

Course Goals and Methods

Students will have a firm grasp of some major topics in analytical philosophy as well as the reasoning, reading, and writing skills central to philosophical thinking of any sort.

Class Text

The required text for this class is *Readings in Ultimate Questions* and the companion text by Nils Ch. Rauhut. *The Philosopher's Toolkit* is also recommended.

Evaluation

- 25% (x3) 4-6 page papers arguing for or against an article or topic from class
- 5% (x4) 1-page argument reconstruction
- 10% Class participation

Term Papers

A philosophy paper makes an argument in favor or against a position (i.e. a reading) by clearly stating the premises and attacking one. Discussion on this to follow. Sample topics will be handed out in class, though you are encouraged to submit your own provided you run it by me first.

Argument Reconstruction

At any point throughout the semester, you should read the assigned article, summarize, and reconstruct it in one page. These must be turned in *before* the class discussion.

Class Participation

Contribution to the class discussion is actively encouraged. To get the full ten percent for this, you should comment early and often. Honest commenting is rewarded (i.e. no false confusion, but don't fear asking basic questions).

Schedule

Schedule	Date	Reading
Overview	Aug 31	Lecture: Introduction, Syllabus, What is Philosophy?
Baby Logic	Sept 2	Task: Wason Selection Task Ch. 1: What Is Philosophy? (p. 1-14)
More Baby Logic	Sept 7	Ch. 2: Philosophical Tools (p. 15-35)
Most Baby Logic	Sept 9	Ch. 7: Does God Exist (p. 156-175)
Five (2) Design Arguments	Sept 14	St. Aquinas' "The Five Ways" (RUQ p. 276-277) Ch. 7 (p. 176-180)
The Greatest Conceivable Argument	Sept 16	St. Anselm's "The Ontological Argument" * Gaunilo's "On Behalf of the Fool" *
Taking Pascal's Wager	Sept 21	Pascal's "The Wager" *
What About God?	Sept 23	Ch. 7 (p. 181-196)
Cogito Ergo Sum	Sept 28	Descartes' "Meditations 1 & 2" (RUQ p. 32-40) Ch. 3: What Do We Know? (p. 42-76)
<i>First Paper Deadline</i>		
Epist: Rationalism vs. Empiricism	Sept 30	Descartes' "Meditations 3 & 4" * Locke's "An Essay Concerning Human Understanding" (RUQ p.62-69)
Problem of Induction	Oct 5	Hume's "An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding" *
Phil Science: Falsification	Oct 7	Popper's "Science: Conjectures and Refutations" *
Induction and Confirmation	Oct 12	Goodman's "New Riddle of Induction" *
Mind/Body and Its Problems	Oct 14	Descartes' "Meditations 5 & 6" * "Letter to Elisabeth" * Ch. 6: The Mind/Body Problem (p. 126-138)
Phil Mind: Dualisms	Oct 19	Churchland's: "A Critique of Dualism" Foster's "A Defense of Dualism" (RUQ p. 202-218) Ch. 6 (p. 139-155)

* Indicates articles available on Blackboard

Schedule

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Physicalism and Materialism	Oct 21	<i>Searle's</i> "Arguments Against Materialism" (RUQ p. 249-262)
Metaphysics: Determinism	Oct 26	<i>Taylor's</i> "Determinism" (RUQ p. 76-78) Ch. 4: The Problem of Free Will (p. 77-96)
Compatibilism	Oct 28	<i>Stace's</i> "Compatibilism" (RUQ p. 79-85) Ch. 4 (p. 97-103)
Libertarianism and Indeterminism	Nov 2	<i>Kane's</i> "Libertarianism" (RUQ p. 114-132) "Responsibility, Luck, and Chance" *
Personal Identity- Memory	Nov 4	Ch. 5: The Problem of Personal Identity (p. 104-125) <i>Reid's</i> "A Critique of Locke's Theory of Personal Identity" (RUQ p. 161-164)
Physical Criteria	Nov 9	<i>William's</i> "The Self and the Future" *
Psychological Criteria	Nov 11	<i>Parfit & Vessey's</i> "Brain Transplants and Personal Identity" (RUQ p. 165-171)
<i>Second Paper Deadline & Last day to withdraw with a W</i>		
Metaethics: Realism, Relativism	Nov 16	<i>Nagel's</i> "The Objective Basis of Morality" <i>Richards's</i> "Relativism" (RUQ p. 379-384)
Non-Cognitivism	Nov 18	<i>Ayer's</i> "Critique of Ethics and Theology" *
—Thanksgiving Break—		
Norm. Ethics: Virtue Ethics	Nov 30	<i>Aristotle's</i> "Nichomachean Ethics" (RUQ p. 429-441) Ch. 8: What Ought We to Do? (p. 197-233)
Deontology	Dec 2	<i>Kant's</i> "Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals" (RUQ p. 407-415)
Consequentialism	Dec 7	<i>Bentham's</i> "The Principle of Utility" (RUQ p. 396-401) <i>Mill's</i> "Utilitarianism" *
Applied Ethics: Class Choice	Dec 9	<i>Singer's</i> "All Animals are Equal..." * (or similar)

Late Policy

If you turn in your paper early, you will get the chance to do a rewrite for a new grade. Late papers will be graded rigorously and handed back without comments.

NO PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE DATE OF THE FINAL EXAM. **No exceptions.**

Plagiarism and Cheating

If you plagiarize, I *will* catch you and burden you with the greatest possible penalty, academic or otherwise. Find out all about plagiarism and how you, too, can destroy your future career at plagiarism.duke.edu.

Communication

I urge you to contact me s via email. I will respond promptly (within a day or so at least—I hope).

Cell Phone & Laptop Policy

Cell phones must be turned off. No laptops allowed.

Academic Disabilities and Discrimination

If you have or believe you have a disability and would benefit from any accommodations, you may wish to self-identify by contacting the Student Disability Access Office at (919) 668-1267 as soon as possible.