

INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

Philosophy 104 -- Fall Term, 2009

Sections 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08 & H1

Professor Stephen Stich

Ms. Lee-Sun Choi

Mr. Pavel Davydov

Mr. Ben Levinstein

Mr. Zachary Miller

I. LECTURES & DISCUSSION SECTIONS

The lectures are on Monday and Wednesday, 4:30 – 5:50 p.m. in 123 Scott Hall. All students must also be enrolled in one of the following discussion sections:

- 01 (M 6:25 – 7:20) in MU 114 – Mr. Levinstein
- 02 (M 6:25 – 7:20) in SC 103 – Mr. Davydov
- 03 (M 6:25 – 7:20) in SC 216 – Mr. Miller
- 04 (W 6:25 – 7:20) in SC 203 – Mr. Levinstein
- 05 (W 6:25 – 7:20) in SC 102 – Mr. Davydov
- 06 (W 6:25 – 7:20) in SC 116 – Mr. Miller
- 07 (M 6:25 – 7:20) in FH B1 – Ms. Choi
- 08 (W 6:25 – 7:20) in FH A3 – Ms. Choi
- H1 (M 6:25 – 7:20) in SC 206 – Prof. Stich

II. OFFICE HOURS

Professor Stich

Office: Seminary 3, 319

E-mail: [sstich@rucss.rutgers.edu](mailto:ssstich@rucss.rutgers.edu)

Office Hours: Wednesday, 3:00 – 4:10 & 6:00 – 7:00 & by appointment, in Seminary 3, 319

Ms. Choi

Office: Seminary 1, B003

E-mail: choi@philosophy.rutgers.edu

Office Hours: Wednesday, 2:00 – 4:00 & by appointment, in the Red Lion Café at the Student Center

Mr. Davydov

Office: Seminary 3, 110

E-mail: pdavydov@eden.rutgers.edu

Office Hours: Wednesday, 2:00 – 3:30 & by appointment, in Starbucks on George St.

Mr. Levinstein

Office: Seminary 1, B016

Email: blevinstein@philosophy.rutgers.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday, 2:00 – 3:30 & by appointment, in Seminary 1, B016

Mr. Miller

Office: Seminar 3, 016

E-Mail: zachary.john.miller@gmail.com

Office Hours: Wednesday, 1:30 – 3:00 & by appointment, in Au Bon Pain in the Student Center

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

i) Exams and Quizzes: There will be a **midterm exam** on Wednesday, October 7 during the regular lecture period and a **final exam** on Wednesday, December 23, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Both exams will be held in our regular lecture room, 123 Scott Hall. **[Please note:** We will not give make-up exams to accommodate your vacation plans. If your vacation plans make it impossible for you to attend the final exam, you should drop the course.] In addition, starting on September 21, there will be two short i>Clicker quiz questions in each lecture.

ii) Students will be required to write **two short papers**, each about 1000 - 1500 words in length. Topics and due dates are posted on the course web site.

In determining your final grade, work will be weighed as follows:

Papers	20% each (total = 40%)
Midterm	15%
Quizzes	20% (for details on how quizzes will be graded, see the course website)
Final Exam	25%

IV. ATTENDANCE POLICY

i) Lectures: Attendance in lectures is not required. However, starting on September 21, if you miss a lecture, you will also miss the two i>Clicker quiz questions in that lecture and your grade for those questions will be zero.

ii) Sections: Attendance in sections is required. You can miss two section meetings without penalty. After that, one point (on the 0 to 40 scale) will be deducted from your final grade for every meeting that you miss.

For further details on how the attendance policy will be administered, see the Attendance Policy statement on the course website.

V. TEXTS & ADDITIONAL READINGS ON THE WEB

The textbooks for the course are:

(i) James Rachels & Stuart Rachels, *Problems from Philosophy* (McGraw-Hill, ISBN: 9780073386607). Reading assignments in this volume are indicated by **R&R** followed by the page numbers.

(ii) John R. Perry, *A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality* (Hackett Publishing, ISBN: 0915144530). Reading assignments in this volume are indicated by **Perry** followed by the page numbers.

Traditional printed copies of both texts can be purchased at:

- (i) Rutgers University Book Store, Ferren Mall, 1 Penn Plaza, New Brunswick
- (ii) New Jersey Books, 108 Somerset St., New Brunswick
- (iii) Student Co-op Store, 57 Lipman Dr., Douglass Campus

An e-Textbook version of the Rachels & Rachels book can be purchased online at:
<http://www.coursesmart.com/>

A number of additional readings are available on the course website. Reading assignments available on the web are indicated by **WEB** followed by the reading number.

VI. I-CLICKER

Every student in the course will be required to have an i>Clicker. These can be purchased at New Jersey Books and at the Rutgers University Bookstore. After you obtain your i>Clicker, you should be sure to register it at <http://www.iclicker.com/registration/>

VII. WEB SITE

To access the course website, go to

<http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~stich/>

and click on Introduction to Philosophy.

TOPICS AND READINGS

Please Note: Revised and updated versions of the *Topics and Readings* may be posted from time to time. Whenever a change is made, it will be announced in lecture and in the Announcements section on the Philosophy 104 homepage.

September 2

Lecture Topic: Introduction to the Course

Reading:

- i) Policy on Academic Integrity (available on the class website)
- ii) Attendance Policy (available on the class website)
- iii) Policies on Behavior in the Classroom (available on the class website)

September 8 (Tuesday!)

