

## Syllabus for PHIL 251.200: Introduction to Philosophy (Honors)

Tuesday & Thursday: 9:35-10:50 (Bolton 003)

Fall 2010; Dr. Stephen H. Daniel

In **Introduction to Philosophy** you will develop the critical-thinking skills needed to write and speak effectively about philosophic method, the mind-body relation, freedom, ethics, political obligation, religious belief, and knowledge. This means being able to identify issues, give arguments for philosophical positions, critique those arguments, and formulate replies to those criticisms. There are no prerequisites for this course.

**Textbook:** selections from the 3rd and 4th editions of *Doing Philosophy* by Theodore Schick and Lewis Vaughn. The readings are available for downloading at the Evans Library Course Reserves Website (<http://library-reserves.tamu.edu/areslocal/index.htm>). I recommend you print the book, gathering pages together in a spiral- or three-ring binder.

<u>Aug.</u>	31	Introduction IV: 2-12	<u>Oct.</u>	21	Act utilitarianism III: 347-61
<u>Sept.</u>	2	Philosophic method IV: 12-27		26	Rule utilitarianism III: 361-67
	7	Mind-Body III: 66-82		28	Duty ethics III: 368-79
	9	Behaviorism III: 82-101			<i>The Point 4: Kant, LeGuin</i> III: 417-21, 429-32 (due on Oct. 31)
	14	Mind-Brain identity III: 101-114	<u>Nov.</u>	2	Political justice & care III: 379-95
	16	Functionalism III: 115-35		4	Virtue ethics III: 396-407
		<i>The Point 1: Descartes, Taylor</i> III: 159-70 (due on Sept. 19)		9	God: cosmological argument IV: 458-72
	21	Freedom & determinism IV: 188-212		11	God: teleological argument IV: 472-87
	23	Compatibilism IV: 213-229		16	God: ontological & wager args IV: 496-507
	28	Libertarianism IV: 230-41		18	The Problem of evil IV: 508-24
		<i>The Point 2: Stace, Lamont</i> III: 233-39 (due on Sept. 29)			<i>The Point 5: Hume, evil</i> III: 513-17; IV: 551-54 (due on Nov. 21)
	30	Personal identity IV: 264-81		23	Faith & meaning IV: 525-38
<u>Oct.</u>	5	The Soul & memory IV: 281-300		[25]	[No class: Thanksgiving]
	7	Continuity theory of self IV: 300-309		30	Knowledge IV: 562-68; Plato III: 537-46
		<i>The Point 3: Parfit, Kurzweil</i> III: 315-23 (due on Oct. 10)	<u>Dec.</u>	2	Rationalism: Descartes III: 546-53; IV 637-38
	12	<b>Mid-semester exam</b>		7	Empiricism (Hume) & Kant IV: 585-91
	14	Ethical relativism III: 326-38		10	(Friday) <b>Final exam 12:30-2:30</b>
	19	Ethics & religion III: 338-46			

**Cell phones must be turned off during class.**

The **semester grade** is based on:

- Five 500-word essays on issues raised in selected readings. "The Point" essays should be sent as email attachments to Dr. Daniel no later than midnight on the night listed. Focus questions for the essays will be announced in the previous class. Each essay is worth 10 points.
- 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 demonstration of class preparedness affects the grading of essays and exams.
- Final minimum grades: 88=A, 78=B, 68=C, 58=D.

Office (Bolton 302-B): Tues & Thurs 11:00-2:00  
Phone: 845-5619 (office), 846-4649 (home)  
E-mail: [sdaniel@philosophy.tamu.edu](mailto:sdaniel@philosophy.tamu.edu)  
Website: [philosophy.tamu.edu/%7Esdaniel/251sy10c.html](http://philosophy.tamu.edu/%7Esdaniel/251sy10c.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 Department 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/>.

Expectations of the quality of essays rise if essays are submitted past the deadlines; grades are assessed accordingly. If you miss the mid-semester or final exam, contact Dr. Daniel *immediately*.