

Introduction to Philosophy

Instructor: Jeff Carroll

Course Time: Tu/Th 11:30-12:45pm

Email: jcarro@bgsu.edu

Office Hours: Th 1:00-2:00pm, Shatzel 308
(or by appointment or on Zoom)

Course Location: CLHL 111

Course Description

This course introduces philosophy. The course is broken down into six units. The first unit is a crash course on *logic*. The second is on *metaphysics* which asks big questions about what exists. The third is on *epistemology* which concerns questions about knowledge. The fourth is on *ethics*, while the fifth is on *political philosophy*. Finally, the class will decide what topics to cover in the sixth unit.

Assignments:

- Participation: 20%
- Quizzes: 30%
- Midterm: 15% Due Date: **10/12**
- Paper: 20% Due Date: **TBA**
- Final: 15% Due Date: **12/15**
- **Students decide how to allocate the remaining 80% of the grade. It is stipulated that: (1) w, x, y, and z must *each* be equal to or greater than 5, and, (2) w, x, y, and z must sum to 80.

*No textbook is required for this course. Readings will be posted on Canvas.

Schedule: (Tentative and Subject to Revision as Needed)

Unit 1: What Is Philosophy?

- Th 8/26: Introduction
- Tu 8/31: Argument Bootcamp, Day 1
- Th 9/2: Argument Bootcamp, Day 2
- Tu 9/7: Argument Bootcamp, Day 3
- Th 9/9: Argument Bootcamp, Day 4

Unit 2: Metaphysics

- Tu 9/14: Anselm, "The Ontological Argument"
- Th 9/16: **NO CLASS! (Watch [Crash Course Video on Aquinas](#))**

Tu 9/21: Eleonore Stump, “The Problem of Evil”

Th 9/23: Pascal, “The Wager” from *Pensées*

Unit 3: Epistemology

Tu 9/28: Descartes, “Meditation I: What Can Be Called Into Doubt” from *Meditations on First Philosophy*

Th 9/30: David Hume, “Of Skepticism with Regard to the Senses” from *A Treatise of Human Nature*

Tu 10/5: John Perry, “A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality”

Th 10/7: Miranda Fricker, “Testimonial Injustice”, Ch.1 in *Epistemic Injustice*

Tu 10/12: **MIDTERM**

Unit 4: Ethics

Th 10/14: **NO CLASS! (Fall Break)**

Tu 10/19: Exam Debrief and Mid-course Reflections

Th 10/21: Immanuel Kant, Selections from *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals*

Tu 10/26: John Stuart Mill, Selections from *Utilitarianism*

Th 10/28: Peter Singer, “Famine, Affluence and Morality”

Tu 11/2: Judith Thomson, “In Defense of Abortion”

Th 11/4: Don Marquis, “Why Abortion is Immoral”

Unit 5: Political Philosophy

Tu 11/9: Aristotle, Selections from *Politics*

Th 11/11: **NO CLASS! (Veterans Day)**

Tu 11/16: Thomas Hobbes, Selections from *Leviathan*

Th 11/18: John Rawls, Selections from *A Theory of Justice*

Tu 11/23: **NO CLASS! (Thanksgiving Break)**

Th 11/25: **NO CLASS! (Thanksgiving Break)**

Tu 11/30: Robert Nozick, Selections from *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*

Unit 6: You Decide!

Th 12/2: James Rachels, "Active and Passive Euthanasia"

Tu 12/7: Thomas Nagel, "Death"

Th 12/9: **Review for Final Exam**

Final Exam: Wednesday, Dec. 15th, 11:30a.m.-2:00p.m.