

***Philosophy 1: Short Introduction
to Philosophy****

Summer Session B, 2009

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Sections: M 11-12:20, F 12:30-1:50.

Course web page: www.philosophy.ucsb.edu/websites/phil1/

Text: The text for this course is *Introduction to Philosophy: Classical and Contemporary Readings*, Perry, Bratman, and Fischer (eds.), available at the Campus Bookstore.

Course Objectives and Description: This is an introductory survey course covering some of the classic problems of Philosophy. Among the questions we will consider are: Does God exist? If so, then why is there so much suffering in the world? Do we know anything about the external world? What is the relationship between minds and bodies/brains? Do we have free will? What is the nature of moral responsibility? Grades will be determined by two papers and a final exam.

Course Requirements and Grading:

Paper 1 (3-4 pgs.): 25% of course grade

Paper 2 (5-6 pgs.): 35% of course grade

Section participation: 5% of course grade

Cumulative final exam: 35% of course grade (exam date TBA).

Late Papers: Unless a **prior** arrangement has been made with either the course instructor or TA, late papers will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade for each day that they are turned in late (e.g., a B paper turned in two days late will receive a C+).

Section Participation Policy: As noted above, section participation counts for 5% of your final course grade. **Each student will be allowed to miss one section meeting before it begins to impact their section participation grade.**

Make-up Final Exam Policy: In – and only in – special circumstances will a student be able to make-up a final exam. If a student needs to arrange a make-up, that student should

* The course instructor reserves the right to amend the contents of this syllabus for any reason.

contact the course instructor as soon as possible to discuss such a possibility and to make the necessary arrangements.

Please Note: Students must complete **all** of the course requirements in order to receive a passing grade in this course. Failure to complete any of the course requirements will result in receiving an F in this course.

Plagiarism, cheating, and all other forms of academic dishonesty: I am required (and happy) to report all acts of academic dishonesty, acts which undermine the goals of the University, run contrary to the value and purpose of a Higher Education, and are just petty, anyway. If you are at all unclear about what the University policy is on plagiarism and the like, I urge you to consult the section on “Student Conduct and Discipline” in the *University of California, Santa Barbara Campus Regulations Applying to Campus Activities, Organizations, and Students*, as well as the course instructor and your TA.

Tentative Schedule:

Week 1: *Introduction, arguments for and against the existence of God.*

Week 2: *Continue with arguments for and against the existence of God, begin epistemology and skepticism. **First paper assigned.***

Week 3: *Continue with epistemology and skepticism. **First paper due.***

Week 4: *Philosophy of mind. **Second paper assigned.***

Week 5: *Continue philosophy of mind, begin free will and determinism. **Second paper due.***

Week 6: *Freedom and determinism, moral responsibility. **Final exam.***