

PHILOSOPHY 203

Introduction to Metaphysics and Epistemology

Fall 2009

Professor Gideon Rosen

Office: 124 1879 Hall

(609) 258-5505

grosen@princeton.edu

Office hours: Mon. 3:00 – 4:00 or by appointment

Professor Shamik Dasgupta

Office: 205 Marx Hall

(609) 258-4290

shamikd@princeton.edu

Office hours: Wed 1:00 – 2:00 or by appointment

Required text: Joel Feinberg and Russ Shafer-Landau, Eds. *Reason and Responsibility*, 13th ed., Wadsworth 2008. (Available at Micawber's.)

Additional readings and occasional lecture notes will be made available on the Blackboard website under Course Materials. Many of these readings are also available on-line. Links are provided in the syllabus.

Preceptors:	Caleb Cohoe	ccohoe@princeton.edu
	Tom Dixon	tomdixon@princeton.edu
	Eden Lin	eylin@princeton.edu
	Corey Maley	cmaley@princeton.edu
	Kristin Primus	kprimus@princeton.edu
	Ryan Robinson	rdrobins@princeton.edu

Written work:

Two very short papers (500 words) due: 10/12, 10/28

One short paper (1500 words) due: 12/07

One long paper (2500 words) due: 1/12

Grading: Very short papers, 10% each; short paper, 30%; long paper, 40%; precept participation, 10%.

SYLLABUS

(F) = Feinberg, (B) = Blackboard, * = optional

TOPIC 1: THE EXISTENCE OF GOD

- Sept. 21 Skepticism and Rationality (no reading)
- Sept. 23 The Ontological Argument
- Anselm, “The Ontological Argument” (F)
Gaunilo, “On Behalf of the Fool” (F)
*Rowe, “The Ontological Argument” (F)
- Sept. 28 The Cosmological Argument
- Aquinas, “The Five Ways” (F)
Clarke, “A Modern Formulation ...” (F)
*Rowe, “The Cosmological Argument” (F)
- Sept. 30 The Argument from Design
- Paley, “The Argument from Design” (F)
Collins, “God, Design and Fine-Tuning” (B)
- Oct. 5 The Problem of Evil
- Mackie, “Evil and Omnipotence” (B)
Swinburne, “Why God Allows Evil” (F)
- Oct. 7 Pascal’s Wager
- Pascal, “The Wager” (F)
*Hajek, “Pascal’s Wager (B)
<http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/pascal-wager/>
- Oct. 12 The Will to Believe
- Clifford, “The Ethics of Belief” (F)
James, “The Will to Believe” (F)

TOPIC 2: THE RATIONALITY OF SCIENCE

- Oct. 14 Hume's Problem
- Hume, *Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, II, IV (F)
Salmon, "An Encounter with David Hume" (F)
- Oct. 19 Solutions to Hume's Problem
- Hume, *Enquiry*, V (F)
Strawson, "The 'Justification' of Induction" (B)
- Oct. 21 The New Riddle
- Goodman, "The New Riddle of Induction" (B)
- Oct. 26 Inference to the Best Explanation
- Harman, "The Inference to the Best Explanation" (B)
van Fraassen, "Inference to the Best Explanation: Salvation by Laws" (B)
*Gould, "Adam's Navel" (B)

TOPIC 3: THE PROBLEM OF THE EXTERNAL WORLD

- Oct. 28 Descartes' Problem
- Descartes, *Meditations 1 and 2* (F)
Feldman, *Epistemology*, ch. 1 and ch. 6 (B)

FALL RECESS

- Nov. 9 Solutions to Descartes' Problem I
- Moore, "Proof of an External World" (F)
Russell, *Problems of Philosophy*, ch. 2 (B)
<http://www.ditext.com/russell/rus2.html>
- Nov. 11 Solutions to Descartes' Problem II
- Cohen, "Skepticism and Everyday Knowledge Attributions" (B)

TOPIC 4: SELF AND BODY

Nov. 16 Dualism

Descartes, *Meditations 6* (F)
Jackson, “The Qualia Problem” (F)
*Gertler, “In Defense of Mind-Body Dualism” (F)

Nov. 18 Materialism

Papineau, *Thinking About Consciousness*, ch. 2 (B)
*Churchland, “Behaviorism, Materialism and Functionalism”, pp. 309–317 (F)

Nov. 23 The Problem of Personal Identity

Perry, *A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality* (F)

Nov. 25 The Fission Problem

Parfit, “Divided Minds and Nature of Persons” (F)
*Parfit, “Personal Identity” (B)

TOPIC 5: FREE WILL AND MORAL RESPONSIBILITY

Nov. 30 The Free Will Problem

Holbach, “The Illusion of Free Will” (F)
Honderich, “A Defense of Hard Determinism” (F)

Dec. 2 Libertarian Free Will

Chisholm, “Human Freedom and the Self” (F)
*Kane, “Free Will: Ancient Dispute, New Themes” (F)

Dec. 7 Compatibilism

Ayer, “Freedom and Necessity” (F)

Dec. 9 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. 14 Skepticism about Moral Responsibility

 Strawson. "Freedom and Resentment" (B)

Dec. 16 Moral Luck

 Nagel, "Moral Luck" (F)