This is a sample syllabus for PHI2010. Students should reference the section syllabus provided at the beginning of the semester for specifics regarding assignments and grade assignments.
Instructor:
Email:
Office:
Office Hours:

Teaching Assistants: see TA Information Sheet

For office hour meetings, please make appointments ahead of time.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will be an introduction to some of the main questions in philosophy. We will begin with the question of whether there is good reason to believe that God exists. We will examine the nature of right and wrong and what makes a human life meaningful. Next we will consider whether we have free will and are morally responsible for what we do, and finally we will examine the relation of mind and body.

Students will be introduced to longstanding philosophical problems and to competing views on the issues we address. An emphasis will be placed on understanding and assessing arguments for and against various positions. Philosophical issues are complex; you will have to think hard!

The course will provide students with an opportunity to critically examine and develop their own views.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

By the end of the course, students will demonstrate the ability to:

- recognize philosophical problems;
- identify major philosophical theories and leading proponents of these theories;
- understand the main ideas of various philosophical theories; and
- articulate and evaluate philosophical arguments for and against these theories.

This course has been approved to meet FSU’s Liberal Studies Ethics requirement and is designed to help you become an ethically engaged citizen and a logical thinker. By the end of the course, students will:

- evaluate various ethical positions; and
• describe the ways in which historical, social, or cultural contexts shape ethical perspectives.

COURSE MATERIALS


The book is available at the FSU Bookstore and Bill’s Bookstore. An ebook can be purchased from the publisher at:

https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://www.cengage.com/c/reason-andresponsibility-readings-in-some-basic-problems-of-philosophy-16e-feinberg/9781305502444PF/__;!!PhOWcWs!kHyCXggsWgmkgi557Bn8aXB0bLDc-88O9 uxOlkH8S_4RoUVmAejqFe5X68FTtM$

CLASS MEETINGS

*Since there will be graded work at most class meetings, you will not be able to do well in this course unless you regularly attend class.*

To take quizzes and to complete in-class writing assignments, you should have a laptop, tablet, or phone with which you can access the course Canvas site.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

ASSIGNMENTS

1. Reading assignments are given in the schedule for class meetings (below). Students are expected to have read the assignment for a given meeting prior to that class. Graded quizzes will be given on the assigned reading material.

2. There will be graded quizzes at class meetings for which readings are assigned. These will cover the assigned readings. There will be no make-ups of the quizzes. However, your six lowest quiz grades, including missed quizzes, will be dropped.

You are not allowed to take the quizzes when you are not in class. And you are not allowed to work with others, use books or notes, or use any web sources when taking the quizzes.

3. There will be several in-class graded writing assignments. There will be no make-ups. However, your three lowest grades for this assignment, including missed assignments, will be dropped.
You are not allowed to submit the in-class writing assignments when you are not in class. And you are not allowed to work with others, use ChatGPT or any other AI, or use any web sources when working on the writing assignments.

4. There will be three graded exams, each covering approximately one-third of the course. The answers will be essays. You will need to bring a blue exam book to class on each exam day.

You are not allowed to work with others, use books or notes, use ChatGPT or any other AI, or use any web sources when taking the exams.

**GRADE CALCULATION**

- Quizzes………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………10%
- Writing Assignments…………………………………………………………22%
- Exams………………………………………………………………………………68%

**ABSENCES**

If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed and to get notes and handouts.

**GRADING SCALE**

- 93-100    A
- 90-92.99   A-
- 87-89.99    B+
- 83-86.99    B
- 80-82.99    B-
- 77-79.99    C+
- 73-76.99    C
- 70-72.99    C-
- 67-69.99    D+
- 63-66.99    D
- 60-62.99    D-
- 0-59.99     F
## SCHEDULE FOR CLASS MEETINGS (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 10</td>
<td>Course Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 12</td>
<td>God and Belief</td>
<td>The Teleological Argument</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Pp. 59-64 (Paley, “The Argument from Design”)</td>
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<td>Jan. 17</td>
<td>The Teleological Argument</td>
<td>The Teleological Argument</td>
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<td>Pp. 76-82 (Part II), 88-90 (Part V), 93-96 (Part VII) (Hume, “Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion,” indicated parts)</td>
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<td>Jan. 19</td>
<td>The Cosmological Argument</td>
<td>The Cosmological Argument</td>
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<td>Pp. 49-59 (Clarke, “A Modern Formulation of the Cosmological Argument”; Rowe, “The Cosmological Argument”)</td>
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<td>Jan. 24</td>
<td>The Cosmological Argument</td>
<td>The Cosmological Argument</td>
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<td>Pp. 49-59 (Clarke, “A Modern Formulation of the Cosmological Argument”; Rowe, “The Cosmological Argument”)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 26</td>
<td>The Ontological Argument</td>
<td>The Ontological Argument</td>
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<td>Jan. 31</td>
<td>The Ontological Argument</td>
<td>The Ontological Argument</td>
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<td>Pp. 36-47 (Rowe, “The Ontological Argument”)</td>
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<td>Feb. 2</td>
<td>The Problem of Evil</td>
<td>The Problem of Evil</td>
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<td>Pp. 126-36 (van Inwagen, “The Argument from Evil”)</td>
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<td>Feb. 7</td>
<td>Pascal’s Wager</td>
<td>Pascal’s Wager</td>
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<td>Feb. 9</td>
<td>Review</td>
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<td>Feb. 14</td>
<td>First Exam</td>
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<td>Feb. 16</td>
<td>Right and Wrong</td>
<td>Right and Wrong</td>
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<td>Utilitarianism</td>
<td>Pp. 645-60 (Mill, “Utilitarianism”)</td>
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<td>Feb. 21</td>
<td>Duty-Based Ethics</td>
<td>Duty-Based Ethics</td>
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<td>Pp. 638-45 (Kant, “The Good Will and the Categorical Imperative”)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
14. Feb. 23 Famine & Affluence  
Pp. 672-78 (Singer, “Famine, Affluence, and Morality”)

