather In severe weather, class members should seek appropriate shelter immediately, leaving the classroom if necessary. The class will continue if possible when the event is over. (*Operations Manual*, **Part IV**, 16. See items e, h, and i.)