

PHIL 130-016
Philosophy & Persons
FALL 2017

Instructor: Daniel Skibra,

Time and Location: M, W, F 2:45-3:35pm, Mundelein Center, Room 507

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Office Hours: M, W 3:40- 4:40; Crown Center 334G

Course Description

This is the first course in the Philosophical Knowledge section of the Core Curriculum. It introduces students to the fundamental philosophical issues that bear on our understanding of persons. The unifying question is: What is a person? The course has three equally weighted components, each with its own unifying questions, namely:

- **Persons and Values.** What is value? When does something have value for a person, for instance in ethics, aesthetics, education, the environment, bioethics, and religion? What is the ground of, or basis for, value in human life? Are values culturally relative?
- **Persons and Knowledge.** What is it for persons to have knowledge, including knowledge in such areas as logic, science, morality, and religion?
- **Persons and Reality.** What exactly are persons, and how are they related to the entities acknowledged in religion (e.g., God and souls), metaphysics (e.g., substances and abstract entities), and science (e.g., matter and causal relations)?

Course Requirements

Assignments

Reading Quizzes/ small assignments: 5%

Paper 1 due **Nov 1** (Draft due **Oct 23**) (2-3 pages): 15%

Paper 2 due **Dec 1** (Draft due **Dec 8**) (4-5 pages): 20%

Mid-term 1 (**Oct 2**): 15%

Mid-term 2 (**Nov 3**): 15%

Final Exam: 20%

Class discussion/ participation: 10%

Notes on assignments

Resources for writing a philosophy paper:

- <http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/writing.html>

Course Policies

Attendance

You are required to attend the class meetings; attendance will be taken. However, I understand that emergencies arise, people get sick, and other factors may legitimately prevent you from coming to a particular class. Therefore, I will adopt the following attendance policy. Your grade will not be affected by up to **4** absences. You do not need to provide any kind of written excuse or justification for these absences (although you are welcome to provide them). However, more than three absences will begin to have an effect on your final grade, bringing your average down by a third of a grade for each additional day missed. *If at some point in the term you expect to miss more than this (due to a serious illness, for example), let me know as soon as you can, **before** you accumulate the absences!* It will be your responsibility to distribute your absences however you see fit. My advice: try not to use them. You never know when something comes up.

Importantly, you are responsible for the material covered in class. Any slides presented in class will be made available on Blackboard, but class time will often not be devoted to lecture, and material will not always be on the slides. There is simply no substitute for being in class.

Students with Disabilities

If you have a learning disability that requires special arrangements for note-taking in class, essay-writing, or sitting exams, please inform Student Services (Sullivan Center) at the beginning of the semester. After doing that, please inform me by the end of the first week. Student Services will not notify me: you must approach me, and I guarantee confidentiality.

Policy on Academic Integrity

In writing an essay, don't take a sentence from a book or website and put it into your essay without acknowledging the source. Doing so amounts to claiming the sentence or passage to be your own work. Plagiarism is cheating. It also prevents you from learning.

Please note: *That includes unintentional or accidental plagiarizing.*

Loyola's Principles and Policies for Academic Excellence states: "Loyola University Chicago has strict policies on incidents of plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and, in cases of the use of copyrighted material, a legal offense. Incidents of plagiarism are reported to the dean of the college in which the student is enrolled and a note is placed in the

student's file. The student receives an 'F' on the assignment and may receive an 'F' in the course. Serious or repeated incidents of plagiarism could result in permanent expulsion from the university."

If you and other student(s) prepare essays together, limit it to discussion and taking brief notes. Do not work together in writing the essay. Do not prepare for your essay by reading another student's essay, or let another student read yours when she is preparing her own. If the same sentence turns up in two students' essays, the instructor will assume that plagiarism has occurred, and both students may get an 'F' for the essay-assignment.

Extension Policy

The due dates for the assignments are as they appear on the syllabus. Late assignments will not be tolerated, and will accumulate deductions of one third of a letter grade for every day the assignment is late. If you think you will need an extension for an assignment, you need to request one at least two days before the due date. Do not ask after the date has passed, or the night before the deadline.

In-class Technology Policy

In this class, we will regularly engage in small group instruction and activities, as well as discussions with the whole class. Technology such as cell phones, tablets, and laptops easily become a distraction and create an obstacle to engagement during class time. For this reason, the policy of the class will be as follows. Do not use these devices during class time. Any lecture slides will be made available on the online course site, and any notes you might need to make should be taken by hand. Of course, exceptions will be made for adaptive devices. If you have a need for such a device, please consult the instructor.

Email/ Communication

The best way to reach me outside class is via email. However, give me 24-48 hours to respond during the week. If you email me after 5pm on Friday, don't expect a response until Monday morning. Most of the time, I will be able to respond to you sooner than this, but please plan your emails accordingly. When there is a paper due, get all of your questions to me 48 hours before the due date.

I will answer *simple, specific* questions over email pertaining to the course material or the logistics of the course. I can also address simple interpretive questions you have with the material, or arguments you are trying out for your papers. To address anything more involved, you'll need to meet with me in office hours. (I highly encourage you to come to office hours in any event.)

