INTRODUCTION TO PROBLEMS OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 2101
Summer 2019

Room: 3305 Boylan Hall
Days: Monday - Thursday
Start: June 3rd
End: July 9th

Instructor: Professor Lurz
Office: 3308 Boylan
Phone: 718-951-5311
Email: rlurz@brooklyn.cuny.edu
Office hours: Mon - Thurs 1:00 – 1:45 PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The aims of the course are to acquaint students with important philosophical works and theories in areas of knowledge, reality, and values; and to acquaint students with characteristic philosophical methods of analyzing concept and critically evaluating arguments in support of theories.

TEXTS & RESOURCES: All reading materials and resources for the courses are available online at: https://libguides.brooklyn.cuny.edu/phil2101

COURSE OBJECTIVES: By the end of the semester, students are expected to be able to clearly express (in writing and speech) a few seminal philosophical issues (e.g., freedom of the will, the question of personal identity, the possibility and extent of knowledge, the objective status of moral values) and philosophical theories (e.g., determinism, compatibilism, skepticism, idealism, realism, relativism, and dualism). Students are expected to be familiar with a number of important philosophical figures (e.g., Descartes, Kant, and Mill), and be able to interpret and analyze key selections from the writings of these figures. Finally, students are expected to be able to identify, explain, and evaluate philosophical arguments.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Six unit tests (80% overall course grade) and attendance/participation (20% overall course grade). Your lowest unit test grade will be dropped.

UNIT TESTS: All unit tests will consist of a multiple-choice section and a written-response section.

ATTENDANCE: Attendance is recorded every class. Students who do not show for class or arrive after attendance is called are marked absent.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: The faculty and administration of Brooklyn College support an environment free from cheating and plagiarism. Each student is responsible for being aware of what constitutes cheating and plagiarism and for avoiding both. The complete text of the CUNY Academic Integrity Policy and the Brooklyn College procedure for policy implementation can be found at www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/bc/policies. If a faculty member suspects a violation of academic integrity and, upon investigation, confirms that violation, or if the student admits the violation, the faculty member MUST report the violation.

Center for Student Disability Services: In order to receive disability-related academic accommodations students must first be registered with the Center for Student Disability Services. Students who have a documented disability or suspect they may have a disability are invited to set up an appointment with the Director of the Center for Student Disability Services, Ms. Valerie Stewart-Lovell at (718) 951-5538. If you have already registered with the Center for Student Disability Services, please provide your professor with the course accommodation form and discuss your specific accommodation with him/her.
Non-attendance because of religious beliefs: See College Bulletin

**GRADES:** A+ = 97-100; A = 93-96; A- = 90-92; B+ = 87-89; B = 83-86; B- = 80-82; C+ = 77-79; C = 73-76; C- = 70-72; D+ = 67-69; D = 63-66; D- = 60-62; F = 0-59

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<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6/6</td>
<td><strong>Unit 1: What is Philosophy?</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Reading: Excerpt from Chap. 1 of Nagel’s <em>What Does It All Mean?</em>&lt;br&gt;- PowerPoint: What is Philosophy?</td>
<td>6/27</td>
<td><strong>Unit 5: Ethical Theories</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Reading: Excerpt from Chapter II of Mill’s <em>Utilitarianism</em>; Excerpt from Kant’s <em>Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals</em>; Singer’s “Famine, Affluence, and Morality”&lt;br&gt;- PowerPoint: Ethics</td>
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<td>6/13</td>
<td><strong>Unit 2: Knowledge &amp; Certainty</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Reading: Descartes’ Meditation I (pp. 66-71)&lt;br&gt;- PowerPoint: Knowledge &amp; Certainty&lt;br&gt;<strong>Unit Test 1</strong></td>
<td>7/3</td>
<td><strong>Unit 6: Free Will</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Readings: Taylor’s “Freedom &amp; Determinism”&lt;br&gt;- PowerPoint: Two Concepts of Free Will&lt;br&gt;<strong>Unit Test 5</strong></td>
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<td>6/20</td>
<td><strong>Unit 3: Foundations of Knowledge</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Reading: Descartes’ Meditation II (pp. 71-79), III (pp. 79-93), VI (pp. 107-103), and Arnauld’s objection &amp; Descartes’ reply&lt;br&gt;- PowerPoint: Foundations of Knowledge&lt;br&gt;<strong>Unit Test 2</strong></td>
<td>7/9</td>
<td><strong>Unit 7: The Self &amp; Personal Identity</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Reading: Perry’s <em>A Dialogue on Personal Identity &amp; Immortality</em> (First and Second Nights)&lt;br&gt;- PowerPoint: The Nature of the Self&lt;br&gt;<strong>Unit Test 6</strong></td>
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