

**Phil 101.002: Introduction to Philosophy (CRN: 11961)**

**Fall 2009, MWF 11-11:50am, Room: CAST 100**

**Prof. Mary Domski**

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**Fall 2009 office hours: Mondays 2-3p, Wednesdays 9-10am, & by appointment**

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<b>Off Hrs:</b>	<b>Mon 2-3:30pm</b>	<b>Tues 9-10:30am</b>
<b>Office:</b>	<b>Phil Dept Library (519 Hum)</b>	<b>Phil Dept Library (519 Hum)</b>

**\*\* Understanding this Syllabus \*\***

As a member of this class, it is your responsibility to become familiar with all the information presented below. Think of the syllabus as your bus schedule for the semester. You have the information you need to catch the bus, and if you arrive late at your stop, well, the bus is on its way down the street and the bus driver isn't around to hear your explanation of why you're late. Just the same, the syllabus outlines the information you need to successfully complete the requirements for this course, and statements of "I didn't read the syllabus" or "I forgot about the class policy" will not be accepted later in the semester. You'll simply miss the bus. **If there are any changes to the policies set out in the syllabus, you will be notified well in advance. I will make announcements in class and on WebCT.**

**Overview of the Course**

In this course, we will survey several problems that continue to motivate philosophical discussion and philosophical worry. Such problems will include: the problem of evil, the nature of the human soul, the existence of God, the extent of moral responsibility, the possibility and extent of human knowledge, and perhaps most importantly, what it means to lead a good life. The goal of this course is to illuminate fruitful ways of engaging with these philosophical problems, which means we'll wrestle with hard questions that rarely offer neat and tidy solutions. Be prepared to READ, REFLECT, and WRITE throughout the semester. On average, you should expect to dedicate roughly 4-5 hours each week to complete the required assignments for this course.

**Course Requirements and Policies**

**1a) Required Texts**

- a) *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*, By Milan Kundera, to be purchased at the UNM Bookstore.
- b) A course reader, to be purchased at the UNM Copy Center (located in Dane Smith Hall). The Copy Center is open M-F 8am-4:45pm, and you can pay with cash, check, or debit card.

**NOTE: You must bring the reader with you to every class session.**

**1b) (Highly) Recommended Text**

- *Writing Philosophy: A Student's Guide to Writing Philosophy Essays* (2005)  
By Lewis Vaughn; ISBN 0-19-517956-0

**NOTE: If you have never written a philosophy paper, or if you don't have a strong background in writing in general, I highly recommend that you purchase Vaughn's text. It is available for purchase at the UNM Bookstore.**

**2) Computer and Internet Access**

Class announcements, course materials, and grades will be posted on WebCT (<http://vista.unm.edu>). Some materials may also be made available through the Zimmerman Library electronic reserve system. Therefore, you must have reliable and regular access to the internet, and you must have a UNM username and password. If you do not already have a Net ID, you can obtain one by visiting the CIRT account creation page: <http://netid.unm.edu>.

### **3) UNM's Withdrawal Policy for semester-long courses:**

- Friday 11 September is the last day to withdraw without a grade.
- If you withdraw from the course between Saturday 12 September and Friday 13 November, you will be assigned either a WP or a WF, depending on your performance on course assignments. This means that if you have an F average on all the assignments due before the date of your withdrawal, you will earn a WF for the course, and this will count as an F towards your GPA.
- If you wish to withdraw from the course between Saturday 14 November and Friday 11 December, you will need approval from the college dean. If the withdrawal is approved, you will be assigned either a WP or a WF, depending on your performance on course assignments. As in the case above, this means that if you have an F average on all the assignments due before the date of your withdrawal, you will earn a WF for the course, and this will count as an F towards your GPA.

### **4) Attendance and Instructor Withdrawal Policy:**

I will enforce the following attendance and instructor withdrawal policy for this course:

- If, by 11 September, a student has not turned in Weekly Assignment 1, he/she will be dropped from the course.
- If, by 2 October, a student has not turned in Paper 1 and also does not take the in-class Midterm, he/she will be dropped from the course.
- If, by 30 November, a student has not completed any of the paper assignments, he/she will earn an F for the course regardless of his/her performance on other class assignments.

### **5) Appropriate Classroom Behavior**

**Cheating or disruptive behavior of any form will be dealt with very seriously.** Penalties for cheating and plagiarism range from a 0 or F on a particular assignment, through an F for the course, to dismissal from the University. If you are caught cheating, a report will be sent to the UNM Dean of Students office, where they will, at the very least, keep a record of the incident. UNM's Policy on Academic Dishonesty is included below:

“Each student is expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity in academic and professional matters. The University reserves the right to take disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, against any student who is found guilty of academic dishonesty or otherwise fails to meet the standards. Any student judged to have engaged in academic dishonesty in course work may receive a reduced or failing grade for the work in question and/or for the course. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, dishonesty in quizzes, tests, or assignments; claiming credit for work not done or done by others; hindering the academic work of other students; misrepresenting academic or professional qualifications within or without the University; and nondisclosure or misrepresentation in filling out applications or other University records.”

