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Website: [www.imperial.edu/aaron.edwards](http://www.imperial.edu/aaron.edwards)**Course Description and Introduction:**

What can I know? Does God exist? Do I have a soul? Do humans have free will? What is moral? This course is designed to introduce students to these kinds of questions and to how Philosophers go about answering these questions through analysis and argumentation. The goal of the course is to help students understand the main fields of philosophy and teach students how to think and write critically about philosophical questions such as these.

**Required Texts:**

Feinberg, Joel and Shafer-Landau, Russ (eds). *Reason and Responsibility: Readings in Some Basic Problems of Philosophy* (Belmont CA: Wadsworth Publishing Company, 2005, 13th edition).

**Course Requirements:**

Final grades will be determined by class participation, quizzes, a short paper, and four exams, including a final exam, as outlined below:

|                     |                 |            |                    |              |
|---------------------|-----------------|------------|--------------------|--------------|
| In-Class Exams: 30% | Final Exam: 25% | Paper: 20% | Participation: 15% | Quizzes: 10% |
|---------------------|-----------------|------------|--------------------|--------------|

Writing assignments will be due at the beginning of class. They will be graded by letters ranging from an A to an F.

There will be four exams throughout the semester, three smaller exams and a comprehensive final. Before each exam I will tell you what kinds of topics will be on the test so you can prepare accordingly. Scantrons used are the form is 882-E.

In addition to the Paper and exams, there will be 4 **pop** quizzes, each is worth 2.5% of your final grade. There will also be a short paper (4-6 pages) assigned near the end of the semester. The specifics of the paper will be covered in class.

Finally, a significant component of your final grade will be based on your participation in class. To do well in the class, you should attend class meetings on a regular basis. Also, you can participate by raising interesting questions and comments in class.

**Plagiarism:**

We'll talk about plagiarism on the first day of class so that everyone will know what exactly it is. Plagiarism means attempting to give the reader the idea that words or ideas in an essay are your own when in fact they are someone else's. This is a serious academic offense that can get you thrown out of college. Don't take chances! If you have questions about what should be documented or cited, please ask me.

**Attendance:**

You may be absent from two classes with no consequences. If you miss more than two classes, then you must bring valid documentation (doctor's note, jury duty notice, receipt from mechanic etc.) to the next class meeting or you will be dropped from the course. While you are in class you will be expected to turn cell phones off and not use them in any capacity. If you are late to class you are free to come in and join the class but you will be marked absent.

**Disability Statement:**

Each student at Imperial Valley College has the same rights, and privileges as any other student; this includes students with disabilities. Students in this course who have documented disability should meet with a Disabled Student Services and Programs (DSP&S) Counselor as soon as possible as well as notify me in some way. The DSP&S office is located in the Health Sciences Building, room 2117. The telephone number is 355-6312.

**Student Learning Outcomes (SLO's):**

By the conclusion of this course the students should be able to describe and critique major arguments in the three main philosophical fields of study.

Assessment Tool: Final

Institutional Outcome: ISLO1, ISLO2, ISLO4

## Semester Schedule

The following is a tentative schedule of the course and may change if required. You will be expected to have read the assigned reading by the time you attend the relevant class. Readings are referred to by author and page numbers (all page references are to the text edited by Feinberg).

Note: reading listed on a certain day are To Have Been Read on that day.

| Date                                      | Topic  | Assignment  |
|---|--|---|
| <b>Section 1: Knowledge</b>               |  |   |
| Feb. 16                                   | Course overview and what is Philosophy                 |   |
| Feb. 18                                   | Knowledge; Skepticism and Reason                       | Pollock 137-39; Descartes's Meditations I and 2, 166-173                  |
| Feb. 23                                   | Experience; Induction                                  | Berkeley 205-212 ; Hume sec. IV 222-28                                    |
| Feb. 25                                   | Science and Intelligent Design                         | Popper 264-8; Kitcher 268-277<br>(study guide will be given out in class) |
| Mar. 2                                    | Review for Test one                                    |   |
| Mar. 4                                    | Exam I   |   |
| <b>Section 2: God</b>                     |  |   |
| Mar. 9                                    | Metaphysics, Ontological argument                      | Anselm 6-7  |
| Mar. 11                                   | Cosmological Argument                                  | Aquinas 21-22; Clark 22-23  |
| Mar. 16                                   | The Design Argument                                    | Paley 32-37   |
| Mar. 18                                   | The Problem of Evil                                    | Dostoevsky 72-88  |
| Mar. 23                                   | The Problem of Evil                                    | Swinburne 89-97   |
| Mar. 25                                   | Pascal's Wager   | Pascal 119-122  |
| Mar. 30                                   | Exam 2   |   |
| <b>Section 3: Mind</b>                    |  |   |
| April. 1                                  | The Mind-Body Problem; Dualism                         |   |
| April. 13                                 | Physicalism  | Churchland 309-321<br>(paper topic will be handed out)                    |
| Apr. 15                                   | Physicalism  | Carruthers 301-9  |
| Apr. 20                                   | Can Non Humans Think?                                  | Searle 330-342  |
| Apr 22                                    | Personal Identity                                      | Lock 365-68   |
| <b>Section 4: Freedom and Determinism</b> |  |   |
| Apr. 27                                   | Fatalism   | Holbach 458-464   |
| Apr. 29                                   | Freedom and Determinism                                | Chisholm 438-445  |
| May 4                                     | Exam 3   | (Hand out will be given for Plato)  |
| <b>Section 5: Moral Theory</b>            |  |   |
| May. 6                                    | Morality without God "Euthyphro," Plato Ethical Egoism | Rachels 532-40  |
| May. 11                                   | Utilitarianism   | Mill 594-607  |
| May. 13                                   | The Categorical Imperative                             | Kant 579-593  |
| May. 18                                   | Moral Rights   |   |
| <b>Section 7: Applied Ethics</b>          |  |   |
| May. 20                                   | Abortion   | Don Marquis and Warren (hand out will be given on November 18)            |
| May. 25                                   | Abortion   | Thompson "A Defense of Abortion" (hand out will be given on November 18)  |
| May. 27                                   | Euthanasia, Famine Relief                              | Rachels 650-653 Singer 631-639  |
| June 1                                    | Rap up, Review for the Final                           | Tem Paper is Due  |
| June 8                                    | FINAL EXAM 8:35-10:00 am                               |   |