



Syllabus for PHIL 251.505: Introduction to Philosophy

Tuesday & Thursday: 2:20-3:35 (HECC 100)

Fall 2018; Dr. Stephen H. Daniel



In **Introduction to Philosophy** students develop the critical-thinking skills needed to write and speak effectively about logical fallacies, knowledge, the mind-body relation, personal identity, freedom, God, ethics, feminism, and race. 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.

Text: Draft of *Stories of Philosophy* by Thomas D. Davis (under editorial review). It is available only to our class through Notes-n-Quotes (<https://squareup.com/store/notes-n-quotes>). It takes several days to receive the text by mail (for \$24.50), so order it as soon as possible.

Course Requirement: login to **eCampus** (<https://ecampus.tamu.edu>) and connect to our course to answer questions *before* class begins each day and *during* each class. **You need Internet access in class each day (laptop or cell phone) to complete the in-class assignment.**

Aug. 28	Philosophy? 5–8	Oct. 18	Determinism 146–52
30	Logic: A Murder Mystery 9–22	23	Libertarianism 152–58
Sept. 4	A Story of Fallacies 22–35	25	Compatibilism 158–68
6	Arguments (Deductive/Inductive) 35–46	[28	Answers to Ch. 4]*
11	Fallacies 46–59	30	Religious experience 169–84
13	Appearance/Real, Dream/Descartes 60-73	Nov. 1	Ontological Argument for God 185–88
[16	Answers to Ch. 1]*	6	Cosmological/Teleological Arguments 188–94
18	Realism: Locke, Berkeley, Hume 73–78	8	Atheism, Suffering, Free Will 194–202
20	‘External’ World a Simulation? 78–90	13	Faith and Reason 202–11
[23	Answers to Ch. 2]*	15	Morality: Certus, “Help Themselves” 212–21
25	Lacking Minds, After Life 91–100	[18	Answers to Ch. 5]*
27	Mind: Dualism 101–106	20	Metaethics, Subjectivism, Relativism 221–31
Oct. 2	Identity, Functionalism, Zombies 107–14	22	[No class: Thanksgiving holiday]
4	Dualist Theories, Life after Death 114–21	27	Moral point of view: Smith & Kant 231–34
9	Personal Identity 121–30	29	Utilitarianism, Rawls, & Virtue Ethics 235–44
11	Mid-semester exam (in class)	Dec. 4	Feminism and Race, 244–59
[14	Answers to Ch. 3]*	[9	Answers to Ch. 6]*
16	Freedom: “Story”/“Omniscience” 131–45	12	(Wed) Final exam 1:00-3:00 p.m. (in class)

- The **semester grade** is based on:
 - Daily *pre*-class and end-of-class quizzes (on-line): Aug 28-Sept 4, one pt each; starting Sept 6, two pts each (total 102 pts). For excused absences, end-of-class quizzes can be completed up to two weeks after class.
 - *Answers to the 17 to 26 questions at the *end* of **one** of the book’s six chapters (20 pts). To *try* to improve your grade, submit **all** of the answers to questions in a subsequent chapter.
 - Mid-semester & final exams (50 pts each)
- There is no explicit grade for attendance or participation, but both can affect your mastery of the material. [Student Rule 7](#) notes that you are expected to attend all classes.
- If you miss the mid-semester or final exam, contact Dr. D immediately.
- Minimums: 196=A, 174=B, 152=C, 128=D.

Dr. Daniel office hours (YMCA 417): Tues 11:00-12:30, 3:45-5:00; Thurs 11:00-12:30, and *most Thurs* 3:45-5:00.
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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 [Disability Services](#), Student Services at 757 West Campus Blvd or call 845-1637. Also, I have a duty to report anything you tell me about sexual violence or abuse, even if you ask me not to tell anyone. To talk to someone who does not have that obligation, contact someone whose license requires confidentiality.

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 fail the course. For information on cheating and plagiarism, go to <http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu/>.