

INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY (01:730:103:90)  
SPRING 2017—RUTGERS UNIVERSITY  
Instructor: Nathaniel Flores  
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### 1. Course Location and Meeting Times

This is an online course and for the most part students will be free to view the lectures when it is most convenient for them to do so. There will be no in person meetings for the course.

### 2. Course Description

This course is meant to provide students with a basic introduction to philosophical argument and some of philosophy's perennial problems. Students taking this course will learn to present rigorous philosophical arguments and will be encouraged to form and defend their own opinions on the questions that we cover.

### 3. Course Material

All readings for this course will be made available through sakai. Lectures and assignments for the course will be posted weekly.

### 4. Grading Scale

A	B+	B	C+	C	D	F
85-100	80-84	70-79	65-69	55-64	50-54	0-49

### 5. Grading Scheme

Weekly Forum Posts (Starting week 4): 40%

First Writing Assignment: 15%

Second Writing Assignment: 20%

Third Writing Assignment: 25%

### 6. Topics and schedule for the course (Subject to change) (Readings for the course will be uploaded to Sakai the first day of each week)

1/18: What philosophy is

Week 1 (1/23-1/27): The art of argumentation

Week 2 (1/30-2/5): The art of argumentation

Week 3 (2/6-2/12): The art of argumentation

First writing assignment is due 2/12

Week 4 (2/13-2/19): Confronting uncertainty

First forum post is due 2/19 (will be due weekly after this point)

Week 5 (2/20-2/26): Confronting uncertainty

Week 6 (2/27-3/5): What is the right thing to do?

Week 7 (3/6-3/12): What is the right thing to do?

Week 8 (3/20-3/26): Freedom and agency

Second writing assignment is due 3/26  
Week 9 (3/27-4/2): Freedom and agency  
Week 10 (4/3-4/9): Freedom and agency  
Week 11 (4/10-4/16): What is valuable?  
Week 12 (4/17-4/23): What is valuable?  
Week 13 (4/24-4/30): What is valuable?  
5/1: What philosophy isn't  
Third Writing assignment is due 5/1

## 7. Academic Honesty

Students caught plagiarizing in forum posts or essays will be subject to consequences depending on the severity of the offense. In the worst case, students violating this policy may receive an F for the course and the case may be reported to the Rutgers Office of Student Conduct. Students are advised to familiarize themselves with the current Rutgers policy on academic integrity located at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>.

## **Student-Wellness Services:**

### **Just In Case Web App**

<http://codu.co/cee05e>

Access helpful mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis on your smartphone or tablet and easily contact CAPS or RUPD.

## **Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)**

(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901/ [www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/](http://www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/)

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

## **Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)**

(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / [www.vpva.rutgers.edu/](http://www.vpva.rutgers.edu/)

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and

faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.

### **Disability Services**

**(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>**

The Office of Disability Services works with students with a documented disability to determine the eligibility of reasonable accommodations, facilitates and coordinates those accommodations when applicable, and lastly engages with the Rutgers community at large to provide and connect students to appropriate resources.

### **Scarlet Listeners**

**(732) 247-5555 / <http://www.scarletlisteners.com/>**

Free and confidential peer counseling and referral hotline, providing a comforting and supportive safe space.