

PHIL 3000: THE RATIONAL ANIMAL

Fall 2010

Instructor: Jennifer M. Morton

M & W 12:30-1:45pm

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Office Hours: M & W 10:00am-12:00pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The general aim of this course is to introduce students to central philosophical problems as well as the methods of philosophical argumentation and analysis. We will consider some of the following questions: How can we know there is an external world? What constitutes our identity as persons? If the world is entirely determined, can we still be free? What do moral theories have to tell us about the moral status of animals, war, abortion, and famine? Particular attention will be paid to the methods of contemporary philosophical analysis, which aim for clarity and rigor, writing, as well as argumentative strategies.

READING: All of the primary reading for this course will be posted on the course website <http://sites.google.com/site/therationalanimalfall2010/>

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: The requirements for this course will consist of two in-class exams, two 2-3 page papers, and class participation. We will also occasionally have in-class quizzes or assignments. Regular attendance is required.

Exam #1	15%
Paper	20%
Exam #2	25%
Paper #2	25%
In-Class Quizzes/Assignments	10%
Participation	5%

LATE POLICY: Late papers will only be accepted in cases of emergency AND arrangements must be made with the instructor at least 48 hours in advance. No exams will be issued after the exam date, except for in extreme medical circumstances with a doctor's note.

PLAGIARISM: Plagiarism and other forms of cheating will be subject to penalties in conformity with the College's policy on Academic Integrity.

	DAY	READING ASSIGNMENT
08/30	M	Introduction/Jim Pryor's "Guidelines on Reading Philosophy"
KNOWLEDGE OF THE EXTERNAL WORLD		
09/01	W	Descartes, Meditations I & II
09/06 NO CLASS (Labor day)		
09/08	W	<u>Writing Philosophy</u> Chapter 1
09/13	M	Moore, Proof of an External World (esp. pp 145-150)
09/15	W	<u>Writing Philosophy</u> Chapter 2
09/20	M	Unger, A Defense of Skepticism
09/22	W	Unger, A Defense of Skepticism
09/27	M	Exam #1
PERSONAL IDENTITY		
09/29	W	Locke, Of Identity and Diversity
10/04	M	Reid, Of Identity & Mr. Locke's Account / <u>Writing Philosophy</u> Chapter 3/Movie: Memento (Part i)
10/06	W	Movie: Memento (Part II)--Hume, Our Idea of Identity /Paper Topics Distributed
10/11 NO CLASS (Columbus Day)		
10/13	W	Hume, Our Idea of Identity/Paper Writing Workshop #1/ <u>Writing Philosophy</u> Chapter 4
10/18	M	Parfit, Personal Identity
10/20	W	Paper Writing Workshop #2
FREEDOM & DETERMINISM		
10/25	M	Paper #1 Due /Ayer, Freedom and Necessity
10/27	W	Ayer, Freedom and Necessity /Van Inwagen, The Incompatibility of Free Will & Determinism
11/01	M	Van Inwagen, The Incompatibility of Free Will & Determinism
11/03 NO CLASS		
11/08	M	Kane, Responsibility, Luck, and Chance
11/10	W	Strawson, Freedom and Resentment
PRACTICAL ETHICS		
11/15	M	Perry, Bratman & Fischer, Ethics & Society from an <u>Introduction to Philosophy</u> /Paper #2 Topics Distributed
11/17	W	Singer, All Animals Are Equal
11/22	M	Nagel, War and Massacre
11/24	W	NO CLASS
11/25-11/28 THANKSGIVING BREAK		
11/29	M	Thompson, A Defense of Abortion
12/01	W	Singer, Famine, Affluence, and Morality/Paper Plan Due
12/06	M	Wolf, Moral Saints/Exam Review
12/08	W	Final Paper Draft/Peer Review
12/13	M	Exam #2
12/17	M	Paper #2 Due via electronic submission