



**PHILOSOPHY 1010:
INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY
COURSE OUTLINE**



Instructor: D. Whitling

Text: Arthur, Shapiro & Throop, *Reason and Culture: An Introduction to Philosophy*

Description: The course will deal with philosophical problems arising from the relations among morality, religion and science. The writings of both historical and contemporary thinkers will form the basis for lecture, class discussion and assignments.

Evaluation: 3 Brief Assignments: 40%
1 Major Assignment: 20%
Mid-Term: 20%
Final: 20%

Schedule of Class Topics & Assignments:

Sep. 4: Introduction to the course and its content. Lecture will focus on the nature of morality, science & religion and some of the ways they have come into conflict with one another.

Sep. 9: Reading: pp. 1-54 in the text. Class will focus on the readings & how they illustrate certain philosophical assumptions and positions. Materials for the first assignment, a "Current Events Worksheet" will be handed out. Assignment due Sep. 23.

Sep.11: Reading: pp. 56-84. Class will focus on the readings & some of the philosophical problems raised by them.

Sep.16: Reading: pp. 85-97. The relationship between art & morality will form the basis for lecture and class discussion. **Assignment #1 is due.**

Sep.18 Reading: pp. 98-114: Lecture and discussion will deal with disputes about what should be included in humanities curricula and who should control them.

Sep.23: Reading: pp. 115-178: Class will deal with two topics: 1) morality & economic practice 2) Emotion, reason & morality. *Assignment #1 is due*

Sep.25: Reading: pp. 179-234: Lecture & class discussion will review the historical types of moral theory & contemporary challenges to them.

Sep.30: Reading: pp. 236-290: Lecture & discussion will deal with the nature of science & its effects on modern humanity.

Oct.2: Reading: pp. 292-367: Class topic: What sorts of controls (if any) should society impose upon science & scientists? Assignment #2, another Current Events Worksheet, will be distributed & is due in one week.

Oct.7: Reading: pp. 368-421: Our topic will be the relations of altruism, selfishness & survival in moral behaviour and how these relate to the perennial problem of determinism & free will.

Oct.9: REVIEW FOR MID-TERM. **Assignment #2 is due.**

Oct.14: MID-TERM. Topics for the Major Assignment will be given at end of class. Due date: December 7.

Oct.16: Reading: pp. 422-478: Class lecture and discussion will cover various attempts to evaluate the practice and results of scientific endeavor.

Oct.21: Reading: pp. 479-513: Lecture & Discussion: The Limits of Scientific Explanation.

Oct.23: Reading: pp. 514-561: This class will be concerned with various definitions of religion & its relationship to morality & science. Materials for Assignment #3 will be distributed. It's due Nov. 9.

Oct.28: Reading: pp. 562-596: Our focus will be the various critiques of religion & secular humanism.

Oct.30: Reading: pp. 597-625: Lecture & Discussion will focus on the role (if any) for religion in contemporary society. ~~Assignment #3 is due.~~

Nov.4: Reading: pp. 626-640: Can the existence of God be proven? This class will examine some of the traditional proofs. *Assignment #3 Due*

Nov.6: Reading: pp. 641-667: Can the existence of God be *disproved*? In this class we will examine various alternatives to theism & atheism. Finally we shall examine in detail the meaning of faith and its possible relationship to reason.

Nov.13: Reading: pp. 668-680: Is religious change a continuous process or is religious practice coming to an end? A review of the various defenses & critiques of religion.

Nov.18: Same reading as previous week. More discussion on religion.

Nov.20: Reading will be supplied by the instructor during the previous class. We will review our study of morals with reference to some of the key readings in the text.

Nov.25: Again a short reading will be supplied by the instructor. Our review topic will be science and once more we'll examine some of the previous readings from the text.

Dec.2: One final reading supplied by the instructor. Religion is our final review topic.

Dec.4: Final Exam review. **Major assignment due.**