

Introduction to Philosophy, 101

Westminster College

Winter Online 2015

Course Description: Major areas of study and concern in philosophy include epistemology, metaphysics, ethics and political theory. The first of these, epistemology, deals with how we come to know and form justified beliefs, metaphysics inquires into what is real, God(s), minds, souls, freedom, etc. Ethics is the study of proper conduct and or how we ought to behave and political theory concerns itself with what might be termed ethics for mass society. This class will touch on all four of these topics in addition to developing reading comprehension and writing skills.

Course Over-View: The class will begin at the beginning of Philosophy, move to Socrates and Plato before covering David Hume, an 18th century thinker and the work of Susan Haack, a contemporary British philosopher.

Course Structure and Assignments

Assignment One	Reading: Cornford Chapter One Assignment Packet on Cornford Chapter One
Assignment Two	Reading: Cornford Chapter Two Assignment Packet on Cornford Chapter Two
A. Three	Reading: Plato, Book One. Assignment Packet on Plato Book One
A. Four	Reading: Plato, Book Two Assignment Packet on Plato Book Two
A. Five	Reading: Plato, Book Three Assignment Packet on Plato Book Three
A. Six	Reading: Plato, Book Four Assignment Packet on Plato Book Four
A. Seven	Reading: Plato, Book Seven Assignment Packet on Plato Book Seven
A. Eight	Reading: Plato, Book Eight. Assignment Packet on Plato Book Eight

- A. Nine Reading: Hume, Sections 2-4
Assignment Packet on Hume sections 2-4
- A. Ten Reading: Hume, Sections 5-6
Assignment Packet on Hume, sections 5-6
- A. Eleven Reading Finch, chapters 1-6
Assignment Packet on Finch, chapters 1-6
- A. Twelve Reading: Finch, chapters 7-13
Assignment Packet on Finch, chapters 7-13

Final Grades and Grading

Final grades will be awarded in terms of the traditional 90% or higher is an A, 80% or higher is a B, 70% or higher is a C, 60% or higher is a D and less than 60% is a F.

When submitting the assignments or study guides please return them via email. Please return the entire study guide with your answers to the multiple choice questions selected by either putting an * by the answer you want to select or by high-lighting the answer you want to select.

The multiple choice questions are worth half of the grade on a given assignment and the essay is worth the other half. When writing the essays assume I know little or nothing about the subject and then explain it to me as if I was a friend or a younger sibling, etc. The essays are graded in terms of completeness, errors and omissions, thus be sure to fully answer each part of the question and in terms of the reading. Outside research is fine and encouraged but the essays should be answered in terms of the reading assigned.

Required Texts

Before and After Socrates, by F.M. Cornford, Cambridge University Press, ISBN: 0-521-09113-6.

Plato, The Republic, by Plato, Translated by Richard Sterling and William Scott. W.W. Norton and Company, 1985, ISBN: 0-393-31467-7.

An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding, by David Hume, edited by Eric Steinberg, Hackett Publishing, 2nd edition, 1993, ISBN: 0-872-20229-1.

This is available for free at the following web-site.

http://www.infidels.org/library/historical/david_hume/human_understanding.html

Some Thoughts on Thinking, by Jonathan Finch, University Press of America, 2002, ISBN: 0-7618-2315-8.

The following should give you a good idea about how much time you will be spending in this class and where your efforts will probably be expended.

Week	Class Time	Reading	Discussion	Assignments and Written Work	Exams	Other	Other	Other	Total Student Time
6/1-6/7		15		7					
6/8-6/14		15		7					
6/15-6/21		15		7					
6/22-6/28		15		8					
6/29-7/5		15		8					
7/6-7/10		15		8					
Totals		90		45					135