

MAR 3 0 2000

Grande Prairie Regional College
Yellowhead Region Educational Consortium
Edson and Hinton

INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY
Knowledge and Reality

PHIL 1020

Winter 2000

COURSE OUTLINE

Instructor: Krzysztof Swiatek, ph. 436-5497
Classes: Edson: Friday 4:30 - 7:30 pm
Hinton: Saturday 9:00 - 12:00 noon

TEXT:

The Experience of Philosophy, Daniel Kolak and Raymond Martin, eds, Wadsworth 1996
(third edition)

COURSE CONTENT:

This course will introduce students to some of the most fundamental problems in philosophy. Among the topics that will be covered are problems of scepticism and the limits of justified knowledge of the external world and ourselves, the nature of the mind, problems of personal identity, and the existence of God and our knowledge of Him. Lectures and discussions on these problems will be based on readings from both classical and contemporary philosophers.

GRADING:

The final grade will be based on three quizzes, midterm exam, term paper and final exam

Assignment	Date	Weight
3 Quizzes	TBA	15%
Midterm Exam	March 3/4	25%
Term Paper (approx. 1500 words)	due April 14/15	30%
Final Exam	April 29/30	30%

Quizzes, mid-term and final exams will be an in-class type, to be written without the aid of books, notes, xeroxes, etc. On the instructor's discretion, the final grade may slightly

exceed the grade derived from the weighted average of the term paper and exams, to reward students' valuable contributions to class discussions.

TERM PAPER:

Guidelines for researching and writing a term paper will be discussed extensively in class. All topics must be approved prior to submission. For detailed guide to the preparation of term papers, see Martinich, *Philosophical Writing*.

POLICY ON CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM:

Cheating on exams and plagiarism in research are very serious academic offenses. Anyone who engages in either practice will receive a grade of zero for the exam or paper in question, and no opportunity will be given to replace the grade or re-distribute grade weights. Students who have direct evidence of another's cheating or plagiarism have an obligation to report it to the instructor.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS:

1. Scepticism and Knowledge

Readings:

- Descartes, "Meditations"
- Locke, "Where Our Ideas Come From"
- Berkeley, "To Be Is to Be Perceived"
- Russell, "Perception, Knowledge and Induction"
- Armstrong, "The Infinite Regress of Reasons"

2. The Mind

Readings:

- Hofstadter, "A Coffeehouse Conversation on the Turing Test"
- Nagel, "What Is It Like to Be a Bat?"
- Jackson, "Epiphenomenal Qualia"
- Churchland, "Reduction, Qualia, and the Direct Inspection of Brain States"
- Thomson and Turetzky, "A Simple Guide to Contemporary Philosophy of Mind"

3. Personal Identity

Readings:

- Dennett, "Where Am I?"
- Zuboff, "The Story of a Brain"
- Locke, "Personal Identity"
- Hume, "Personal Identity"
- Perry, "A Dialogue on Personal Identity and Immortality"
- Kolak, "Finding Our Selves: Identification, Identity and Multiple Personality"

4. The Existence and Knowledge of God

Readings:

- Anselm, "The Ontological Argument"
- Aquinas, "The Five Ways"
- Pascal, "The Wager"
- James, "The Will to Believe"

Note:

1. The above selection of topics is per force tentative. In accordance with their relative importance and the interest of the class, problems will be allotted a varying amount of time and focus. Depending on class discussions, some issues can be only briefly explained or altogether dropped with others getting a seemingly disproportionate attention. In view of possible departures from the course schedule, students are advised to keep track of the readings and topics currently discussed in class.

2. This course will cover some of the most fundamental problems of philosophy and it will proceed through the analyses of selected texts which cover them. Be prepared to find some of the arguments and conclusions contrary to common sense. Do not expect to be able to understand them properly if you do not read the texts prior to classes, attend classes regularly or participate in in-class discussions.