15. Feb. 28 Kantian Approaches to Famine Problems  
(On Canvas)

16. March 2 Moral Subjectivism  
Pp. 597-609 (Shafer-Landau, “Ethical Subjectivism”)

Meaning in Life
17. March 7 Meaning from Within  

18. March 9 Meaning and Value  

Spring Break

19. March 21 Review

20. March 23 Second Exam

Free Will and Responsibility
21. March 28 Compatibilism  
Pp. 504-10 (Hume, “Of Liberty and Necessity”)

22. March 30 Moral Capacity  

23. April 4 Libertarianism  

24. April 6 Moral Luck  
Pp. 534-41 (Nagel, “Moral Luck”)

25. April 11 Pessimism  
Pp. 521-28 (Strawson, “Luck Swallows Everything”)

Mind and Body
26. April 13 Materialism  
Pp. 376-82 (Papineau, “The Case for Materialism”)
27. April 18  Functionalism  
Pp. 382-87 (Churchland, “Functionalism and Eliminative Materialism,” just the sections on Functionalism and Arguments Against Functionalism)

28. April 20  Artificial Intelligence  
Pp. 391-400 (Turing, “Computing Machinery and Intelligence”)

29. April 25  Conscious Experience  
Pp. 372-76 (Jackson, “The Qualia Problem”)

30. April 27  Review

**Third Exam:** Tuesday, May 2, 7:30-9:30 am
UNIVERSITY POLICIES

UNIVERSITY ATTENDANCE POLICY

Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid written excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

ACADEMIC HONOR POLICY

The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University’s expectations for the integrity of students’ academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to “. . . be honest and truthful and . . . [to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University.” (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at http://fda.fsu.edu/Academics/Academic-Honor-Policy)

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Your academic success is a top priority for Florida State University. University resources to help you succeed include tutoring centers, computer labs, counseling and health services, and services for designated groups, such as veterans and students with disabilities. The following information is not exhaustive, so please check with your advisor or the Department of Student Support and Transitions to learn more.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Office of Accessibility Services; and (2) request a letter from the Office of Accessibility Services to be sent to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type; and (3) meet (in person, via phone, email, skype, zoom, etc...) with each instructor to whom a letter of accommodation was sent to review approved accommodations. This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request. For the latest version of this statement and more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the:

Office of Accessibility Services
874 Traditions Way
CONFIDENTIAL CAMPUS RESOURCES

Various centers and programs are available to assist students with navigating stressors that might impact academic success. These include the following:

Victim Advocate Program
University Center A,
Room 4100, (850) 644-7161,
Available 24/7/365,
Office Hours: M-F 8-5
https://dsst.fsu.edu/vap

Counseling & Psychological Services
Askew Student Life Center,
2nd Floor,
942 Learning Way
(850) 644-8255
https://counseling.fsu.edu/

University Health Services
Health and Wellness Center
(850) 644-6230
https://uhs.fsu.edu/

FREE TUTORING FROM FSU

On-campus tutoring and writing assistance is available for many courses at Florida State University. For more information, visit the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) Tutoring Services’ comprehensive list of on-campus tutoring options—see http://ace.fsu.edu/tutoringor contacttutor@fsu.edu. High-quality tutoring is available by appointment and on a walk-in basis. These services are offered by tutors trained to encourage the highest level of individual academic success while upholding personal academic integrity.

LIBERAL STUDIES

This course has been approved as meeting the Liberal Studies requirements for Ethics and thus is designed to help you become an ethically engaged and socially responsible
citizen.

SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY

Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.

RECORDING LECTURES

In this class, consistent with state law and university policy, students are permitted to make recordings of class lectures for personal use only. However, sharing, posting, or publishing classroom recordings may subject you to honor code violations and legal penalties associated with theft of intellectual property and violations of other state law. Moreover, students and educators have expressed concern that recording classroom activities may negatively impact the learning experience for others, especially in classes that involve questions, discussion, or participation. To protect a learning environment in which everyone feels free to experiment with ideas, we ask you refrain from recording in ways that could make others feel reluctant to ask questions, explore new ideas, or otherwise participate in class. Students must monitor their recording so that they do not include participation by other students without permission. Students with disabilities will continue to have appropriate accommodations for recordings as established by the Office of Accessibility Services.