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COURSE DESCRIPTION: An introduction to philosophy through classical and contemporary readings on perception, personal identity, ethics, free will, and philosophy of religion. Related film selections and clips will be used to motivate topics and facilitate discussion. Course objectives: To introduce you to philosophical analysis, argumentation, and some of the central problems in philosophy; to teach you how to reconstruct arguments and evaluate them, and how to write philosophy papers.

This Course Satisfies a University General Education Humanities Requirement.

TEXT: Introducing Philosophy through Film, edited by Fumerton and Jeske (Wiley-Blackwell 2009) ISBN: 1405171014. This can be found at the University Bookstore. Materials not available in the required text will be provided under the CONTENT section of ICON.

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING: I'll be using plus/minus grading. Note: the A+ grade will only be used in extraordinary circumstances. I'll be using the plagiarism detection service turnitin.com via ICON.

Exams & Quizzes: 60% of your grade will come from 2 exams (25% for the midterm; 35% for the final). The Exams will consist of a mixture of short answer and essay questions. 10% of your grade will come from pop quizzes (the lowest 2 will be dropped), which will be used to make sure you are keeping up with the reading.

Papers: 30% of your grade will come from a final paper. Topics, guidelines, and the due date will be provided well in advance. For many of you this will be your 1st philosophy paper, which can be quite difficult. I'll discuss how to approach writing a philosophy paper in class, but another great resource is Jim Pryor's "Guidelines on Writing a Philosophy Paper" which can be found at www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/writing.html.

Attendance: This class is very difficult and—trust me—you will not do well if you do not attend regularly. Missed quizzes/exams can only be made up if you have an excuse allowable under the College of Liberal Arts policies and you have proper documentation. Participation in class discussion can raise your final grade *up to* 1/3rd of a grade.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism will not be tolerated! Plagiarism will result in receiving an F in the course, and will be reported to both the department DEO and the associate Dean of Undergraduate Programs and Curriculum. Trust me, plagiarism is not in your best interest. I will catch you.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS: This list is tentative and likely to change. Reading assignments will be given on a day-to-day basis.

Weeks 1-2: Introduction

Introduction: Philosophical Analysis, Argument, & the Relevance of Thought Experiments (pp. 3-10)
 [Optional Reading] Rosenberg: Engaging the Argument (ICON)

Weeks 2-5: Epistemology, Perception, & Skepticism

Descartes: 1st Meditation & Excerpt from the 6th Meditation (pp. 17-20)
 Berkeley: The First Dialogue (pp. 27-45)
 Fumerton: The Structure of Skeptical Arguments and its Metaepistemological Implications (pp. 106-120)
 Huemer: Direct Realism and the Brian-in-a-Vat Argument (ICON)

Weeks 6-8: Personal Identity

Locke: Of Identity and Diversity (pp. 192-202)
 Reid: Excerpts from "Of Memory" (ICON)
 Williams: The Self and the Future (pp. 203-213)
 Parfit: Personal Identity (ICON)

Midterm tentatively scheduled for 3/11/2011 (Note: this is the Friday before spring break – leaving a day early for spring break is not a legitimate excuse for missing the exam, and in such a situation you will not be allowed to take a make-up exam)

Weeks 9-11: Ethics

Smart: An Outline of a System of Utilitarian Ethics (pp. 313-330)

Ross: What Makes Right Acts Right? (pp. 281-296)

Railton: Alienation, Consequentialism, and the Demands of Morality (pp. 405-426)

Fumerton & Jeske: Relatives and Relativism (pp. 427-434)

Weeks 12-13: Free Will

Hume: Of Liberty and Necessity (pp. 514-517)

Chisholm: Human Freedom and the Self (ICON)

Weeks 14-15: Philosophy of Religion

Mackie: Evil and Omnipotence (pp. 595-602)

Plantinga: Excerpts from The Free Will Defense (ICON)

Rowe: The Problem of Evil and Some Varieties of Atheism (ICON)

Final Exam (Thursday, May 12th, 2011 @ 2:15 p.m.)