(URL = <http://www.unm.edu/~sac/policies.html>)

Please be aware of the following rules of behavior for this class:

- **Cell phones must be turned off during class. In other words, phone calls and text-messaging will NOT be tolerated. If you use your phone during class, you will be asked to leave.**
- Please be respectful of your classmates.
- If you are arriving late to class, please enter the room quietly to prevent disruptions.

## Assignments and Grading Scale

### • Weekly Assignments

[10 assignments; 20% of final grade]

During the course of the semester, there will be 13 assignments posted on WebCT. Each assignment will include 3-5 questions that address issues raised in the readings and in lectures. **All members of the class are required to complete Assignment 1. Until you turn in Assignment 1, I will not accept any of the later assignments.** Of the remaining 12 assignments, you are required to complete 9 of them (you get to choose which 9 you submit). Each assignment is worth 2 points: you'll earn one point for turning in the fully completed assignment and one point for correctly answering one question, to be chosen by the graders after the due date.

To get credit for these assignments, you must **1) print the one-page assignment out from WebCT, 2) handwrite your answers, and 3) turn in the assignment to either of the graders at the beginning of the class on the Monday it is due.** PLEASE NOTE: We will not accept the assignments via email, and we will not accept any assignments submitted after 11:05am on the due date (in other words, there will be no extensions granted for these assignments).

### • Papers

[3 papers; 40% of final grade]

Over the course of the semester you will be required to write three papers of varying length. Topics will be distributed well in advance of the due date of each paper. More will be said about the expectations for the papers during the course of the semester. Below are the due dates and estimated lengths of these papers.

<b>Paper 1 (2-3 pages)</b>	Due Wednesday 16 September	10% of semester grade
<b>Paper 2 (3-4 pages)</b>	Due Wednesday 21 October	10% of semester grade
<b>Paper 3 (4-5 pages)</b>	Due Wednesday 18 November	20% of semester grade

You are required to turn in a **hard copy** of each essay. Unless you are turning in your paper AFTER the deadline, do not email your essays as attachments. If you are turning in your paper after the deadline, then you **MUST** email the paper to Professor Domski in either .doc (Word) or .rtf format.

NOTE ON ESSAY DEADLINES: You'll notice that each essay is due on a designated Wednesday. If you turn in your paper after the beginning of class on the day the paper is due, you will be penalized 5 points per day late. Days late are calculated based on the 11am start time of class. For instance, if you turn in Paper 1 before 11am on Thursday 17 September, 5 points will be deducted from your grade; but if you turn it in on Thursday 17 September after 11am, you will be penalized 10 points. Also, each weekend day counts as a day. For instance, if you turn in Paper 1 on Monday 21 September before 11am, 25 points will be deducted from your grade. Papers will not be accepted if they are more than a week late.

### • Midterm

[1 exam; 15% of your grade]

A midterm exam will be administered in class on Friday 2 October. During the first part of Week 6, we will discuss the format of the exam and you will be given a review sheet to help you prepare for the exam.

### • Final Exam

[1 exam; 25% of final grade]

A final exam will be administered during Finals Week on Wednesday 16 December from 10am to noon. The format of the exam will be discussed during the later stages of the semester.

### • Reading Assignments

In addition to the graded assignments listed above, you will be asked to complete readings for each class meeting. You are expected to do the readings before the class for which they are assigned. For instance, before our class on Wednesday 26 August, you should have already read the Russell article.

NOTE ON THE READINGS: You'll notice that the readings are relatively short. Don't let the length mislead you! You will likely find many of the selected pieces very dense and difficult, especially if you are not used to reading philosophical writing. **Each day's reading will require roughly an hour to complete.** If you keep up with the reading schedule and put in a solid effort at dissecting the texts, you can be assured that by the end of the semester you'll have an easier time completing the reading assignments.

## Phil 101: Weeks 1-8

[NOTE: This schedule replaces the one included in your course reader.  
Bracketed page numbers refer to the pagination in your course reader.]

