

PH101: INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

Fall 2009

- Meetings:** T/TH 2:10-3:30 p.m., Tisch 303
- Instructor:** Professor Matthew Ostrow, Department of Philosophy and Religion
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Office Hours: T: 3:30-4:30; W: 2:45-3:45; TH: 12:30-1:30; and by appointment
- Texts:** Plato, *Five Dialogues of Plato*
John Stuart Mill, *Utilitarianism*
Immanuel Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*
Rene Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy*
Ludwig Wittgenstein, *Lectures & Conversations on Aesthetics, Psychology, and Religious Belief*
Packet of Readings

Aims of the Course:

This course will consist of a general introduction to Western philosophy. While our focus will be mainly on philosophical ethics, we shall explore fundamental questions in metaphysics and epistemology as well. Given the scope of our concern and the limited time at our disposal, the pace of the class will be rather rapid. It is therefore essential to keep up with the readings as outlined below: students will be expected to have read and reflected on the relevant sections *before* each class. This will facilitate class discussion, which, as is the case in any philosophy course, is critical to gaining an understanding of the material.

Requirements:

Attendance is mandatory. Unless there is a genuine issue, you will lose one grade increment for each absence (e.g., with one absence a final grade of "A" will become an "A-", with two it will become a B+). In addition, there will be two papers of moderate length, an exam and a philosophical journal. Participation in class discussion is strongly encouraged and will count toward the final grade.

SCHEDULE

September	10	Introduction
	15	<i>Meno</i> 70a-79e, pp. 58-69
	17	<i>Meno</i> 80a-87c, pp. 69-79
	22	<i>Meno</i> 87d-90e, pp. 79-83
	24	<i>Meno</i> 91a-100b, pp. 83-92
October	29	<i>Utilitarianism</i> , pp. 3-16
	1	<i>Utilitarianism</i> , pp. 16-33
	6	<i>Utilitarianism</i> , pp. 34-51
	8	<i>Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals</i> , pp. 1-10; 1st Paper Due
	13	<i>Groundwork</i> , pp. 1-18
	15	<i>Groundwork</i> , pp. 19-34
	20	<i>Groundwork</i> , pp. 34-51
	22	<i>Groundwork</i> , pp. 52-66
	27	Midterm Exam
	29	“Moral Luck” (course packet reading I); “Karma and Its Fruit” (packet reading II)
November	3	“What Is It Like to Be a Bat?” (packet reading III)
	5	<i>Meditations</i> I-II, pp. 13-24
	10	<i>Meditations</i> III, pp. 24-35
	12	<i>Meditations</i> IV-V, pp. 35-47
	17	<i>Meditations</i> VI, pp. 47-59
	19	“Eating Meat and Eating People” (packet reading IV); Journal Due
	24	“Lecture on Ethics” (packet reading V))
December	26	No Class (Thanksgiving Break)
	1	<i>Lectures & Conversations</i> , pp. 1-11
	3	<i>Lectures & Conversations</i> , pp. 53-59
	8	<i>Lectures & Conversations</i> , pp. 59-72
	10	Open

FINAL PAPER DUE: December 15