

**PHILOSOPHY 1200 (A01) – INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY  
COURSE SYLLABUS**

0930-1030 MWF  
Tier 215

Instructor: Dave Hampton  
St. Paul's College 233

Email: [valaruakar68@hotmail.com](mailto:valaruakar68@hotmail.com) (please use this hotmail address, *not* my UofM webmail address)  
Office Hours: 1230-1330 MW

Course Description: The overall objective of this course is to provide the student with an understanding of the scope and concerns of philosophy as well as the 'tools' of philosophical inquiry – critical reasoning. In pursuing the former this course will provide the student with an introduction to three of the core fields within philosophy: axiology (value theory), epistemology (theory of knowledge), and metaphysics (the nature of reality). In the value theory section of the course we will examine the nature of morality (meta-ethics), ethical theory and applied ethics. In the theory of knowledge section of the course we will examine the challenge of scepticism and the student will be introduced to the traditional theories of knowledge. In the nature of reality section of the course we will consider the nature of the mind and human agency.

Required Text: .Rauhut, N., and Bass, R., *Readings on Ultimate Questions – An Introduction to Philosophy* 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed., (Pearson, 2010)

Student Evaluation:

Short Essays	40%
Mid-Term Examination	30%
Final Examination	30%

Important Note: Final course grades are subject to the approval of the Faculty of Arts and may be subject to change in order to fall within the parameters set by this Faculty.

Evaluation Explanations:

Short Essays: There will be two short essays due throughout the session (Nov 2 and Feb 29). Essay topics will be distributed by the instructor prior to the due dates. Essays must be typed and should be no more than 1500 words in length (approximately 6 typed pages). Each essay will be worth 20% of the student's course grade.

Examinations: There will be a mid-term and a final examination. The mid-term exam will be scheduled during the regular December exam period and the final exam will be scheduled in the regular April exam period. Both exams will consist of short answer questions and an essay question. Each exam will be worth 30% of the student's course grade.

Late Policy: Overdue work will only be accepted with a documented medical excuse or on the basis of a serious personal crisis. Note that failing to manage one's time is not a 'serious personal crisis.'

Academic Dishonesty: Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on plagiarism, cheating and examination impersonation (see Section 7 of the University of Manitoba Undergraduate Calendar, 2011-12).

Approximate Grade Scale:

A+	93%+	A	87-92%	B+	80-86%	B	74-79%
C+	68-73%	C	62-67%	D	55-61%	F	<55%

## APPROXIMATE SCHEDULE

Sept 9 Sept 12, 14, 16	Course Introduction & Expectations <b>What is Philosophy?</b> Read Kant, "What is Enlightenment?" (pp. 2-7), Russell, "The Value of Philosophy" (pp. 27-30), excerpt from J.S. Mill's "On Liberty" (handout)
Sept 19-30	<b>Philosophical Argument through Philosophy of Religion</b> Read Aquinas, "The Five Ways" (pp. 276-278), Rahut, "The Ontological Argument" (pp. 278-284) and Trueblood, "The Evidential Value of Religious Experience" (pp. 265-275)
Oct 3	Essay 1 Topics Distributed – Tips for Essay Composition
Oct 5, 7, 12	Read Johnson, "The Problem of Evil" (pp. 336-341) and Swinburne, "Why God Allows Evil" (pp. 341-351)
Oct 10	Thanksgiving – No classes
Oct 14-26	<b>Metaphysics: The Nature of Mind</b> Read Bisson, "They're Made Out of Meat" (pp. 197-199), Churchland, "A Critique of Dualism" (pp. 202-214) and Foster, "A Defense of Dualism" (pp. 214-218)
Oct 28-Nov 2	<b>Free Will &amp; Determinism</b> Read Taylor, "Determinism" (pp. 76-79), and Stace, "Compatibilism" (pp. 79-86)
Nov 2	<b>Essay 1 Due</b>
Nov 4-18 Nov 11	Read Chisholm, "Human Freedom and the Self" (pp. 106-113) and Kane, "Libertarianism" (pp. 114-131) Remembrance Day – No classes
Nov 21-Dec 1	<b>Personal Identity</b> Read Reid, "A Critique of Locke's Theory of Personal Identity" (pp. 161-165), Parfit & Vesey, "Brain Transplants and Personal Identity" (pp. 165-171) and excerpt from Pojman, <i>Pursuit of Wisdom</i> , chapter 19
Dec 5, 7	First Half Review & Tips for the Mid-Term Exam
Jan 4 Jan 6-11	Introduction to the Second Half <b>Epistemic Norms</b> Read Clifford, "The Ethics of Belief" (pp. 351-356)
Jan 13-30	<b>Skepticism &amp; Cartesian Foundationalism</b> Read Descartes, "Meditations 1 and 2" (pp. 32-41) and Huemer, "The Lure of Radical Skepticism" (pp. 47-57)
Feb 1-10 Feb 1	<b>Empiricism &amp; Rationalism</b> Read Locke, "Essay Concerning Human Understanding" (pp. 62-70) and Bonjour, "A <i>Priori</i> Justification" (pp. 70-74) Essay 2 Topics Distributed
Feb 13-17 Feb 20-24	<b>Social Epistemology</b> Read Hardwig, "Epistemic Dependence" (handout) Mid-Term Break – No classes
Feb 27, 29 Feb 29	<b>Axiology: Meta-ethics</b> Read Nagel, "The Objective Basis of Morality" (pp. 379-382), Richards, "Relativism" (pp. 383-385) and excerpt from Rachels, "The Challenge of Cultural Relativism" (handout) <b>Essay 2 Due</b>
Mar 2	<b>Moral Agency</b> Read Nagel, "Moral Luck" (handout)
Mar 5-21	<b>Normative Theories of Ethics: Theories of the Good and of the Right</b> Read Aristotle, "Nicomachaen Ethics" (pp. 429-442), Bentham, "The Principle of Utility" (pp. 396-401), Kant, "Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals" (pp. 407-416) and Langton, "Maria von Hebert's Challenge to Kant" (pp. 416-429)
Mar 23-30	<b>Applied Ethics</b> Read DeGrazia, "Regarding the Last Frontier of Bigotry" (pp. 442-449) and Cohen, "Do Animals Have Rights?" (pp. 450-460)
Apr 2, 4	Second Half Review & Tips for the Final Exam