

PHILOSOPHY 203: Introduction to Metaphysics and Epistemology

Fall 2011

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Classes:

- 2 lectures per week, 12.30-1.20pm T/Th in room Frick Chem B02.
- 1 precept per week.

Required text: *Reason and Responsibility* 14th edition, by Joel Feinberg and Russ Shafer-Landau (eds.), Wadsworth 2008. (Earlier editions may also be suitable; see syllabus below.)

Assessment:

- Very short paper (500 words), due Oct 7th, 10%
- Very short paper (500 words), due Oct 28th (the day before fall recess), 10%
- Short paper (1500 words), due Dec 2nd, 30%
- Long paper (2500 words), due Jan 17th (Dean's Date), 40%
- Precept participation, 10%

Syllabus

(F) = in the textbook by Feinberg

(B) = on Blackboard

* = optional

Sept. 15th Introduction (no reading)

Topic 1: The Existence of God

Sept. 20 The Cosmological Argument

Aquinas, “The Five Ways” (F)

Clarke, “A Modern Formulation ...” (F)

*Rowe, “The Cosmological Argument” (F)

Sept. 22 The Argument from Design I: Biological Complexity

Paley, “The Argument from Design” (F)

*Orr, “Darwin vs Intelligent Design (Again)

<http://bostonreview.net/BR21.6/orr.html>

*Behe, “The Sterility of Darwinism”

http://www.arn.org/docs/behe/mb_brresp.htm

*Response by Orr

<http://bostonreview.net/BR22.1/orr.html>

Sept. 27 The Argument from Design II: Fine-Tuning

Collins, “God, Design and Fine-Tuning” (B)

Garcia, “Teleological and Design Arguments (B)

*Dawkins, *The God Delusion*, pp. 134—151 (B)

Sept. 29 Pascal’s Wager

Pascal, “The Wager” (F)

*Hajek, “Pascal’s Wager (B)

<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/pascal-wager/>

Topic 2: Skepticism

Oct. 4 Testimony

Lackey, “Knowing from Testimony” (B)

*Fricker, “Against Gullibility” (B)

Oct. 6 Hume’s Problem of Induction

Hume, *Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, II, IV (F)
Salmon, “An Encounter with David Hume” (F)

Oct. 11 Solutions to Hume’s Problem?

Hume, *Enquiry*, V (F)
Strawson, “The ‘Justification’ of Induction” (B)

Oct. 13 The New Riddle of Induction

Goodman, “The New Riddle of Induction” (B)

Oct. 18 Inference to the Best Explanation

Harman, “The Inference to the Best Explanation” (B)
van Fraassen, “Inference to the Best Explanation: Salvation by
Laws” (B)

Oct. 20 Descartes’ Problem

Descartes, *Meditations 1 and 2* (F)
*Feldman, *Epistemology*, ch. 1 and ch. 6 (B)

Oct. 25 Solutions to Descartes’ Problem?

Moore, “Proof of an External World” (F)
Russell, *Problems of Philosophy*, ch. 2 (B)
<http://www.ditext.com/russell/rus2.html>

Oct. 27 Epistemic Relativism

Boghossian, “Fear of Knowledge” Chapters 5 and 6 (B)

FALL RECESS

Topic 3: The Metaphysics of Persons

Nov. 8 Dualism I: The Knowledge Argument

Jackson, “The Qualia Problem” (F)
Jackson, “What Mary Didn’t Know” (B)

Nov. 10 Dualism II: The Conceivability Argument

Descartes, *Meditations 6* (F)

- Gertler, "In Defense of Mind-Body Dualism" (F)
- Nov. 15 Materialism
- Papineau, *Thinking About Consciousness*, Chapter 2 (B)
 Bennett, "Mental Causation" (B)
 *Ney, "Defining Physicalism" (B)
- Nov. 17 What am I?
- Nagel, "Physicalism" (B)
- Nov. 22 The Problem of Personal Identity
- Perry, *A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality* (F)
 *Dennett, "Where am I" (F)
- Nov. 29 The Fission Problem
- Parfit, "Personal Identity" (B)
 Parfit, "Divided Minds and Nature of Persons" (F)
- Dec. 1 Solutions to the Fission Problem
- Lewis, "Survival and Identity" (B)
 Gendler, "Exceptional Persons" (B)
 *Williams, "The Self and the Future" (B)
- Dec. 6 The Free Will Problem
- Holbach, "The Illusion of Free Will" (F)
 Vihvelin, "Compatibilism, Incompatibilism, and Impossibilism" (B)
- Dec. 8 Compatibilism
- Ayer, "Freedom and Necessity" (F)
- Dec. 13 The Principle of Alternate Possibilities
- Frankfurt, "Alternate Possibilities and Moral Responsibility" (F)
 *Frankfurt, "Freedom of the Will and the Concept of a Person" (B)
- Dec. 15 Moral Luck
- Thomas Nagel. "Moral Luck" (F)