

## Sample Syllabus:

### Introduction to Philosophy

PROFESSOR G. CAMPELIA

#### Course Description

This is an introductory course that will investigate philosophical methodologies, concepts, and arguments. Over the course of the semester, we will cover a long history of philosophical work and move back and forth between traditional and contemporary readings. The semester will be organized by major philosophical questions. We will begin with queries of knowledge (what is *knowledge*? how do you *know*? who counts as a *knower*?). Then we will proceed to an investigation of the external world (do you know there is a world out there? is there a God?). From here, we turn to philosophy of the self; beginning with the mind-body problem (do you have a mind or spirit distinct from your body? are you a mind, a body, or something else?), then turning to some historical conceptualizations of the self, and ending with contemporary concerns with definitions of the self (do traditional definitions of the self neglect raced, gendered, and sexual identities?). Finally, we will consider free will (are your actions free? are they determined by nature or God?) and turn to moral theories and questions (what should you do? what kind of person should you be? what is just?).

The course has three main objectives: (1) reading and understanding philosophy, (2) writing philosophically, and (3) critiquing and constructing philosophical arguments. We will accomplish these goals through in class discussion and frequent practice in oral and written assignments.

Session	Readings
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Required Text:

Solomon, R.C., Higgins, K.M., and Martin, C. (2011). *Introducing Philosophy*. New York: Oxford University Press.

#### What do you know? How do you know?

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| Week 1-2 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>(1) René Descartes, from "Meditation I"; from "Meditation II"; from "Meditation VI". (<i>Introducing Philosophy</i> Chap 3.A)</li><li>(2) David Hume, from A Treatise of Human Nature; from An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding. (<i>Introducing Philosophy</i> Chap 3.D)</li><li>(3) Plato, from Theatetus. (<i>Introducing Philosophy</i> Chap 3)</li><li>(4) Gettier, E. (1963). Is Justified True Belief Knowledge? <i>Analysis</i>, 23(6): 121-123.</li></ol> |
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#### Who knows?

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Week 3	(1) Fricker, M. (2007). <i>Epistemic Injustice: Power and the Ethics of Knowing</i> . New York: Oxford University Press. (excerpts) (2) Code, L. (1995). Chapter 7: Gossip, or in the Praise of Chaos. In <i>Rhetorical Spaces: Essays on Gendered Locations</i> . New York: Routledge.
<b>Is there a world out there?</b>	
Week 4	(1) Plato, from The Symposium; from The Republic; from The Meno. ( <i>Introducing Philosophy</i> Chap 2.E) (2) Aristotle, from Metaphysics; from Physics; from Metaphysics. ( <i>Introducing Philosophy</i> Chap 2.D) (3) René Descartes, On Substance; from "Meditation VI". ( <i>Introducing Philosophy</i> Chap 2.D)
<b>Is there a God out there?</b>	
Week 5-6	(1) St. Anselm, On the Ontological Argument. ( <i>Introducing Philosophy</i> Chap 1.C) (2) David Hume, from Dialogues on Natural Religion. ( <i>Introducing Philosophy</i> Chap 1.D) (3) Søren Kierkegaard, On Subjective Truth. ( <i>Introducing Philosophy</i> Chap 1.F. 2) (4) Friedrich Nietzsche, from Beyond Good and Evil; from The Antichrist; from The Gay Science. ( <i>Introducing Philosophy</i> Chap 1.G)
<b>Self, Mind, and Body... what am I?</b>	
Week 7	(1) René Descartes, from "Meditation VI" ( <i>Introducing Philosophy</i> Chap 5.A) (2) David Hume, On "There Is No Self" ( <i>Introducing Philosophy</i> Chap 5.A) (3) Meredith Michaels, On "Personal Identity" ( <i>Introducing Philosophy</i> Chap 5.A)
Week 8	(1) Paul M. Churchland, On Eliminative Materialism ( <i>Introducing Philosophy</i> Chap 5.C.4) (2) John R. Searle, from "The Myth of the Computer"; from Minds, Brains, and Science ( <i>Introducing Philosophy</i> Chap 5.C.5)
<b>Gender, race, sex, class... who am I?</b>	
Week 9	(1) Malcolm X, On Being "African"; from "At the Audubon" ( <i>Introducing Philosophy</i> Chap 4.C.1) (2) Ann Ferguson, On Androgyny ( <i>Introducing Philosophy</i> Chap 4.C.1) (3) Luce Irigaray, from This Sex Which Is Not One ( <i>Introducing Philosophy</i> Chap 4.D)
<b>Are you really free?</b>	

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Week 10	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>(1) Baron Paul Henri d'Holbach, from System of Nature (<i>Introducing Philosophy</i> Chap 6.C.1)</li><li>(2) Harry Frankfurt, from "Freedom of the Will and the Concept of a Person" (<i>Introducing Philosophy</i> Chap 6.C.4)</li><li>(3) Catherine MacKinnon, On Coercion of Women's Sexuality (<i>Introducing Philosophy</i> Chap 6.D)</li></ol>
<b>What should we do?</b>	
Week 11-12	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>(1) Gilbert Harman, from "Moral Relativism Defended" (<i>Introducing Philosophy</i> Chap 7.B)</li><li>(2) Plato, from The Republic (<i>Introducing Philosophy</i> Chap 7.C)</li><li>(3) Immanuel Kant, from Fundamental Principles of the Metaphysics of Morals (<i>Introducing Philosophy</i> Chap 7.G)</li><li>(4) John Stuart Mill, from Utilitarianism (<i>Introducing Philosophy</i> Chap 7.H)</li><li>(5) Aristotle, from The Nicomachean Ethics (<i>Introducing Philosophy</i> Chap 7.E)</li><li>(6) Virginia Held, On Feminist Ethics (<i>Introducing Philosophy</i> Chap 7.K)</li></ol>
<b>A dose of justice...</b>	
Week 13-14	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>(1) Thomas Hobbes, from Leviathan (<i>Introducing Philosophy</i> Chap 8.D)</li><li>(2) John Rawls, from "Justice as Fairness" (<i>Introducing Philosophy</i> Chap 8.E)</li><li>(3) Cheshire Calhoun, from "Justice, Care, Gender Bias" (<i>Introducing Philosophy</i> Chap 8.F)</li><li>(4) Malcolm X, On Civil and Human Rights (<i>Introducing Philosophy</i> Chap 8.G)</li><li>(5) Amartya Sen, from "Property and Hunger" (<i>Introducing Philosophy</i> Chap 8.G)</li></ol>