

Syllabus for PHIL 251.200: Introduction to Philosophy

Tuesday & Thursday: 9:35-10:50 (BLTN 018)

Spring 2011; Dr. Stephen H. Daniel

In **Introduction to Philosophy** you will develop the critical-thinking skills needed to write and speak effectively about knowledge, freedom, identity, the mind-body relation, God, and ethics. This means being able to identify issues, present arguments, critique those arguments, and formulate replies to those criticisms. There are no prerequisites for this course.

Textbooks: (1) *Ultimate Questions* (3rd ed) by Nils Rauhut (available at bookstores and online); and (2) selections from *Readings on the Ultimate Questions* (3rd ed), ed. by Nils Rauhut, and the Hume and Kierkegaard readings from Pojman and Vaughn's *Philosophy: The Quest for Truth* (all downloadable at the Evans Library Course Reserves website <http://library-reserves.tamu.edu/areslocal/index.htm>). To print and bind the readings at the least cost, go to Notes-n-Quotes (across University Blvd from Blocker).

<u>Jan.</u>	18	What is Philosophy? 1-13	<u>Mar.</u>	22	Behaviorism/Identity theory 139-46
	20	Philosophical tools 15-40		24	Functionalism 146-54
	25	Knowledge 42-48			Essay 3: Readings 249-61 (due Mar. 27)
	27	Skepticism 48-57; <i>Readings</i> 32-41		29	God: arguments & religious experience 156-64
<u>Feb.</u>	1	Empiricism 57-67		31	Cosmological arg 164-69; <i>Readings</i> 292-301
	3	Rationalism 67-75	<u>Apr.</u>	5	Design argument 169-76; <i>Hume Reading</i> 93-99
		Essay 1: Readings 47-57 (due Feb. 6)		7	God: ontological & wager arguments 176-85
	8	Free will/hard determinism 77-88			Essay 4: Kierkegaard Read 166-71 (due Apr. 10)
	10	Compatibilism 88-97		12	Problem of evil 185-95; <i>Readings</i> 341-51
	15	Libertarianism 97-102; <i>Readings</i> 106-14		14	Ethical relativism 197-207
	17	Personal identity 104-113		19	Divine Command 208-11, <i>Readings</i> 385-88
		Essay 2: Readings 172-82 (due Feb. 20)		21	Utilitarianism 211-19
	22	Body theories 113-16; <i>Readings</i> 165-71			Essay 5: Readings 379-85 (due Apr. 24)
	24	Soul theory 116-18; <i>Readings</i> 152-61		26	Kantian Ethics 220-26
<u>Mar.</u>	1	Memory theory 118-25		28	Virtue Ethics 226-32
	3	Mid-semester exam	<u>May</u>	3	[No class: redefined Friday class]
	8	Mind-body dualism 126-39		6	(Friday) Final exam 12:30-2:30
	10	Critique of dualism, <i>Readings</i> 202-14			

Cell phones must be turned off during class.

The **semester grade** is based on

- Five 500-word homework essays on questions based on readings (10 pts each). Essays should be sent as email attachments to me by midnight.
- Mid-semester exam: in-class response to two previously announced questions (20 points).
- Final exam: in-class response to three previously announced questions (30 points).
- No separate grade for attendance or participation, but both affect the grading of essays and exams. If you miss the mid-semester or final exam, contact Dr. Daniel *immediately*. Expectations of the quality of essays rise if essays are submitted past the deadlines; grades are assessed accordingly.
- Minimum grades: 88=A, 78=B, 68=C, 57=D.

Office (Bolton 302-B) hours: Tues & Thurs 11:00-12:20, 2:15-3:30 (often until 5:00; call ahead). Will stick around the Zachry lobby sometimes after my class ends at 2:00.
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E-mail: sdaniel@philosophy.tamu.edu
Web: philosophy.tamu.edu/%7Esdaniel/251200sy11a.html

Students with disabilities are guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Dept of Student Life, [Disability Services](#), Cain Hall B118, or call 845-1637.

Students are bound by the Aggie honor code not to lie, cheat, steal, or tolerate those who do. If you violate the code (e.g., by plagiarizing something from the Internet), you will fail the course. For information on cheating and plagiarism, go to <http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor/>.