PH101: INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY
Spring 2009

Meetings: T/TH 12:40-2:00 p.m., Ladd 307

Instructor: Professor Matthew Ostrow, Department of Religion and Philosophy
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Office Hours: T: 2:00-3:30; TH: 2:00-3:30; 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 *befor*e 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 one paper of moderate length and two exams. Participation in class discussion is strongly encouraged.

SCHEDULE

January	20	Introduction
	22	*Meno* 70a-79e
	27	*Meno* 80a-87c
	29	*Meno* 87d-100b
February	3	*Utilitarianism*, pp. 3-16

	5	*Utilitarianism*, pp. 16-33
	10	*Utilitarianism*, pp. 34-51
	12	*Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*, pp. 1-10; **Paper Due**
	17	*Groundwork*, pp. 1-18
	19	*Groundwork*, pp. 19-34
	24	*Groundwork*, pp. 34-51
	26	*Groundwork*, pp. 52-59
March	3	*Groundwork*, pp. 59-66
	5	**Midterm Exam**
	10	No class (spring break)
	12	No class (spring break)
	17	"Moral Luck" (course packet reading I); "Karma and Its Fruit" (packet reading II)
	19	"What Is It Like to Be a Bat?" (packet reading III)
	24	*Meditations* I-II
	26	*Meditations* III
	31	No class
April	2	No class
	7	*Meditations* IV-V
	9	*Meditations* VI
	14	"Eating Meat and Eating People" (packet reading IV)
	16	"Lecture on Ethics" (packet reading V))
	21	*Lectures & Conversations*, pp. 1-11
	23	*Lectures & Conversations*, pp. 53-59
	28	*Lectures & Conversations*, pp. 59-72

FINAL EXAM: May 4, 9:00 a.m-12:00 p.m. in Ladd 307