

## Syllabus for PHIL 251.503: Introduction to Philosophy

Tuesday & Thursday: 12:45-2:00 (PETR 113)

Spring 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.

**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>Jan.</u>	19	Introduction IV: 2-12	<u>Mar.</u>	23	Q	Rule utilitarianism III: 361-67
	21	Philosophic method IV: 12-27		25		Duty ethics III: 368-79
	26	H Mind-Body III: 66-82		30	H	Political justice & Care III: 379-95
	28	Behaviorism III: 82-101	<u>Apr.</u>	1		Virtue ethics III: 396-407
<u>Feb.</u>	2	Q Mind-Brain identity III: 101-114		6	Q	God: cosmological argument IV: 458-72
	4	Functionalism III: 115-35		8		God: teleological argument IV: 472-87
	9	H Freedom & determinism IV: 188-212		13	H	God: ontological & wager args IV: 496-507
	11	Compatibilism IV: 213-229		15		The Problem of evil IV: 508-24
	16	Q Libertarianism IV: 230-41		20	Q	Faith & meaning: IV: 525-38
	18	Personal identity IV: 264-81		22		Knowledge IV: 562-68; Plato III: 537-46
	23	H The Soul & memory IV: 281-300		27	H	Rationalism: Descartes III: 546-53
	25	Continuity theory of self IV: 300-309		29		Empiricism (Hume) & Kant IV: 585-91
<u>Mar.</u>	2	<b>Mid-semester exam</b>	<u>May</u>	4		[No class: redefined Friday class]
	4	Ethical relativism III: 326-38		12		(Wednesday) <b>Final exam 8-10 a.m.</b>
	9	H Ethics & religion III: 338-46				
	11	Act utilitarianism III: 347-61				

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

The **semester grade** is based on:

- Five quizzes at the beginning of classes marked Q above. Each worth 5 points. Quiz questions will be announced in the previous class.
- Seven 300-word homework essays on questions announced in the previous class. Due at start of classes marked H above. Each worth 5 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).
- There is no separate grade for attendance or participation, but demonstration of class preparedness affects the grading of essays.
- Final minimum grades: 90=A, 80=B, 70=C, 58=D.

If you miss an in-class quiz or fail to submit a homework essay on time, you must submit a 300-word essay that answers the assigned questions prior to the next class. 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.

Office (Bolton 302-B): Tues & Thurs 11:00-12:30, 2:15-3:30  
Phone: 845-5619 (office), 846-4649 (home)  
E-mail: [sdaniel@philosophy.tamu.edu](mailto:sdaniel@philosophy.tamu.edu)  
Website: [philosophy.tamu.edu/%7Esdaniel/251sy10a.html](http://philosophy.tamu.edu/%7Esdaniel/251sy10a.html)  
TA: **Jen Gaffney** (Bolton 311, 845-0489; Mon/Wed 2-4 p.m.)  
Email: [j-gaffney@philosophy.tamu.edu](mailto:j-gaffney@philosophy.tamu.edu)

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/>.