

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
PHIL 201 Lec 01
“Mind, Matter, and God”
Fall 2009

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Course Description:

This course is an introduction to some important issues in the philosophical domains of epistemology, metaphysics, and the philosophy of religion. In particular, we will examine philosophical discussions about the nature and scope of human knowledge, how the mental relates to the physical, the possibility of free will, and whether it is possible to reconcile the existence of an all-good, all-powerful God with the apparent existence of evil and suffering.

Texts:

REQUIRED:
Course Pack, available at Bound and Copied

Graded Work:

- 1) Two ***papers***, the first 3-5 pages long (worth 20%), due October 15th, the second 4-6 pages long (worth 25%), due the last day of class (December 8th). ***Late papers will be marked down 1/3 of a grade for each day they are late, up to 4 letter grades. Papers not turned in will receive a zero.***
- 2) A take-home ***midterm exam*** (worth 20%), due October 20th.
- 3) A ***Registrar-scheduled final exam*** (worth 25%).
- 4) ***Tutorial*** performance (worth 10%).

Letter Grades translate to numerical values according to the following scheme:

A+: 98.33	B+: 88.33	C+: 78.33	D+: 68.33	F: 55
A+/A: 96.67	B+/B: 86.67	C+/C: 76.67	D+/D: 66.67	
A: 95	B: 85	C: 75	D: 65	
A/A-: 93.33	B/B-: 83.33	C/C-: 73.33		
A-: 91.67	B-: 81.67	C-: 71.67		
A-/B+: 90	B-/C+: 80	C-/D+: 70		

Final Grades are computed by rounding to the nearest recognized letter grade.

Disclaimer Page

INTELLECTUAL HONESTY

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. As a result, cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as an extremely serious academic offence, the penalty for which may be an F on the assignment and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. The University Calendar states that plagiarism exists when:

- *the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test;*
- *parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;*
- *the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source; and/or*
- *a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.*

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Plagiarism is an extremely serious offence. Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

STUDENTS' UNION REPRESENTATIVE

The Humanities Representative is Britney Luimes, MSC 251,
humanitiesrep@su.ucalgary.ca or 220-3913.

Syllabus

Part I: Metaphysics and Epistemology

Part Ia: Knowledge

9/8, Tues: Intro	Intro
9/10, Thurs: What is Knowledge?	Plato, Theaetetus, selection
9/15, Tues: Can We Know Anything?	Descartes, <i>Meditation</i> I
9/17, Thurs: Descartes' Foot in the Door	Descartes, <i>Meditation</i> II, part 1
9/22, Tues: What Descartes' Foot Requires	Descartes, <i>Meditation</i> III, part 1
9/24, Thurs: The Common Sense Solution	Moore, selections
9/29, Tues: What is an Expository Essay?	Essay 1 Assigned

Part Ib: Mind and Body

10/1, Thurs: Dualism About the Self	Descartes, <i>Meditation</i> II, part 2
10/6, Tues: Mental Causation	Princess Elisabeth, Correspondence with Descartes
10/8, Thurs: Materialism About the Mind	Smart, "Sensations and Brain Processes," selection
10/13, Tues: The Knowledge Argument for Dualism	Jackson, "What Mary Didn't Know", selection
10/15, Thurs: A Paradox!	Newcomb's Problem Essay 1 Due

Part II: Philosophy of Religion

Part IIa: Statement of the Problem

10/20, Tues: The Argument from Evil	Evil Readings: Dostoevsky, selection Description of kidnapping Description of Famine Take Home Midterm Exam Due
10/22, Thurs: Against Greater Good Responses	Mackie, "Evil and Omnipotence," part 1

Part IIb: Free Will

10/27, Tues: A Free Will Response	Hick, "Soul Making Theodicy"
10/29, Thurs: Mackie's Difficulty for Free Will Responses	Mackie, "Evil and Omnipotence," selection 2
11/3, Tues: A Free Will "Case Study"	Law and Order, "Pro Se"

11/5, Thurs: Free Will and Neuroscience	Roskies, "Neuroscientific Challenges to Free Will"
11/10, Tues: Further Difficulties for Free Will	Strawson, "Luck Swallows Everything"
11/17, Tues: How to Integrate Sources	Essay 2 Assigned

Part IIc: Further Responses to the Problem of Evil

11/19, Thurs: God and Morality	Plato, Euthyphro, selection
11/24, Tues: The Christian Bible's Response	The Book of Job, selection
11/26, Thurs: Making Up for Suffering	Stump, "The Mirror of Evil"

Part IId: Belief and Evidence

12/1, Tues: Three Parables	Flew, Hare, and Mitchell, "Theology and Falsification"
12/3, Thurs: Belief Without Evidence	Clifford, "The Ethics of Belief"
12/8, Tues: Wrap-Up and Exam Review	Essay 2 Due