



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

Tuesday & Thursday: 2:20-3:35 (YMCA 113)

Fall 2017; Dr. Stephen H. Daniel



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

**Texts:** Drafts of (1) *Introduction to Philosophy* by Stephen Stich and Tom Donaldson, and *Stories of Philosophy* by Thomas D. Davis, both under editorial review. Additional readings in the course packet are from various other sources. The packet is available at Copy Corner (691-2679) in the MSC or online for registered students.

<u>Aug.</u> 31	Intro 2-5, Activity of Philos 1-7, 26-31	<u>Oct.</u> 24	Nagel, Being a Bat, 381-91
<u>Sept.</u> 5	God 6-31	26	Jackson, "Qualia," 127-36
7	Atheism 31-49	31	Functionalism/Dualism, 178-95
<b>(10) Essay Answer Due Sunday night</b>		<u>Nov.</u> 2	Personal Identity, 196-202
12	Certainty 50-65	<b>(5) Essay Answer Due Sunday night</b>	
14	Skepticism 47-57	7	Memory/Brain, 202-217
19	Sense Knowledge 66-85	9	Ethical Objectivity, 218-238
21	Induction 86-104	14	Meaning & Value, 239-253
<b>(24) Essay Answer Due Sunday night</b>		16	Moral Rules, 254-272
26	Epistemology 105-120	<b>(19) Essay Answer Due Sunday night</b>	
28	Freedom 121-136	21	Virtue Ethics, 1-11
<u>Oct.</u> 3	Determinism 136-148	23	[No class: Thanksgiving holiday]
5	Compatibilism/Responsibility 148-159	28	Nietzsche on morality, 378-85
10	Strawson on freedom 318-27	30	Rawls & Nozick on Justice, 379-87
12	<b>Mid-semester exam</b> (in class)	<u>Dec.</u> 5	Nagel on absurdity of life, 825-34
17	Mind 160-170	13	(Wed) <b>Final exam 1:00-3:00 p.m.</b> (in class)
19	Substance dualism/materialism 171-78		

- The **semester grade** is based on:
  - four 500-word essays on questions posted at Assignments on [eCampus](#), due Sunday midnight (10 pts each)
  - mid-semester & final exams (three questions each, 10 pts/question)
- There is no separate 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.
- You should prepare notes on points of each reading before class.
- If you miss the mid-semester or final exam, contact Dr. D immediately.
- Minimum grades: 88=A, 78=B, 68=C, 57=D.

**Dr. Daniel office hours** (YMCA 417): Tues/Thurs 12:00-2:00. **Phone:** 845-5619 (office), 324-4199 (cell); **Email:** [sdaniel@tamu.edu](mailto:sdaniel@tamu.edu). **Web:** [philosophy.tamu.edu/~sdaniel/](http://philosophy.tamu.edu/~sdaniel/).

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.

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/>.