**Philosophy 101**

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Section #8  
Tues & Thurs, 11 am – 12:15 pm  
LA 237

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Office Hours: Tues, Wed, & Thurs., 9 – 10:30 am; other days & times by appointment

**REQUIRED TEXT:** *Introduction to Philosophy* 3rd ed. (Baergen, custom reading packet).

**COURSE OBJECTIVE:** The central goal is for you to become acquainted with the work of various philosophers in the Western intellectual tradition. This is important, for the influence of these philosophers can be seen in current psychological and political theories, as well as in our science and literature. Thus, an understanding of them contributes greatly to an understanding of contemporary Western culture. Another objective is to start you thinking about the issues that these figures have addressed. The conclusions they reach are often startling, and examining these can help you think more clearly about the issues and arrive at your own positions. Furthermore, your ability to identify and evaluate philosophical arguments will be sharpened.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** Your course grade will be based on three short papers (3 - 5 pp., typewritten, double-spaced), a midterm exam, and a final exam. Each of the papers will account for 20% of your course grade. The midterm is worth 15%, and the final exam is worth 25% The final exam will be cumulative. Topics for essay questions will be given every week or so, and you must write on any three of these. More than three paper topics will be presented, so you need not write on every topic. If you wish, you may write on as many as five topics; if you do, your lowest two paper grades will be dropped.

**Guidelines for Papers:** All papers must be typed and double-spaced. (If meeting this requirement would be very burdensome, you may handwrite your papers—but your writing must be PERFECTLY legible, and must still be double-spaced.) Errors in spelling, grammar, and organization may lower your grade. The absence of clarity or precision will definitely lower your grade. These papers will not require consulting any outside sources. If you do make use of other material, however, be sure to cite this clearly. You must provide references for direct quotations and for ideas drawn from other sources. Plagiarism—even when it is committed unwittingly—will not be tolerated. Finally, please do not use plastic covers, folders, or even title pages; just be sure your name appears on the front page of your paper.

**ADA Statement:** Our program is committed to helping all students achieve their potential. Students with disabilities who wish to have accommodations provided by the university must identify themselves. If you have a diagnosed disability, or if you believe that you have a disability that might require special accommodations, please contact the ADA and Disabilities Resource Center, Gravely Hall, 282-3599.

**Course Schedule:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan 11</td>
<td>Intro to ethics</td>
<td>Read pp. 81-86</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Read pp. 1-5, 14-17, 27-30</td>
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<td>Jan 13</td>
<td>Moral relativism</td>
<td>Read pp. 91-102</td>
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<td>Read pp. 31-55</td>
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<td>Jan 18</td>
<td>Moral relativism, cont’d</td>
<td>Essay Question: p. 97 (2nd one)</td>
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<td>Jan 20</td>
<td>Plato’s ethics</td>
<td>Read pp. 103-121</td>
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Feb 1  Essay Question: p. 114
    Stoic ethics
    Read pp. 123-135
    Essay question p. 132
Feb 3  Essay Question: p. 132
    Kant’s ethics
    Read pp. 199-200
    \textit{Aristotle essay due (p. 97)}
Feb 8  Kant, cont’d
    Read pp. 200-208
    \textit{Epicurus essay due (p. 110)}
Feb 10 Kant, cont’d
    Read pp. 208-220
    Essay Question: Are CI1 & CI2 equivalent?
Feb 15 Mill’s ethics
    Read pp. 215-228
Feb 17 Mill, cont’d
    Read pp. 228-237
    Essay Question: p. 242
Feb 22 Moral Rights
    Read pp. 245-268
    Essay Question: p. 268
    \textit{Kant essay due (CI1 & CI2)}
Feb 24 Review for Midterm
Mar 1 \textit{MIDTERM EXAM}
    \textit{Bring a blue exam booklet}
    \textit{Mill essay due (p. 236)}
Mar 3 Plato’s Metaphysics: Forms
    Read pp. 63-74
    \textit{Moral rights essay due (p. 262)}
Mar 8 Aristotle: metaphysics
    Read pp. 86-91
Mar 10 Locke: Representative realism
    Read pp. 161-167
Mar 15, 17: Spring Break
Mar 22 Locke, cont’d
    Read pp. 167-170
Mar 24 Locke, cont’d
    Essay Question: Inference to the best explanation
Mar 29 Berkeley: Idealism
    Read pp. 171-178
Mar 31 Berkeley, cont’d
    Read pp. 178-185
    Essay Question: Berkeley’s criticisms of Locke
Apr 5 Berkeley, cont’d
Apr 7 Essay Question: Locke & Berkeley on certainty
    \textit{Locke essay due (best explanation)}
Apr 12 Descartes
    Read 137-144
Apr 14 Descartes, cont’d
    Read pp. 150-159
    \textit{Berkeley & Locke essay due (certainty)}
Apr 19 Arguments for God’s existence
Apr 21 Arguments for God’s existence
Apr 26 Arguments against God’s existence
Apr 28 Arguments against God’s existence
May 3 Review for Final Exam
May 5 Review for Final Exam
May 11 \textit{FINAL EXAM} 3 – 5 pm
    \textit{Bring a blue exam booklet}