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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%
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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 1 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 (study guide will be given out in class)
Mar. 2	Review for Test one	
Mar. 4	<b>Exam 1</b>	
<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	<b>Exam 2</b>	
<b>Section 3: Mind</b>		
April. 1	The Mind-Body Problem; Dualism	
April. 13	Physicalism	Churchland 309-321 (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	<b>Exam 3</b>	(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	<b>FINAL EXAM 1:30-2:55 am</b>	