	TOPIC	READINGS	ASSIGNMENTS
<b>WEEK 1</b> 24 Aug	<b>Introduction to the Course</b>	<b>SYLLABUS</b>	• Purchase the course reader before class on Wednesday
26 Aug	<b>Philosophy: What, How, and Why</b>	Russell, <i>The Value of Philosophy</i> [1-4] <u>Recommended:</u> Vaughn [198-207]	
28 Aug		Plato, <i>Meno</i> [5-24]	
<b>WEEK 2</b> 31 Aug	<b>Existentialism</b>	<i>The Unbearable Lightness of Being</i> , Part One	• Weekly Assignment 1 Due
2 Sep		Nietzsche, <i>Beyond Good and Evil</i> [25-29]	
4 Sep		Sartre, <i>Existentialism is a Humanism</i> [30-33]	
<b>WEEK 3</b> 7 Sep	<b>NO CLASS – LABOR DAY</b>		
9 Sep	<b>The Relationship between the Mind and Body</b>	Descartes, <i>Meditations</i> [34-37]	• Weekly Assignment 2 Due • Paper 1 topic distributed in class
11 Sep		Taylor [38-44] Nagel, <i>What is it Like to be a Bat?</i> [45-50]	
<b>WEEK 4</b> 14 Sep		<i>The Unbearable Lightness of Being</i> , Part Two	• Weekly Assignment 3 Due
16 Sep	<b>Theories of the Self and Personal Identity</b>	Hume, <i>A Treatise of Human Nature</i> [51-54] Dennett, “Do I Resemble the U.S.A.?” [55-61]	• PAPER 1 DUE
18 Sep		Canon, <i>The Middle-Length Discourses of the Buddha</i> [69-76]	
<b>WEEK 5</b> 21 Sep	<b>Free Will and the Choice to do Otherwise</b>	<i>The Unbearable Lightness of Being</i> , Part Three	• Weekly Assignment 4 Due
23 Sep		Holbach, <i>System of Nature</i> [77-80] Damasio, <i>Descartes’ Error</i> [62-68]	
25 Sep		James, <i>Will to Believe</i> [81-85]	
<b>WEEK 6</b> 28 Sep		Gladwell and Marantz Henig [86-87]	• Weekly Assignment 5 Due
30 Sep	<b>Review for the Midterm</b>	Review Sheet	
2 Oct	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>	<b>You will have the entire class period to complete the exam.</b>	
<b>WEEK 7</b> 5 Oct	<b>What is Knowledge?</b>	<i>The Unbearable Lightness of Being</i> , Pt Four Plato, <i>Republic</i> [88-93]	• Weekly Assignment 6 Due
7 Oct		Descartes, <i>Meditations on First Philosophy</i>	• Paper 2 topic distributed in class
9 Oct	<b>NO CLASS – Domski out of town</b>		
<b>WEEK 8</b> 12 Oct		Locke, <i>An Essay Concerning Human Understanding</i> [94-100] Hume, <i>Enquiry</i> [101-106]	• Weekly Assignment 7 Due
14 Oct		Kant, <i>Critique</i> [107-111]	
16 Oct	<b>NO CLASS – FALL BREAK</b>		

## Phil 101: Weeks 9-15

	TOPIC	READINGS	ASSIGNMENTS
<b>WEEK 9</b> 19 Oct	<b>The Existence of God</b>	Paley, <i>Natural Theology</i> [112-116]	• Weekly Assignment 8 Due
21 Oct		Morem, “Does God Exist?” [116-120]	• PAPER 2 DUE
23 Oct		<i>The Unbearable Lightness of Being</i> , Pt Five	
<b>WEEK 10</b> 26 Oct	<b>Problem of Evil</b>	Hick, “The ‘Vale of Soul-Making’ Theodicy” [121-124]	• Weekly Assignment 9 Due
28 Oct		Mackie, “Evil and Omnipotence” [125-131]	
30 Oct		B.C. Johnson, “God and the Problem of Evil” [132-135]	
<b>WEEK 11</b> 2 Nov	<b>Faith and Reason</b>	Pascal, <i>Pensées</i> [136-138] Kierkegaard, <i>Philosophical Fragments</i> [139-141]	• Weekly Assignment 10 Due
4 Nov	<b>FILM: Devil’s Playground</b>		• Paper 3 topics distributed in class
6 Nov	<b>FILM: Devil’s Playground</b>		
<b>WEEK 12</b> 9 Nov	<b>Ethics</b>	<i>The Unbearable Lightness of Being</i> , Pt Six	• Weekly Assignment 11 Due
		Aristotle, <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> [152-158]	
11 Nov		Immanuel Kant, <i>Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals</i> [159-164]	
13 Nov		Rita C. Manning, <i>Just Caring</i> [165-172]	
<b>WEEK 13</b> 16 Nov		<i>The Unbearable Lightness of Being</i> , Pt Seven	• Weekly Assignment 12 Due
18 Nov		Benedict, <i>Patterns of Culture</i> [173-176] Stace, <i>The Concept of Morals</i> [177-182]	• PAPER 3 DUE
20 Nov	<b>NO CLASS – Domski out of town</b>		
<b>WEEK 14</b> 23 Nov	<b>Applied Ethics</b>	Eaton, “Painting and Ethics” [183-185] Devereaux, “Beauty and Evil” [186-189]	• Weekly Assignment 13 Due
25 Nov		Singer, “Do Animals Have Rights?” [190-196]	
27 Nov	<b>NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK</b>		
<b>WEEK 15</b> 30 Nov	<b>Social and Political Philosophy</b>	Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i> [197-198]	
2 Dec		Rawls, <i>A Theory of Justice</i> [199-204] Wollstonecraft, <i>A Vindication of the Rights of Women</i> [205-209]	
4 Dec		Martin Luther King, Jr., <i>Letter from a Birmingham Jail</i> [209-217]	
<b>WEEK 16</b> 7 Dec	<b>A Final Overview</b>	Camus, <i>The Myth of Sisyphus</i> [218-219]	
9 Dec	<b>REVIEW</b>		• Review Sheet
11 Dec	<b>REVIEW</b>		• Review Sheet
<b>FINALS WEEK 14-18 Dec</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM: Wednesday 16 December 10am to Noon</b>		