

Introduction to Philosophy (103)

Summer 2008 (7/7 – 8/13)
MTWR 10:10am – 12:00pm
Campbell Hall Rm. A3

Instructor: Jennifer Wang
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Office: Davison Hall, Room 138 (Douglass Campus)
Office hours: By appointment

Course Requirements: Students will be required to take two exams (one take-home midterm, one in-class final exam). They will also be expected to attend and participate in all classes.

Grading: Final grades will be determined as follows: Midterm 40%, Final 40%, Participation 20%. There will be a penalty of 10 points for each day the midterm exam is submitted late without a note from the Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences. There will be no make-ups for the in-class final exam without a note from the Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences.

The grading scale to be used is as follows:

A 90-100, B+ 85-89, B 80-84, C+ 75-79, C 70-74, D 60-69, F 0-59

Texts and Readings: There are two required books for this course:

- (1) *Problems from Philosophy*, James Rachels (McGraw-Hill; ISBN: 0072474238)
- (2) *Meditations on First Philosophy*, Rene Descartes (Hackett; ISBN: 0872201929)

This book is recommended, but not required:

- (3) *A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality*, John R. Perry (Hackett; ISBN: 0915144530)

All other readings will either be posted on Sakai (<https://sakai.rutgers.edu/>) or handed out in class.

Online Resources:

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, <http://plato.stanford.edu/>

The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy, <http://www.utm.edu/research/iep/>

Tentative Schedule of Topics and Readings:

Week One (7/7 – 7/10)

M: Introduction; Arguments

No readings

T: **Epistemology: Skepticism**

Descartes, *Meditations*: Synopsis, I–II

Recommended: Rachels, p.135-143

W: **Epistemology: Skepticism**

Locke, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (excerpt)

R: **Epistemology: Skepticism**

Berkeley, *Three Dialogues Between Hylas and Philonous* (excerpt)

Week Two (7/14-7/17)

M: **Epistemology: Theories of Justification**

Rachels, p.143-8; Elgin, “Non-Foundational Epistemology: Holism, Coherence, and Tenability”

T: **Epistemology: The Problem of Induction**

Hume, *Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding* (excerpt)

W: **Philosophy of Religion: The Existence of God**

Plato, “The Apology,” (excerpt); Aquinas, “The Five Ways”; Rachels, p. 10-22 (sections 2.1-2.3)

Recommended: Rachels, p.1-9

R: Philosophy of Religion: The Existence of God

Rachels, p.22-25; Anselm, "The Ontological Argument"

Week Three (7/21-7/24)

M: Philosophy of Religion: The Problem of Evil

Rachels, p.29-40; Hume, *Dialogues* part 10 (excerpt)

T: Philosophy of Religion: Pascal's Wager

"Pascal's Wager," SEP entry (online)

W: Identity Through Time

Chisholm, "Identity Through Time"

R: Identity Through Time Hand out midterms

Sider, "The Stage View and Temporary Intrinsic"

Week Four (7/28-7/31)

M: Personal Identity

Locke, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (excerpt); Rachels, p.55-70

T: Personal Identity

Parfit, "Personal Identity"

W: Mind and Body Midterms due

Rachels, p.71-88

Recommended: Rachels, p.88-100

R: Mind and Body

Jackson, "Epiphenomenal Qualia"

Week Five (8/4-8/7)

M: Free Will and Determinism

Rachels, p.119-134

Recommended: Rachels, p.101-118

T: Time

Lewis, "The Paradoxes of Time Travel"

W: Paradoxes

No readings

R: Ethics: Meta-ethics

Rachels, p.149-164

Week Six (8/11-8/13)

M: Ethics: Normative Ethics

Mill, *Utilitarianism* (excerpt)

T: Ethics: Applied Ethics

Thomson, "A Defense of Abortion," p.47-59

W: Final Exam (in class)