Lecture Topic: The Philosophy of Religion – Basic Questions & Important Distinctions

Reading:

- i) Plato, *Apology*, **WEB # 1**
- ii) **R&R**, Ch. 1, 1-9

September 9

Lecture Topic: Three Classical Arguments for the Existence of God: Part I – The Cosmological & Teleological Arguments

Reading:

- i) **R&R**, Ch. 2, 10-25
- ii) Thomas Aquinas, “The Five Ways,” **WEB # 2**
- iii) William Paley, *Natural Theology*, **WEB # 3**

September 14 -- No Lecture

September 16

Lecture Topic: Three Classical Arguments for the Existence of God: Part II – The Teleological Argument (cont'd) & the Ontological Argument

Reading:

- i) Selections from Hume's *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion* (Parts 2, 5 & 9),
WEB # 4
- ii) Daniel Dennett, "Show Me the Science," **WEB # 5**
- iii) Anselm, "The Ontological Argument," **WEB # 6**
- iv) **R&R**, Ch. 2, 25-28

September 21

Lecture Topic: The Problem of Evil

Reading:

- i) **R&R**, Ch. 3, 29-40
- ii) Selection from Hume's *Dialogues* (Part 10), **WEB # 7**
- iii) John Mackie, "Free Will and the Problem of Evil," **WEB # 8**

September 23

Lecture Topic: Pascal's Wager

Reading:

- i) Paul Saka, "Pascal's Wager," **Web # 9**

September 28

Lecture Topic: William James on "The Will to Believe"

Reading:

- i) William James, "The Will to Believe," **WEB # 10**

September 30

Lecture Topic: Alvin Plantinga and the *Sensus Divinitatis* – Belief Justified by an Awareness of God

Reading:

- i) "An interview with Alvin Plantinga," **Web # 11**

October 5

Lecture Topic: Our Knowledge of the External World – Descartes' *Meditations on First Philosophy*

Reading:

- i) Descartes, Selections from *Meditations on First Philosophy*, **WEB # 12**

October 7

MID-TERM EXAM

October 12

Lecture Topic: Our Knowledge of the External World – Descartes' *Meditations on First Philosophy* (cont'd)

Reading:

- i) **R&R**, 135-148

October 14

Lecture Topic: Our Knowledge of the External World – Locke

Reading:

- i) Locke, Selections from *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, **WEB # 13**

October 19

Lecture Topic: Our Knowledge of the External World – Berkeley

Reading:

- i) Berkeley, Selections from *Three Dialogues Between Hylas and Philonous*, **WEB # 14**. (If you would like to read more than this brief selection, the complete text of Berkeley's *Three Dialogues Between Hylas and Philonous* is available online at **WEB # 15**.)

October 21

Lecture Topic: The Problem of Induction

Reading:

- i) Hume, Selections from *An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, **WEB # 16**

October 26

FIRST PAPER DUE

Lecture Topic: The Problem of Induction (cont'd)

Reading:

- i) Salmon, "An Encounter With David Hume," **WEB # 17**

October 28

Lecture Topic: Personal Identity

Reading:

- i) R&R, Ch. 4, 41-54
- ii) Perry, 1-18

November 2

Lecture Topic: Personal Identity

Reading:

- i) R&R, Ch. 5, 55-70
- ii) Perry, 19-36

November 4

Lecture Topic: Personal Identity

Reading:

- i) Perry, 37-49

November 9

Lecture Topic: Free Will and Determinism

Reading:

- i) James, "The Dilemma of Determinism," **WEB # 18**

November 11

Lecture Topic: Free Will and Determinism

Reading:

- i) R&R, Ch. 8, 101-118 & Ch. 9, 119-134

November 16

Lecture Topic: The Mind-Body Problem & The Problem of Other Minds

Reading:

- i) R&R, Ch. 6, 71-88
- ii) Lycan, "The Mind-Body Problem," **WEB # 19**

November 18

Lecture Topic: The Mind-Body Problem & The Problem of Other Minds

Reading:

- i) R&R, Ch. 7, 89-100
- ii) Searle, "Minds, Brains & Programs," **WEB # 20**

November 23

Lecture Topic: Ethics – i) Basic Concepts; ii) Does Morality Depend on Religion?

Reading:

- i) R&R, Ch. 11, 149-164
- ii) Plato, Selections from *Euthyphro*, **WEB # 21**
- iii) R&R, Ch. 12, 165-173

November 30

Lecture Topic: Ethics – Subjectivism & Cultural Relativism

Reading:

- i) Rachels, "Subjectivism in Ethics," **WEB # 22**
- ii) Rachels, "The Challenge of Cultural Relativism," **WEB # 23**

December 2

Lecture Topic: Ethics – Emotivism & The Ideal Observer Theory

Reading:

- i) A. J. Ayer, "Critique of Ethics," **WEB # 24**
- ii) R. Firth, "Ethical Absolutism and the Ideal Observer," **WEB # 25**

December 7

Lecture Topic: Ethics – Emotivism & The Ideal Observer Theory

Ethics – Utilitarianism

Reading:

- i) Mill, "Utilitarianism," **WEB # 26**
- ii) R&R, Ch. 12, 173-179

December 9

SECOND PAPER DUE

Lecture Topic: Ethics – Deontological Views and Kant's Categorical Imperative

Reading:

- i) Rachels, "Are There Absolute Moral Rules?" **WEB # 27**

Reminder: The final exam is on Wednesday, December 23, from 8:00 a.m. to 11: 00 a.m. in our regular lecture room.