

PHILOSOPHY 102: AN INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY

An introduction to the main problems of philosophy and its methods of inquiry, analysis, and criticism. Works of important philosophers will be read. **Spring, 2012, Section 801**

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Student Learning Outcomes:

- The student will have an understanding of the vocabulary of philosophy,
- The student will have a historical understanding of the history of western philosophy,
- The student will be able to read, understand, and discuss difficult philosophical passages,
- The student will be able to present philosophical opinions in a written format.

Conduct of the Course: Philosophy 102 is primarily a discussion course. Each class will begin with a lecture that will include historical and biographical information about the topic and author, but students will have ample opportunity to bring their own perspectives to the discussions. Each class session will cover a portion of our text, and it is therefore imperative that students read the assigned readings in order to prepare for the discussions.

Required Textbook: *Introducing Philosophy*, by Robert C. Solomon, 9th ed., is required of each student. Copies are available in the USCL bookstore. Photocopied articles will also be provided during the term.

Grading: There will be three tests and a final exam. Each test will cover approximately 33% of the course material. The three grades will be averaged equally to determine 50% of the course grade. The student will also take a final exam that covers all course material. The exam will count 50% of the course grade. If the exam grade is higher than the test average, the exam grade will be awarded as the course grade. A student may exempt the final exam by averaging a B or higher on all three test grades, and that average will be awarded as the course grade.

Attendance: Roll will be taken at the beginning of each class. Any student missing more than 10% of the class periods may be subject to grade penalty (please refer to the *U.S.C. Undergraduate Bulletin*). Students who come in after the roll is taken must come up after class to make sure an adjustment to the roll sheet is made.

Disturbances and Academic Honesty: No electronic recording devices may be used during class without prior approval. All cell phones and pagers must be turned off during class. Neither improper behavior nor cheating will be tolerated during this class, and either may result in sanctions up to and including removal from the class with a grade of F.

PHIL 102 Course Outline – The course should proceed according to the following schedule. Sessions are the traditional Fall and Spring schedule sessions and alternative schedules (e.g. Summer or Eight Week sessions) will be adjusted accordingly.

Session	Topic	Philosopher	Reading
1.	Introduction to Philosophy		
2.	Epistemology & Skepticism	Pyrrho & Russell	185-8
3.	Rationalism	Descartes	199-200
4.	Empiricism	Locke	201-3
5.	Idealism	Berkeley	213-21
6.	Pragmatism	Peirce	handout
7.	Philosophy of Religion	Pascal	1153
8.	God's Existence	Anselm & Aquinas	130-3, 140-4
9.	Teleological Proofs	Paley & Morrison	handout
10.	Counter Arguments	Russell	handout
11.	Test # 1		
12.	Problem of Evil	Leibniz & Voltaire	102-7
13.	Free Will & Evil	St. Augustine	155-9
14.	Free Will	James	151-2
15.	Ethics & Hedonism	Benedict & Epicurus	515-9
16.	Virtue Ethics	Aristotle	479-91
17.	Duty Ethics	Kant	500-12
18.	<i>Beyond Good and Evil</i>	Nietzsche	178-9
19.	Test # 2		
20.	Social & Political	Hobbes	567-72
21.	Democracy	Mencken	Lecture only
22.	Communism	Marx	Lecture only
23.	Metaphysics & Materialism	Epicurus & Lucretius	49-51
24.	Dualism	Plato & Aristotle	65-72, 79-80
25.	Idealism	Spinoza	92-100
26.	Test # 3		
27.	Absurdism & Existentialism	Tolstoy & Sartre	Lecture only
28.	Exam Review		