Teaching Policies & Procedures

Administrative Home. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) is the administrative home of this course and governs matters such as the add/drop deadlines, the second-grade-only option, and other related issues. Different colleges may have different policies. Questions may be addressed to 120 Schaeffer Hall, or see the CLAS [Student Academic Handbook](#).

Electronic Communication. University policy specifies that students are responsible for all official correspondences sent to their University of Iowa e-mail address. Faculty and students should use this account for correspondences. (*Operations Manual*, [III.15.2](#). Scroll down to k.11.)

Accommodations for Disabilities. A student seeking academic accommodations should first register with Student Disability Services and then meet privately with the course instructor to make particular arrangements. See www.uiowa.edu/~sds/ for more information.

Academic Fraud. Plagiarism and any other activities when students present work that is not their own are academic fraud. Academic fraud is a serious matter and is reported to the departmental DEO and to the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs and Curriculum. Instructors and DEOs decide on appropriate consequences at the departmental level while the Associate Dean enforces additional consequences at the collegiate level. See the CLAS Academic Fraud section of the [Student Academic Handbook](#).

University Examination Policy requires that students be permitted to make up examinations missed because of illness, mandatory religious obligations, certain University activities, or unavoidable circumstances. Excused absence forms are available at www.registrar.uiowa.edu/forms/absence.pdf.

Final Examination Policies. Final exams may be offered only during finals week. No exams of any kind are allowed during the last week of classes. Students should not ask their instructor to reschedule a final exam since the College does not permit rescheduling of a final exam once the semester has begun. Questions should be addressed to the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs and Curriculum.

Conflicts in Final Exams. The final exam 2:15–4:15 Thursday, May 12th 2011. It is your responsibility to notify the registrar if there is a conflict between the final exam for this class and your other final exams. A student who has (a) two examinations scheduled for the same period or (b) more than three examinations scheduled for the same day, should file a request for a change of schedule at the Registration Center, 30 Calvin Hall. Requests for change of schedule must be by April 22nd 2011.

Making a Suggestion or a Complaint. Students with a suggestion or complaint should first visit the instructor, then the course supervisor, and then the departmental DEO. Complaints must be made within six months of the incident. See the CLAS [Student Academic Handbook](#).

Understanding Sexual Harassment. Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. All members of the UI community have a responsibility to uphold this mission and to contribute to a safe environment that enhances learning. Incidents of sexual harassment should be reported immediately. See the UI [Comprehensive Guide on Sexual Harassment](#) for assistance, definitions, and the full University policy.

Reacting Safely to Severe Weather. In severe weather, class members should seek appropriate shelter immediately, leaving the classroom if necessary. The class will continue if possible when the event is over. For more information on Hawk Alert and the siren warning system, visit the Public Safety [web site](#).

Student Classroom Behavior. The ability to learn is lessened when students engage in inappropriate classroom behavior, distracting others; such behaviors are a violation of the [Code of Student Life](#). When disruptive activity occurs, a University instructor has the authority to determine classroom seating patterns and to request that a student exit immediately for the remainder of the period. One-day suspensions are reported to appropriate departmental, collegiate, and Student Services personnel (Office of the Vice President for [Student Services](#) and Dean of Students).

Absences. Except in cases of illness or emergency, you should let your instructor know beforehand if you need to be excused from attendance. You can do this either by providing an Explanatory Statement of Absence from Class form (available at <http://www.uiowa.edu/registrar/forms/absence.htm> or from the Registration Center, 30 Calvin Hall) or a statement from a responsible official documenting the times of your participation in an authorized University activity. In the case of emergency or serious illness, please contact your instructor as soon as possible and offer appropriate documentation so that we can discuss your options. If you are absent for more than five days, you may ask the Registration Center to tell each instructor the reason. Instructors may request further documentation of the absence. In addition, you may ask clinicians at Student Health (4189 Westlawn, 5-8392) to discuss your illness and possible accommodations with your instructor if you have health problems.