

Course Code

Introduction to Philosophy

Day(s), Time, Place

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Office Location

Office Hours: TBD

(312) 919-5823

Course Description: This introductory course is a guided tour through some active problems in philosophy. We will focus on both the historical origins of these problems and their contemporary manifestations. Along the way, we will begin development of the critical thinking and writing skills necessary to successfully and responsibly assess and communicate philosophical positions.

Prerequisite(s): None.

Note(s): A course packet will be distributed including required readings outside of the texts below.

Credit Hours: 3

Text(s): *Theatetus*, Hackett

Author(s): Plato and Bernard Williams; **ISBN-13:** 978-0872201583

Text(s): *Meditations on First Philosophy*, Cambridge

Author(s): Descartes, John Cottingham and Bernard Williams; **ISBN-13:** 978-0521558181

Text(s): *Proslogion, with the Replies of Gaunilo and Anselm*, Hackett

Author(s): Anselm and Thomas Williams; **ISBN-13:** 978-0872205659

Grade Distribution:

Critical Reflections	60%
Final Exam	25%
Participation	15%

Letter Grade Distribution:

≥ 93.00	A	73.00 - 76.99	C
90.00 - 92.99	A-	70.00 - 72.99	C-
87.00 - 89.99	B+	67.00 - 69.99	D+
83.00 - 86.99	B	63.00 - 66.99	D
80.00 - 82.99	B-	60.00 - 62.99	D-
77.00 - 79.99	C+	≤ 59.99	F

Course Policies:

- **Grades**

- Grades in the **C** range represent performance that **meets expectations**; Grades in the **B** range represent performance that is **substantially better** than the expectations; Grades in the **A** range represent work that is **excellent**.
- Students are responsible for tracking their progress by referring to the online gradebook.

- **Assignments**

- Students are expected to work independently. **Offering** and **accepting** solutions from others is an act of **plagiarism**, which is a serious offense and **all involved parties will be penalized according to the Academic Honesty Policy**. Discussion amongst students is encouraged, but when in doubt, direct your questions to the professor.
- The course is separated into four sections: *The Traditional Analysis of Knowledge, Metaphysics, Why be Moral?, and Some Arguments for God's Existence*. A **three page critical reflection**, on some topic distributed in advance, will be due at the end of each section, as marked on the schedule below.
- There will be a cumulative **final exam**.

- **Attendance and Absences**

- Attendance is expected. Excessive absence will count against a student's participation.
- It is the absentee's responsibility to get all missing notes or materials.

Academic Honesty Policy Summary:

Introduction

In addition to skills and knowledge, Lawrence University aims to teach students appropriate Ethical and Professional Standards of Conduct. The Academic Honesty Policy exists to inform students and Faculty of their obligations in upholding the highest standards of professional and ethical integrity. All student work is subject to the Academic Honesty Policy. Professional and Academic practice provides guidance about how to properly cite, reference, and attribute the intellectual property of others. Any attempt to deceive a faculty member or to help another student to do so will be considered a violation of this standard.

Instructor's Intended Purpose

The student's work must match the instructor's intended purpose for an assignment. While the instructor will establish the intent of an assignment, each student must clarify outstanding questions of that intent for a given assignment.

Unauthorized/Excessive Assistance

The student may not give or get any unauthorized or excessive assistance in the preparation of any work.

Authorship

The student must clearly establish authorship of a work. Referenced work must be clearly documented, cited, and attributed, regardless of media or distribution. Even in the case of work licensed as public domain or Copyleft, (See: <http://creativecommons.org/>) the student must provide attribution of that work in order to uphold the standards of intent and authorship.

Declaration

Online submission of, or placing one's name on an exam, assignment, or any course document is a statement of academic honor that the student has not received or given inappropriate assistance in completing it and that the student has complied with the Academic Honesty Policy in that work.

Consequences

An instructor may impose a sanction on the student that varies depending upon the instructor's evaluation of the nature and gravity of the offense. Possible sanctions include but are not limited to, the following: (1) Require the student to redo the assignment; (2) Require the student to complete another assignment; (3) Assign a grade of zero to the assignment; (4) Assign a final grade of "F" for the course. A student may appeal these decisions according to the Academic Grievance Procedure. (See the relevant section in the Student Handbook.) Multiple violations of this policy will result in a referral to the Conduct Review Board for possible additional sanctions.

The full text of the Academic Honesty Policy is in the *Student Handbook*.

Tentative Course Outline:

The weekly coverage might change as it depends on the progress of the class. For example, it is quite possible that we will not make it to the week 10 readings.

Week	Content
Week 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction: Philosophical Argumentation and Analysis• Selections from Plato's <i>Meno</i>, <i>Theatetus</i>.
Week 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Traditional Analysis of Knowledge• Selections from Descartes' <i>Meditations</i>; Moore, "Proof of an External World"
Week 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gettier, "Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?"; Selections from Russell's <i>The Problems of Philosophy</i>• Reflection 1 Due
Week 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Metaphysics• Lewis, "The Paradoxes of Time Travel"
Week 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parfit "Personal Identity"• Reflection 2 Due
Week 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why be Moral?• Lewis, "Humean Supervenience Debugged" Sections 1-3• Ayer, "Freedom and Necessity"
Week 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Frankfurt, "Alternate Possibilities and Moral Responsibility" and "Free Will and the Concept of a Person"• Reflection 3 Due
Week 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some Arguments for God's Existence• Selections from Anselm's <i>Proslogium</i>, <i>Responsio</i> and Kant's <i>Critique of Pure Reason</i>
Week 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Malcolm, "Anselm's Ontological Arguments"• Reflection 4 Due
Week 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clifford, "The Ethics of Belief"; James, "The Will to Believe"; selections from Pascal's <i>Pensees</i>• FINAL EXAM