



## **PH 125 Introduction to Philosophy Fall 2010**

Time: Wednesday & Friday 2:30 – 3:45  
Location: Airhart Theatre

Instructor Information:  
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### **Course Description**

The course introduces students to the broad survey of the Western philosophical tradition. Special attention will be given to enduring philosophical issues including, but not limited to, the nature of reality and knowledge, the existence of God, the mind/body problem, freewill and determinism, value theory and ethics.

### **Course Objectives**

1. Students should learn the classical philosophical positions regarding the fields of metaphysics, epistemology, and axiology.
2. Students should gain knowledge of the most prominent historical contributors to the Western philosophical tradition.
3. Students should develop an appreciation for the invaluable contribution that philosophy has made to other disciplines and fields such as science, politics, law, education, and theology.

### **Textbook & Other Required Readings**

- The required textbook is available in printed or e-book form.
- For the e-book ...
- 1. Go to <http://create.mcgraw-hill.com/shop/>
- 2. Search for and select book by Title, ISBN, Author, or State/School.

ISBN: 9781121015722

Title: ***Introduction to Philosophy***

3. Add the book to your cart and pay using a credit card or access code.

- Students will need to access a small number of electronic readings.

## Course Requirements

- 1. Midterm Examination** 20%
  - October 27<sup>th</sup>
- 2. Research Paper** 30%
  - Due: November 24<sup>th</sup> @ 2:30 PM
  - A separate handout regarding topics, format guidelines, and late policy will be available on Moodle.
- 3. Final Exam** 50%
  - Date: Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> 1:00 – 4:00 in Airhart.
  - Students must pass the final exam to ensure a passing grade in the course. A student who performs well during the term but fails the final exam may fail the course.
  - Students should refrain from scheduling flights or travel of any sort that will conflict with the Final Examination schedule. Final examinations will not be rescheduled to accommodate travel arrangements.

**Grading:** The available letters for course grades are as follows:

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>GPA</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
A+	4.0		96-100 %
A	4.0	Exceptional	91-95 %
A-	3.7		86-90 %
B+	3.3		82-85 %
B	3.0	Exceeds Expectations	75-81 %
B-	2.7		72-74 %
C+	2.3		68-71 %
C	2.0	Meets Expectations	63-67 %
C-	1.7		60-62 %
D+	1.3		56-59 %
D	1.0	Minimal Pass	50-55 %
F	0.0	Failure	49 < %

## Important Dates

- Last day to enter a course without permission and to withdraw from course and receive tuition refund is September 17<sup>th</sup>.

- Last day to withdraw from courses or change to audit without academic penalty is November 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Last day to request revised time for a final examination is November 29<sup>th</sup>.

## Important Notes

- Students are responsible to check their Ambrose e-mail account regularly. E-mail may be used to notify students of cancelled classes or other important details relating to the course.
- Use of cell phones, recording devices, head phones, and all other non-essential technology is **prohibited**. **Text messaging** during class is **absolutely prohibited**.
- **Lap top computers are prohibited** from general use during class. Exceptions may be made on a case by case basis for students with relevant disabilities. Lap tops used for purposes unrelated to taking lecture notes are prohibited.
- Students are expected to respect the learning environment of the classroom. Make every attempt to be on time and to remain seated until the class session ends. Keep unnecessary conversations to a minimum as they are distracting to both the instructor and fellow classmates.
- *Ambrose is committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university college. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar and the Student Handbook that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean.*
- *Personal information, that is information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual, may be collected as a requirement as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at [privacy@ambrose.edu](mailto:privacy@ambrose.edu).*
- *Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a "Course Extension." Alternative times for final examinations cannot be scheduled without prior approval. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar's Office by the appropriate deadline. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."*
- *Students are advised to retain a copy of this syllabus for their records.*

# PH 125 COURSE OUTLINE<sup>1</sup>

Sept 8 Introduction  
Sept 10 "In the beginning" ... *Euthyphro*, etc.

## **Epistemology**

- From September 15<sup>th</sup> to October 1<sup>st</sup> we will examine questions like: 'what is knowledge?'; 'how is knowledge acquired?'; 'what is truth?'. Textbook readings include Chapters 2 through 10 (pages 23—206).

Sept 15 What is knowledge? Plato and Gettier  
Sept 17 Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz: Rationalism and Skepticism

Sept 22 Locke, Hume, and Empiricism  
Sept 24 Kant & Critical Philosophy

Sept 29 James, Russell, and Truth Theory  
Oct 1 Postmodernism and Feminist Epistemology

## **Metaphysics**

- From October 6<sup>th</sup> to November 5<sup>th</sup> we will examine the nature of reality, focusing on materialism/physicalism, idealism, and dualism. Personal identity and immortality will also be examined. Textbooks readings include Chapters 11 through 17 (pages 207–346).

Oct 6 What is reality? Locke, Berkeley, et al  
Oct 8

Oct 13 What is human being? Dualism and Materialism  
Oct 15 Philosophy of Science: O'Hare and Quantum Mechanics

Oct 20 Spiritual Emphasis Day – No Classes  
Oct 22 Philosophy and Fashionable Nonsense: The Sokal Affair

Oct 27 **Midterm Exam**  
Oct 29

Nov 3 Do I have self identity? Hume, Reid, and Dennett  
Nov 5 Am I immortal? Plato and Penelhum

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<sup>1</sup> This course outline is provisional and may, at the discretion of the instructor, require revision over the course of the term. The instructor reserves the right to deviate from the outline to accommodate, amongst other things, timely issues or pressing concerns.

### ***Freewill & Determinism***

- Supplemental Readings will be provided. Part 5 from Stumpf & Abel is recommended.

Nov 10      Indeterminism, Determinism, Compatibilism

Nov 12      *Akrasia* and weakness of will

### ***Philosophy of Religion***

- From November 17<sup>th</sup> to November 24<sup>th</sup> we will examine questions regarding the existence of God, religious knowledge, and the problem of evil. Textbook readings will include Chapters 18 and 19 (pages 347--406).

Nov 17      Existence of God

Nov 19      Knowledge of God

Nov 24      **Research Paper Due @ 2:30**

### ***Ethics and Moral Philosophy***

- November 26 to December 8<sup>th</sup> we will examine issues in moral philosophy focusing on moral motivation, normative theories, virtue ethics, and existentialism. Textbook readings will include Chapters 20 through 26 (pages 407—505).

Nov 26

Dec 1

Dec 3

Dec 8