Participation

Participation in class discussion constitutes a significant part of your grade. You will be expected to attend class having done the readings and thought about them enough to discuss the arguments they make, to ask informed questions about them, and to engage with the other members of the class on these matters. Two expectations in service of these aims are worth making explicit. First, you'll need to be well-prepared, having read and thought about the assigned readings before class. Secondly, we will all need to foster a respectful, open environment where we can clarify, interpret and critically engage the philosophical issues dealt with in readings. Maintaining a respectful classroom atmosphere is crucial, and part of your responsibility.

Required Texts

- All required readings will be posted to the online course site. You do not need to buy a book for this class.

Reading Schedule*

*The readings should be completed by the date indicated. When a reading assignment is listed more than once, we will continue talking about this reading. It is *not* a new assignment.

Day	Date	Assignment	Length
MON	Aug 28	Hume- Appendix I of <i>An Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals</i>	6 PAGES
WED	Aug 30	Hume- Appendix I of <i>An Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals</i>	6 PAGES
FRI	Sept 1	Mill- Chapter 2 of <i>Utilitarianism</i>	18 PAGES
MON	Sept 4	Labor Day- no class	
WED	Sept 6	Mill- Chapter 4 of <i>Utilitarianism</i>	6 PAGES
FRI	Sept 8	Shafer-Landau- Chapter 11 of <i>Fundamentals of Ethics</i>	13 PAGES
MON	Sept 11	Shafer-Landau- Chapter 12 of <i>Fundamentals of Ethics</i>	17 PAGES
WED	Sept 13	Kant- <i>Theory and Practice</i>	12 PAGES
FRI	Sept 15	Kant- <i>Theory and Practice</i>	12 PAGES
MON	Sept 18	Aristotle- <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> : Book 1, Ch 7-13	21 PAGES
WED	Sept 20	Aristotle- <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> : Book 1, Ch 7-13	21 PAGES
FRI	Sept 22	Aristotle- <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> : Book 10, Ch 6-9	20 PAGES
MON	Sept 25	Aristotle- <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> : Book 10, Ch 6-9	20 PAGES
WED	Sept 27	Acquinas- <i>Summa Theologiae</i> I-II, Question 18	21 PAGES
FRI	Sept 29	Acquinas- <i>Summa Theologiae</i> I-II, Question 18	21 PAGES
MON	Oct 2	Mid Term 1	

Day	Date	Assignment	Length
WED	Oct 4	Boghossian- <i>the Social Construction of Knowledge</i>	17 PAGES
FRI	Oct 6	Boghossian- <i>the Social Construction of Knowledge</i>	17 PAGES
MON	Oct 9	Mid-semester Break- no class	
WED	Oct 11	Plato- <i>Theaetetus</i> excerpt	12 PAGES
FRI	Oct 13	Plato- <i>Theaetetus</i> excerpt	12 PAGES
MON	Oct 16	Descartes- <i>Meditation 1</i>	5 PAGES
WED	Oct 18	Descartes- <i>Meditation 2</i>	7 PAGES
FRI	Oct 20	Descartes- <i>Meditation 2</i>	7 PAGES
MON	Oct 23	Locke- <i>An Essay Concerning Human Understanding</i> , Book 2, excerpts from Ch 1-8	8 PAGES
WED	Oct 25	Locke- <i>An Essay Concerning Human Understanding</i> , Book 2, excerpts from Ch 9-14	10 PAGES
FRI	Oct 27	Zagzebski- <i>Virtues of the Mind</i>	11 PAGES
MON	Oct 30	Zagzebski <i>Virtues of the Mind</i>	11 PAGES
WED	November 1	Paper 1	
FRI	November 3	Mid Term 2	
MON	November 6	Plato- <i>Phaedo</i> 65a - 88a	21 PAGES
WED	November 8	Plato- <i>Phaedo</i> 65a - 88a	21 PAGES
FRI	November 10	Plato- <i>Phaedo</i> 65a - 88a	21 PAGES
MON	November 13	Descartes- <i>Meditation 6</i>	13 PAGES
WED	November 15	Descartes- <i>Meditation 6</i>	13 PAGES
FRI	November 17	Descartes- <i>Meditation 6</i>	13 PAGES
MON	November 20	Hume- Sec 7 of <i>Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding</i>	14 PAGES
WED	November 22	Thanksgiving break- no class	
FRI	November 24	Thanksgiving break- no class	
MON	November 27	Hume- Sec 7 of <i>Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding</i>	14 PAGES
WED	November 29	Hume- Sec 8 of <i>Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding</i>	18 PAGES
FRI	Dec 1	Hume- Sec 8 of <i>Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding</i>	18 PAGES
MON	Dec 4	Augustine- <i>On the Free Choice of the Will</i> , Book 1 Ch. 12 - 14	6 PAGES
WED	Dec 6	Augustine- <i>On the Free Choice of the Will</i> , Book 3 excerpts	12 PAGES
FRI	Dec 8	Review, Paper 2 due	
FRI	Dec 15	Final Exam: 4:15 pm	