



Syllabus for PHIL 251.200 (Honors): Introduction to Philosophy

Monday & Wednesday: 5:45-7:00 (YMCA 115)

Fall 2015; Dr. Stephen H. Daniel



In **Introduction to Philosophy** students develop the critical-thinking skills needed to write and speak effectively about knowledge, religious belief, morality, freedom, identity, and the mind-body relation. 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.

Textbook: *Philosophy in Practice* (2nd ed) by Adam Morton.

<u>Aug.</u>	31	Contract	xii-xv	<u>Oct.</u>	21*	Concepts & evidence	230-43
<u>Sept.</u>	2*	Beliefs, doubt	<u>3</u> -14, 21-33		26	Information & explanation	<u>245</u> -64
	7	Authority & reason	<u>35</u> -47		28*	Perception & falsification	264-77
	9*	Arguments, paradoxes	47-58	<u>Nov.</u>	2	Fallibilism & background beliefs	<u>279</u> -90
	14	Rationalism	<u>59</u> -74		4*	Reflective equilibrium	290-305
	16*	Skepticism	74-86	(7)		Essay 2: Answering questions on pp. 300-301	
	21	Rationalist morality	<u>89</u> -102		9	Mind a machine?	<u>311</u> -22
	23*	Moral relativism	102-118		11*	Materialism & introspection	322-35
(26)		Essay 1: Nietzsche on morality (online)			16*	Naturalistic morality	<u>337</u> -50 (quest 1-3)
	28	Induction/deduction	<u>121</u> -28, 136-48		18	Colors, freedom	<u>367</u> -84
	30*	Hume on habit; toleration	149-70		23*	Identity, meaning	384-96
<u>Oct.</u>	5	Utilitarianism	<u>173</u> -82	(25)		(No class: Reading Day)	
	7*	Bentham & Mill	182-97		30	Berkeley & Realism	<u>399</u> -415
	12*	Kantian ethics	<u>199</u> -215	<u>Dec.</u>	2*	Instrumentalism & Realism	415-429
	14	Mid-semester exam (in class)		(7)		(Redefined Friday)	
	19	Empiricism	<u>217</u> -30		11	(Fri) Final exam 8 a.m.	

- The **semester grade** is based on:
 - two 500-word essays on [questions](#) at [eCampus](#) Assignments (10 pts each); due Saturday midnight.
 - answers to “Chapter Objectives” questions on underlined pages and posted to [eCampus](#) by noon the day after classes marked with asterisks (65 pts). If you want, you can answer questions before class and revise them until noon the following day.
 - mid-semester exam (two essays, 20 pts total) and final exam (three essays, 30 pts total)
- There is no 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 either exam, contact me immediately. My expectations of the quality of answers or essays rises if they are submitted past deadlines, but you should definitely still turn in assignments after they are due (up to two weeks) to receive some credit.
- Minimum grades: 118=A, 104=B, 90=C, 76=D.

Dr. Daniel office hrs (YMCA 417): Mon & Wed: 12:00-1:30, 2:45-4:00. **Phone:** 979-324-4199 (cell); **Email:** sdaniel@tamu.edu. **Web:** philosophy.tamu.edu/~sdaniel/.

Students with disabilities are guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact [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 fail the course. For information on cheating and plagiarism, go to <http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu/>.