

PHIL101: Introduction to Philosophical Problems	Spring 2006
MWF 12:00–12:50 pm	ANTH 163
Instructor: Richard Hayes Office hours: Wed 1:00–3:00pm	Or by appointment
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Subject matter of the course

A philosopher, asked by his five-year-old daughter what he did for a living, replied “I ask what there is, how we know, and what we should do about it.” In this course we will touch upon each of these main questions. We’ll begin with Socrates (as reported by Plato) as he tells his friends on the eve of his being put to death, what philosophy (the love of wisdom) is and how it has guided his life. We will then plunge into the question of what the limits of knowledge are, and how much confidence we can place in our impression that there is a world outside our own minds. This will lead us into discussions of what the mind is and how it relates to the physical events of the body, and what personal identity is. Then we will look at several writings on the question of whether we have free will and what in general it means to act morally. From these theoretical discussions we’ll move on to concrete moral issues that face us in today’s society. The discussion of personal morality leads naturally into questions of how we live collectively and especially how we construct a moral society. Finally, we shall end with what many people claim is the beginning of it all, namely, God. Can one prove the existence of God? Is it immoral to believe in God if we cannot prove his (or her or its) existence, or is religious belief something that requires no justification? After thinking about all these things we return once again to a brief discussion of what the value of philosophical reflection is.

Textbook The only textbook for this course is Laurence Bonjour and Ann Baker, *Philosophical Problems: An Annotated Anthology*, which is on sale in the UNM bookstore. There should be both new and used copies available for you to choose from.

Assignments and evaluation

1. Although most of the discipline of philosophy is about thinking and evaluating arguments, there is also a certain amount of information one should have. To help you acquire this information, there will be ten short quizzes given during the semester, usually the first thing on Mondays. These quizzes will cover material from the preceding week’s classes.

2. The main part of your grade will be based on writing three short essays, the topics of which will be given to you during the semester.
3. Finally, there will be a final examination.

The weight and due dates of assignments are as follows:

Assignment	Date Due	Weight
Quizzes	weekly, except when essays are due	10%
First essay	February 13	15%
Second essay	April 3	20%
Third essay	May 1	25%
Final exam	May 12 (10-12am)	30%
		100%

Deadlines Please note that all deadlines are firm and work not submitted on time will receive a penalty of one-third grade per day late. If an essay is due Monday but turned in Tuesday, its grade will go from A to A-, and if handed in Wednesday it will go down to a B+. **All essays must be submitted in hard copy form; no essay submitted to me by e-mail will be graded.** If you are not present for a quiz, you simply miss it. Quizzes cannot be made up.

Policy on plagiarism or other academic dishonesty The on-line Pathfinder-Student Handbook states:

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.

The policy in this course for academic dishonesty will be that a work found in violation of the regulations will receive a grade of zero. If a student is discovered committing a second occurrence of dishonesty, it will be reported to the Dean of Students and could result in further discipline by the University.

Classroom work

Courtesy The enterprise of philosophy takes place most effectively in a peaceful environment in which everyone is thoughtful of the needs of others. Most of the material covered in class is difficult and will therefore require concentration. As a courtesy to your fellow students, and to me, please remember to turn off all mobile telephones before entering the classroom, and try to avoid any behavior that will make it difficult for others to listen and to think.

Schedule of lectures and discussions

Date	Topic
Jan 18	Introduction to course and requirements
20	Ann Baker: Philosophical thinking (3–13)
23	Plato: Euthyphro (14–24)
25	Plato: Apology (25–39)
27	Epictetus: The Manual (817–824)
30	John Locke: from <i>An Essay Concerning Human Understanding</i> (174–184)
Feb 1	John Locke: continued (184–191)
3	Thomas Reid: <i>Direct Realism</i> (222–238)
6	Louis BonJour: Knowledge of the external world (239–257)
8	Immanuel Kant: Is all knowledge based on experience? (258–266)
10	David Hume: Skeptical doubts. . . (284–290)
13	Keith Campbell: How the mind-body problem arises (315–326)
15	John Foster: A defense of Dualism (327–333)
17	David J. Chalmers: Puzzle of conscious experience (407–414)
20	John Locke: Personal identity (415–422)
22	Bernard Williams: The self and the future (426–436)
24	Derek Parfit: Personal identity (437–451)
27	Are human actions genuinely free? (453–472)
Mar 1	David Hume: Of liberty and necessity (472–480)
3	Galen Strawson: Free will (519–529)
6	Plato: Are we better of behaving morally or immorally? (562–570)
8	Aristotle: Nicomachean Ethics (655–664)
10	Aristotle, continued (664–673)

Date	Topic
20	John Stuart Mill: Utilitarianism (587–595)
22	Bernard Williams: A critique of utilitarianism (603–610)
24	James Rachels: The challenge of cultural relativism (546–553)
27	Thomas Nagel: War and massacre (711–724)
29	Philippa Foot: Euthanasia (696–710)
31	Judith Jarvis Thomson: A defense of abortion (694–695)
Apr 3	Thomas Hobbes: The social contract (737–748)
5	John Locke: The social contract (749–764)
7	David Hume: Of the original contract (765–771)
10	Robert Nozick: The entitlement theory of justice (772–781)
12	John Rawls: Justice as fairness (782–795)
14	Susan Wolf: Happiness and meaning (834–848)
17	William Paley: The argument from design (55–64); Stephen Jay Gould: The Panda’s thumb (65–69)
19	David Hume: Problems with the argument from design (69–76)
21	Hume, continued (76–83)
24	David Hume: The problem of evil (103–113)
26	W. K. Clifford: The ethics of belief (129–133)
28	William James: The will to believe (134–144)
May 1	Bertrand Russell: The value of philosophy (35–40)
3	Review
5	Review